

## **BOARD NOTES:**

### **January 16, 2018, Regular Board Meeting:**

**Spotlight on Students:** 4th grade students who participate in the “Big Book Club” came to showcase this student initiated and directed book group. Members explained that they had wanted an opportunity to read bigger, more challenging books in a group setting, allowing them to delve deeper into story line and character development. Each week they meet to discuss the current book, which is chosen democratically by the members, or other topics related to the reading. The Board was then treated to a performance of “Readers Theatre,” in which book club members acted out a scene from their current selection. Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange not only noted how much the students were obviously enjoying themselves and each other, he also praised them for their efforts toward building their vocabulary and reading skills. Dr. Stange also thanked Ms. Lauren Gray, Sunset Ridge Librarian, for her support of the students as they worked to establish this student led club. Sunset Ridge Principal Dr. Ivy Sukenik added how proud she was of the 4<sup>th</sup> graders’ initiative and ownership of their experience at Sunset Ridge.

**Consent Agenda:** The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included minutes from the December 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting, and the monthly bills and salaries.

**Capital Improvement:** Dr. Stange reported

Sunset Ridge: Punch list items continue to be worked on, including nosing on the Presentation Stairs, adjustments to the front doors area, installation of blinds, modifications to the lift station pumps and plumbing stacks, and repairs on a science lab vent hood. Additionally, ongoing issues with the Variable Refrigerant Flow system are being addressed. It was discovered that these systems, which regulate the temperature in different areas of the building, are having difficulty communicating with the master system, therefore causing dips in temperature, particularly in the gym. Crews continue to problem solve the issue.

Middlefork: The communal sink in the lunchroom was installed over winter break and the children are enthusiastic about its use. Meetings to engage in a Feasibility Study to explore capital improvement options have begun and will continue through the spring, at which time a recommendation for the scope of work will be brought to the Finance and Facilities Committee.

**Strategic Planning:** Dr. Stange reported that the Strategic Planning Steering Committee (SPSC), comprised of Board members, administration, staff, and parent representatives, met in December to discuss options for the upcoming strategic planning process. Dr. Joe Porto, an independent consultant, mediated. At that meeting it was decided that an abbreviated process utilizing stakeholder input and existing data to redefine priorities and goals would be used, involving the following steps:

1. Collecting up-to-date stakeholder feedback and input via a “School Perceptions” survey.
2. Taking those results and existing data to identify district strengths and opportunities for growth.
3. Prioritizing themes and objectives in a written plan.
4. Seeking feedback on the plan goals and objectives.
5. Publishing the finalized plan and progress reports.

The SPSC will meet with Dr. Porto once per week for four weeks from mid-February to mid-March to digest the data, prioritize themes, draft a plan, and gather feedback. The Strategic Plan is expected to be completed by April 2018.

**Old Business:** The Board had a third reading of Board Policy 725.02, Retention, Promotion, and Acceleration/Advanced Placement. After agreeing to minor editing corrections, it was approved.

**Audience Comments:** Sunset Ridge Spanish teacher Ms. Shelby Cavnar addressed the board regarding a requested staffing adjustment in the Spanish department.

**Board Open Discussion:** Board member Mrs. Nancy Detlefsen asked that an enrollment report be included in next month's board packet.

**New Business:** The Board had a first reading of policies 700.02, Sexual Harassment Regarding Students, and 500.20, Personnel Policy Against Sexual Harassment. The Board also discussed the District's procedures and fees as applied to the rental of outdoor and indoor space at both schools. It was agreed that, after comparison study, our fees could be raised in order to align more with other districts, and our renter classifications could be adjusted in order to better prioritize district residents. Dr. Stange agreed to continue to work on the classification and fee structure system.

**Finance and Facilities:** Board member Mr. Scott Subeck reported that it is good practice for districts to engage a new auditor every 5-7 years in order to guarantee a "fresh look" at the District's financials. Since it has been 10 years since our last change, it is recommended that we switch to Lauterbach & Amen, LLP, who comes to us through an RFP process. The Board approved a 3-year contract, with the option to renew two additional years. The Board also approved the 2018-2019 Budget Designation, which allows Chief School Business Official Mr. Tom Beerheide to begin the 2018-2019 budget development process. The next meeting will be January 30, 2018, at 7pm.

**Education Committee:** Board member Ms. Amanda Alpert Knight reported that members of the computer science staff gave a thorough presentation on the progress of the STEM curriculum that was officially implemented districtwide last year using Project Lead The Way's guidelines. The next meeting will be January 30, 2018, at 6pm.

**IASB:** Ms. Alpert Knight reported on the recent law that went into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, regarding the availability of feminine hygiene products in school bathrooms. Unfortunately, due to recent cases of vandalism involving these items, Dr. Stange reported that they are being made available in the nurse's office. Administration is working on a solution that would allow for these products to be accessible in the bathrooms again soon.

**NSSD:** Board member Mr. Bill Hayes reported that the co-op is reaching the final stages of Strategic Planning. Their Fund Balance is strong and they are considering all options for how to spend their surplus. They continue to move forward under the strong belief that students with special needs are best served in their home schools, and are exploring new ways they can support districts in this endeavor.

**Foundation Fund:** Board member Mrs. Anne Peterson reported that the foundation was happy to receive additional pledge money at the end of the year, and is working on filling out their email contact list.

**Administrative Reports:** Technology Director Mrs. Sheri Styzen reported that she was happy with the results of a recent "Cyber-Security" Phishing Security Test that was sent out to all district staff, with only eight recipients clicking on the phishing link, but zero entering any information. Security Awareness Training will continue through February for all staff. Mrs. Styzen also reported that the Project Lead The Way showcase that was held in December at Sunset Ridge was a great success and she received glowing feedback from the participants. Dr. Sukenik reported on staffing recommendations that are being made for Sunset Ridge next year.

**Recommendations:** The Board approved the Closed Session Minutes of December 12, 2017. The Board also accepted Mrs. Alicia Cohen's FMLA request.

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the February 13, 2018, Regular Board meeting.