

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Regular Meeting      Administration Building      7:00 p.m.– 8:01 p.m.      October 17, 2018

Members Present:

Mark Mirabile, Presiding Officer

Jon Buralli

Vipul Dedhia

David Negron

Absent:

Mary Lenzen

Michael Rak

Kristin Violante

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Dave Palzet were staff members Erika Sawosko, Jennifer Ban, Frank Adams, Debbie Lubeck, Kathleen Tomei, Griffin Sonntag, Brianne Malatt, and Karyn Lisowski.

ACTION NO. 9

Consent Agenda

Motion by Buralli, seconded by Dedhia, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of September 19, 2018; closed session minutes of September 19, 2018; payment of September Payroll/October Warrants; Superintendent 2018-19 Goals; Finance (sec. 4) and Curriculum and Instruction (sec. 6) Board policies. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 4 ayes (Buralli, Dedhia, Mirabile, Negron) absent – Lenzen, Rak, Violante).

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

*Leadership Through Policy*

This item will only be on the agenda if the Board has questions regarding policies that were sent to them during the month. This was an agenda item this month, so all are aware of the review processes.

*Strategic Blueprint Update*

Superintendent Palzet apprised the Board of progress on our Strategic Blueprint. In the area of Building Learning Environments, another 26 staff members were trained in CPR. Our safety and security plan require all staff to be trained by the end of the year, and the district is making great progress. Also, the district SEL committee met to begin the work of reviewing and making recommendations for social emotional programming. In the area of Building Learning Capacity, our staff continues to learn about how to best implement writer's workshop into our classrooms. At our October 9 institute day, teachers received professional development from a writer's workshop expert. The strategies learned at institute day can be immediately implemented in our classrooms.

*Library Update*

As part of a monthly update, Dr. Palzet filled the Board in on the progress the administration has made in the investigation of updated library spaces at our schools. Over the course of the last month, the administration met with the district architect to map out a community engagement process. This process includes five meetings that will take place between October 23 and December 11. The group being formed is called the Library 2.0 Task Force. At these meetings, the Task Force will discuss the future of learning and learning spaces, take a field trip to a district that recently renovated library spaces, and begin the design process. The project could be funded in one of two ways. One option is to use cash on hand

-- using reserves to pay for the project. Considerations to this option would include future legislation such as pension cost shifts and property tax freezes that could affect healthy fund balances. The positive to using cash is that tax rates will go down. The other option is working cash bonds. Taxes would remain stable and would protect our fund balances. We could pay off the debt in five to seven years. The Board will have a presentation in January with a vote in February.

Elementary and Middle School 2018-19 Improvement Plans

Principals Tomei and Sonntag presented their plans to move our schools forward. The School Improvement Plans were created in cooperation with each school's leadership team. These plans are closely tied to the district's [Strategic Blueprint](#), and will help us achieve our district goals. The plans are connected to the Blueprint goal areas of Building Learning Capacity, Building Human Capital, and Building Learning Environments. Each plan also included building-specific goals that will improve the student experience at each school.

Community Survey Update

At the June Board of Education meeting, the administration reviewed the results of the community survey given in the spring of 2018. At that time, the Board directed the administration to provide additional information about how these data are used and what steps are being taken to address any issues. Dr. Palzet provided the Board with a deeper dive into how the district is using these data to improve our schools. Specific examples include additional communication systems for parents, better evaluating the effectiveness of district initiatives, and providing students with improved methods to report incidents of bullying and teasing.

Class Size Update

Principals Tomei Sonntag provided the Board with an update on class sizes at both schools. The goal of the administration is to ensure that class sizes remain at or near the guidelines that are established in Board policy 7:65. As stated in Board policy, if any class goes over the Board guideline, supports will be put in place for the teacher and students within that class. Class sizes in Pleasantdale remain manageable, and our students continue to enjoy reasonable class sizes.

Board of Education Information Requests

No requests were made at this time.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the November agenda include: Library Funding Options; Five-year Financial Projections; Service Contract Legal Review (written); Proposed Tax Levy; TAG Update; Superintendent Evaluation Process.

It was announced as a reminder: next month's Board meeting will be November 14<sup>th</sup>, not November 21<sup>st</sup> as the district is closed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Dedhia seconded by Negron, that the regular meeting adjourns at 8:01 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. \_\_\_ President \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_