

## **BOARD NOTES:**

### **March 13, 2018, Regular Board Meeting:**

**Spotlight on Students:** Middlefork students from 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades came to demonstrate their reading and writing skills honed through the newly implemented Lucy Calkins Writing Workshop curriculum, which focuses on creating strong, consistent, and authentic writers. The Board was lucky enough to hear examples of several different types of writing, including book reviews, personal experiences, procedural explanations, and even video commentary. Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange thanked the students for their impressive work, adding that not only is writing an important communication skill, but also a key component of the common human experience.

**Consent Agenda:** After a brief discussion and explanation of the Park District's salting charges, the Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included minutes from the February 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting, and the monthly bills and salaries.

**Communications:** Dr. Stange informed the Board that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade robotics team won the State Championship and will be advancing to the World Competition as the only public middle school team to be invited from Illinois! Dr. Stange also detailed the student led plans for the National School Walkout on March 14<sup>th</sup>. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students worked with administration in order to plan a meaningful and safe activity commemorating the 17 students killed last month in Parkland, FL.

#### **Capital Improvement:**

**Sunset Ridge:** The nosing on the Presentation Stairs has been completed ahead of schedule and the HVAC system continues to function properly without incident.

**Middlefork:** Preliminary renderings for improvements have been sent to Pepper Construction in order to get cost estimates for the project. Once those are received, we will be better able to hone in on the exact scope of the plans.

**Strategic Planning:** The Strategic Planning Committee had their 3<sup>rd</sup> and final meeting with mediator Mr. Joe Porto, and was able to create a rough outline of objectives for the district. Once the Board has a chance to fine tune these into clear goals, opportunities will be made available to stakeholders to offer their feedback.

**Old Business:** After a third reading of board policies 700.02, Sexual Harassment Regarding Students, and 500.20, Personnel Policy Against Sexual Harassment, both were approved. The Board also reviewed the District's procedures and fees as applied to the rental of outdoor and indoor space at both schools.

**Audience Comments:** Sunset Ridge Principal Dr. Ivy Sukenik introduced three potential additions to staff whose employment was up for board approval later in the evening.

**New Business:** The Board had a first reading of board policy 500.08, Equal Employment Opportunity, which required minor updates to listed administration.

**Finance and Facilities:** The next meeting is April 10, 2018, at 6pm.

**Education Committee:** Board member Ms. Amanda Alpert Knight reported that Director of Technology and Innovation Mrs. Sheri Styczen gave an in-depth presentation detailing how the district manages its use of technology, including information protection. Mrs. Styczen also presented her preferred option for a new website design, which would be easier for parents and staff to navigate, and would result in a more consistent website experience. The next meeting is May 7, 2018, at 6pm.

**IASB:** Ms. Alpert Knight reported that districts are monitoring potential mandates regarding pension reform and a property tax freeze.

**PTO:** Board member Mrs. Jill Mirkovic reported that in lieu of a letter writing campaign this year, the PTO has decided to engage in a “Boosterthon,” a week-long, district-wide, activity driven fundraising approach, culminating in a Fun Run at the end. They have also made changes to the Family Fun Fair by partnering with the Park District to host a Family Fun Night, which will involve food trucks, games, moon walks, and running races. Information regarding both events will be sent to families soon.

**NSSSED:** No report.

**Northfield Park District:** Board member Mrs. Nancy Detlefsen reported that they are working on creating a more engaging Famers Market at Clarkson Park every Wednesday through the month of August.

**Village of Northfield:** Board member Mr. Scott Subeck reported that the Village continues to monitor plans for the proposed subdivision on Willow Road. Additionally, the Village is beginning work on their Comprehensive Plan 2040.

**Foundation Fund:** No report.

**Administrative Report:** Dr. Stange reported that incoming Kindergarten will be divided into three sections. The Board reviewed the plans for the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington, DC, learning that the students who have chosen not to attend the trip will be going on a field trip locally.

**Recommendations:** The Board approved the Closed Session minutes of February 13, 2018. The Board also approved the employment of Ms. Colleen Getz (teacher assistant), Ms. Kim Hanson (5<sup>th</sup> grade), Ms. Amanda Martinsen (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade math), and Ms. Keetra Tipton (7<sup>th</sup> grade math/science). The Board also approved the transfers of Ms. Rebecca Feldman (to 8<sup>th</sup> grade student services), Ms. Nina Furman (to 5<sup>th</sup> grade student services), Ms. Mindy Golub (to 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies), Mrs. Kristen Gonzales (to 5<sup>th</sup> grade and 6<sup>th</sup> grade social studies), Mrs. Heather Johnson (to 4<sup>th</sup> grade), Ms. Jordan Kohl (to 4<sup>th</sup> grade student services), Mrs. Sheila Rossi (to 7<sup>th</sup> grade student services), and Mrs. Susan Stonequist (to 5<sup>th</sup> grade).

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the April 10, 2018, Regular Board meeting.