

BOARD NOTES:

July 26, 2017, Regular Board Meeting:

Consent Agenda: The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included minutes from the June 6th Regular Board Meeting, and the monthly bills and salaries.

Communications: Board member Mr. Adelbert Spaan shared thank-you notes from Jackie Pick, Linda Polak, Anne Murphy, and Pat Gillings.

Capital Improvement Update: Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange reported that the demolition of the old Sunset Ridge School will begin on Friday, July 28th, and would most likely be a 2-3week process. In the new building, progress continues on the parking lot, landscaping, and solar panel installation, as well as interior finishes. Dr. Stange is fully confident that the new building will be ready for students on the first day of school, and he assured the Board that “Plan B’s” have been established to safely manage any unforeseen setback regarding pick-up or drop-off. He plans on communicating with SRS parents about this topic specifically as opening day nears. Administration will be moving into the building on August 7th, and teachers and staff will follow on August 23rd. Dr. Stange reviewed the project’s contingency expenses and affirmed that the contingency fund remains adequate. The Board discussed outside party facility rental opportunities, and agreed to wait a year before pursuing any agreements in order to “work out the kinks” of the new building first. The Board also discussed the potential Middlefork School capital improvements and what the timing of those might be.

Old Business: Dr. Stange updated the Board on his response to the Village of Northfield regarding the proposed subdivision on Willow Road between Bracken Lane and Wagner Road, which illustrated the District’s right, per village ordinance, to collect a monetary impact fee from the developers should the subdivision be approved. Additionally, the Board had a third reading and approved as amended both Board Policy 715.04-Suspensions and Board Policy 715.05-Expulsions.

Audience Comments: Community member Mr. Charlie Pick offered his thoughts to the Board on how best negotiate contingency expenses.

Finance and Facilities: Board member Mr. Bill Hayes reported that the committee discussed the Sunset Ridge and potential Middlefork capital improvement projects, and reviewed the FY 2016/17 pre-audit, the 2017/18 budget/levy calendar, and the 2017/18 tentative budget. The board then approved the 2017/18 Tentative Budget. The next meeting is October 10, 2017.

Education Committee: Board member Ms. Amanda Alpert Knight reported that she and Dr. Mary Frances Green are fleshing out the meeting topics for the year. The next meeting is November 14, 2017.

IASB: Ms. Alpert Knight reported that Governor Rauner has called an emergency meeting regarding school funding, and that we are watching and waiting anxiously for signs of a property tax freeze. Dr. Stange expressed worry over this possibility, as our District is different in that it doesn’t receive significant federal funding like most other districts. Approximately 80% of our income comes from property taxes, and a freeze would not allow us to keep up with typical rising costs in supplies and salaries.

PTO: No report.

NSSD: Mr. Hayes reported that the co-op plans to build partnerships with nursery schools, including Northfield Community, in order to provide supports for pre-school students in need.

Northfield Park District: No report.

Village of Northfield: No report.

Foundation Fund: Board member Mrs. Anne Peterson reported that the Foundation is planning a preview event for the major contributors, volunteers, and past and present Board members to thank them for their support of the Sunset Ridge School capital project. To date they have raised \$959,000 to help finance crucial enhancements to the building.

Administrative Reports: Dr. Stange reported that Kindergarten enrollment is at 46 incoming students. He was excited to add that the District will be welcoming 7 new students to Middlefork and 11 to Sunset Ridge. Dr. Stange stated that the District is fully staffed and ready to start the new school year.

Recommendations: The Board approved the closed Session Minutes of June 6, 2017, the employment of Natalie Doeblner as Middlefork Kindergarten teacher, and the employment of Teaching Assistants.

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the August 15, 2017, Regular Board meeting.