

BOARD NOTES:

December 12, 2017, Regular Board Meeting:

Spotlight on Students: Representatives from Middlefork School's Koding Kids program came to showcase their code writing skills. Using Scratch, a visual programming language designed to introduce coding to children, students from 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade demonstrated, step by step, how they program their own interactive pictures and games by thinking creatively and systematically. Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange commended the students on their ability to persevere through the challenges that programming naturally brings, and assured them that their tenacity would serve as an invaluable asset later in life.

Consent Agenda: The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included minutes from the November 14th Regular Board Meeting, and the monthly bills and salaries.

Communications: Dr. Stange shared an invitation for a Project Lead The Way seminar that District 29 is hosting on December 13th. Representatives from school districts in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin will be visiting Sunset Ridge School in order to learn how to implement PLTW's progressive, STEM-based curriculum, now in the second year of full implementation here. Dr. Stange also shared the details of the upcoming Board/Staff get-together in January.

Capital Improvement Update: Dr. Stange was happy to report that all of the landscaping at Sunset Ridge, including the sod on the field, has been completed. The voltage coming into the building was adjusted and is now at acceptable levels. The Learn About the Building (LAB) wall is just waiting for a few final touches before it, too, will be complete. The district looks forward to the building's final approval of LEED and Net Zero status. At Middlefork, the rough-in of the new hand washing station in the lunchroom has been done, with the sink being installed over winter break. Dr. Stange informed the Board that fee structure negotiations continue with Wight & Company Architects and Pepper Construction as we move ahead with Middlefork's capital improvement plans.

Strategic Planning: Board member Mr. Adelbert Spaan reported that the Strategic Planning Steering Committee has been formed, which is made up of administration, teaching staff, parents, and board members, and looks forward to working with a facilitator in order to provide guidance to the Board of Education as it decides on a "process" for determining strengths and opportunities for growth, identifying priorities, setting goals, and articulating progress.

Old Business: The Board had a second reading of Board Policy 725.02, Retention, Promotion, and Acceleration/Advanced Placement, agreeing to continue to tweak the wording.

Board Open Discussion: The Board discussed the importance of the district's cyber security, and reviewed how and where our data is stored. The Board looks forward to a deep-dive presentation on this subject in March by the district's technology staff.

Finance and Facilities: The Board opened a public hearing to discuss the FY17 Tax Levy. After no public comments, the hearing was closed and the Levy was approved. Board member Mr. Scott Subeck shared the results of Middlefork's mandated water lead testing. While two sources were found to have miniscule positive results on the first test and zero detectable on the second, it is widely believed that it was the result of standing water in the pipes due to infrequent use. Therefore, in order to err on the side of caution, the sources were shut off and will remain so until plumbing renovations begin as part of the Middlefork capital improvement project. The next meeting will be January 30, 2018, at 7pm.

Education Committee: Board Member Mrs. Jill Mirkovic 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: Dr. Stange reported on upcoming legislation to be watchful of, such as the potential for a property tax freeze, which could significantly affect the district's finances.

PTO: Mrs. Mirkovic reported that the PTO was happy to see the requested and funded PTO Gifts items being used already by teachers, and looks forward to showcasing that on their new website. November's book fair was a success, earning slightly more than budgeted. They look forward to partnering with the district once again for the Northwest Settlement House gift project, which is in its 25th year.

NSSD: Board member Mr. Bill Hayes reported the co-op's Strategic Planning process continues.

Northfield Park District: Board member Mrs. Nancy Detlefsen reported that their holiday event was a great success.

Village of Northfield: No report.

Foundation Fund: No report.

Administration Report: After a brief discussion, the Board approved the 2018/19 district calendar, which will be posted on the website. The Board reviewed upcoming staffing needs, which would include additional 4th and 6th grade teachers for the 2018/19 school year. The Board slightly modified the board meeting calendar in order to accommodate an event in May. Dr. Stange reported that the district has begun to use Securly, a web activity monitoring system used to track students' online presence and search history. Not only can the district use this tool to ensure student safety while using electronic media, but parents can monitor their child's activity online as well, should they wish to.

Recommendations: The Board approved the Closed Session Minutes of November 14, 2017.

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the January 16, 2018, Regular Board meeting.