

BOARD NOTES:

August 15, 2017, Regular Board Meeting:

Consent Agenda: The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included minutes from the July 26th Regular Board Meeting, and the monthly bills and salaries.

Capital Improvement Update: Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange was happy to share that we received our temporary occupancy certificate for the new Sunset Ridge School, and that the inspector commented on how impressive the building is. Full occupancy clearance is expected next week, along with the final paving and striping of the parking lot. More than half of the solar panels are in place, and the entire array will be ready to “flip the switch” in mid-September. The Administration and Business Office staff have moved into their offices, and Dr. Stange stated that they will be fully ready to welcome teachers on August 23rd and students on September 5th. Unfortunately, the demolition crew struck an unknown underground oil storage tank that had not been in use in decades. They quickly capped it and contacted the EPA for further instructions. The EPA advised draining the oil and then testing the soil for any potential contamination. Pepper Construction is taking steps toward this end, under the guidance of the EPA.

Audience Comments: Representatives from Special Gifts Theatre spoke to the Board regarding their theatre program serving children and adults with special needs, urging the Board to continue to allow them to use the Sunset Ridge School theatre space, despite the fact that the Board had decided to take the first year in the new building to “work out the kinks” and assess the district needs before entering into rental agreements.

New Business: The Board had a first reading of Board Policies 410.15 and 410.16, which articulate the protocols for land/cash donations/impact fees related to new housing developments.

Finance and Facilities: The next meeting is October 10, 2017.

Education Committee: Board member Ms. Amanda Alpert Knight reported that she and Dr. Mary Frances Greene are continuing to work on the meeting topic schedule. The next meeting is September 13, 2017.

IASB: Ms. Alpert Knight reported on the progress of SB 1, which includes guidance for school funding.

PTO: No report.

NSSSED: No report.

Northfield Park District: No report.

Village of Northfield: Dr. Stange reported that that the proposed new development on Northfield Road does not fall in our school district, so would not affect enrollment should it be approved.

Foundation Fund: Board member Mrs. Anne Peterson reported that the Foundation is preparing for their Recognition Preview event on August 27th.

Administrative Reports: With the recent addition of five new students to 6th grade, Dr. Stange briefed the Board on the reasons for staying with two sections rather than dividing the students up into three. These would include the unavailability of hireable teachers that meet our district’s standards of excellence this late in the season and the disruption to students already assigned homerooms and schedules, among others. However, most compelling was Sunset Ridge Principal Dr. Ivy Sukenik’s explanation that the new block schedule will allow for team teaching between the 5th and 6th grade teachers for those grades, and that the teachers had already been

working diligently to create techniques and strategies for small group work, utilizing teaching assistants and other opportunities for intimate instruction. The Administration is confident that all is in place for the 6th grade to have an excellent year. Dr. Stange also reported that the district is fully staffed for certified positions and looking forward to another successful school year.

Recommendations: The Board approved the closed Session Minutes of July 25, 2017, and the employment of Ms. Alyssa Coltun and Ms. Agnes Candeia as Teaching Assistants.

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the September 13, 2017, Regular Board meeting.