

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 6:01 – 7:07 p.m. September 20, 2023

Members Present:

Arlene Cabana, Presiding Officer
Bill Brockob
Charles Zona
Mary Lenzen
Becky Walters
Jason Nash (Arrived at 6:05)
Tarryne Marchione

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Dave Palzet were staff members Jennifer Ban, Griffin Sonntag, Kathleen Tomei, Jeanine Arundel, Maura Raleigh, Tousha Summers, James Mukite, Jenna Reisch, Julie Siarny, Katie Dittrich, Holly Pretzie, Sanja Uzelac, Hannah Williams.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Prior to reciting the Pledge of Allegiance the District's new teachers were introduced to the staff by their principal. At the conclusion of the introductions, the new teachers led the Board in the Pledge of allegiance.

BUDGET HEARING FY24

Board President Cabana declared the budget hearing open at 6:04 p.m.

The budget for FY24 meets the Board policy financial guidelines of the district. Business Manager Griffin Sonntag presented an outline of the major components of the budget. The FY24 proposed final budget projects revenues at \$19,675,147 and expenses at \$20,880, 878. The short-term deficit is due to increased capital projects throughout the district. Mr.Sonntag explained that the district takes a very conservative approach to budgeting and looks to spend tax dollars wisely. He let the Board know that the majority of the district's budget goes directly to students through the education fund. The district continues to be in good financial standing due to the excellent stewardship and vision of the Board of Education. This vision includes being mindful of maintaining quality programs, reasonable class sizes, and sufficient fund balances as a safeguard in case of decreased government funding, economic downturns, and/or urgent facility repairs. There were no public comments.

Board President Cabana declared the budget hearing closed at 6:07 p.m.

ACTION NO. 3

Budget Approval

Motioned by Lenzen, second by Brockob that the Board adopts the 2023-24 school district budget as presented.

OPEN FORUM

No members of the public addressed the Board at this time.

ACTION NO. 4

Consent Agenda

Motion by Lenzen, second by Walters, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda as presented consisting of meeting minutes of August 16, 2023 Regular Board meeting; meeting minutes of August 16, 2023 Closed Session meeting; payment of August payroll/September warrants; September 2023 personnel report; Declassify Closed Session Minutes that are at least 18 months old; Approve Section 5 (Personnel) Board Policies; Approve Service Contract with Midwest Mechanical for HVAC Repairs/Install for Summer 2024; and Approve Overnight Field Trips per Board Policy 6.240. Motion carried by a roll call of 7 ayes (Brockob, Cabana, Zona, Lenzen, Walters, Nash, and Marchione).

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

District Announcement

Dr. Palzet shared that Pleasantdale Elementary School has been awarded a National Blue Ribbon by the US Department of Education. Blue Ribbon schools must rank in the top 15% of all schools in the state and all student subgroups must perform at high levels. Dr. Palzet acknowledged the hard work of students and staff to achieve this honor and showed a short video announcement the district developed.

Facilities Update

As the District considers building improvements, a Citizen Engagement Committee has been developed to review the District's vision and plan and provide feedback to the Board. The committee will meet three times to consider the vision and plan and ways the plan will be funded. In addition to feedback from the Citizen Engagement Committee, a survey will be mailed to all registered voters, and the District will host two information sessions on October 12 (10:00 AM at Pleasantdale Elementary School and 6:00 PM at Pleasantdale Middle School).

Strategic Planning Update

Dr. Palzet updated the Board on the strategic planning process. The District is working with a consultant from Hazard, Young, and Attea to develop a new long-term plan. To date, the District has held one-on-one interviews with Board members and Union leadership, convened focus groups comprised of teachers, parents, and students, and has distributed a community survey, which will remain open until September 29. The next phase in the process is to convene a Strategic Planning Steering Committee, which will meet four times for 2-4 hours per meeting.

Review Superintendent Goals

Each year, the Board approves the superintendent's goals, which become part of the superintendent's contract. Dr. Palzet presented four goals to the Board of Education. These goals seek to improve early childhood education, complete and implement a strategic plan, improve school safety/security, and improve assessment outcomes for all students.

Discussion: Board Practice when Meeting with Elected Officials

The Board discussed protocols and procedures specific to communication and meetings between board members and other elected officials. The board agreed that, when possible, board members will be notified of meetings in advance. Additionally, board members will be provided with a brief summary of conversations or meetings via email or phone call as applicable.

Curriculum Cycle Review

Each year Dr. Ban and our Curriculum Council implement our curriculum review cycle. The purpose of the review cycle is to ensure the curriculum and resources used in classrooms meet the needs of our students and state requirements. Dr. Ban provided the Board with an update on our progress and areas of focus for the year.

Class Size Update

Principals Tomei and Arundel provided the Board with an update on class sizes at both schools. The goal 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, support will be put in place for the teacher and students within that class.

Review Board Policy (sec. 6) Curriculum and Instruction

The Board frequently reviews policies to ensure the policies reflect the realities of running a district. At the September 20, 2023 meeting the Board reviewed policies from section 6, Curriculum and Instruction.

Items for Next Agenda

Facilities Update; Approve Superintendent 2023-24 Goals; Approve Curriculum and Instruction (sec. 6) Board Policies; Elementary/Middle School Improvement Plans; Review Superintendent Evaluation Tool; Review Finance (sec. 4) Board Policies.

OPEN FORUM

No members of the public addressed the Board at this time.

WRITTEN
REPORTS

The Board fulfilled Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests Tom Lisowski regarding demographic reports related to district enrollment

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lenzen, seconded by Brockob, that the regular meeting adjourns at 7:07 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. __ President _____ Secretary _____