

BOARD NOTES:

September 13, 2017, Regular Board Meeting:

Consent Agenda: The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included minutes from the August 15th Regular Board Meeting, and the monthly bills and salaries.

Communications: Board member Mr. Adelbert Spaan shared a thank-you note from Middlefork School's first principal, Mrs. Mary Osbourne. Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange reported on the District's ranking in Niche's list of "2018 Best Schools." He was happy to show that both Middlefork and Sunset Ridge rank very high in Illinois, Chicago Area, and Cook County categories. Niche is a website that uses comprehensive data compiled through test scores, survey responses, and academic and student life information collected from the US Department of Education to rank school districts, acting as a resource to families researching potential neighborhoods for home buying.

Capital Improvement: Dr. Stange reported that the new Sunset Ridge School opened on schedule on September 5th, and things are going as smoothly as can be expected. Traffic continues to be a work-in-progress, and he urged parents to drive cautiously and be patient as Administration troubleshoots the situation. Inside the building, fully background-checked crews continue to work on punch list items, staying out of the classroom areas during school hours. Outside, the playground has been completed, with the basketball court, additional playground equipment, and fields scheduled to be finished by Halloween. The infiltration trench on the east side of the building is nearing completion, and the north-south access road should be done by early October.

Strategic Planning: Mr. Spaan reported that the Board had convened for a Special Meeting in order to discuss Strategic Planning. There members discussed the District's mission statement and core beliefs, and analyzed strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats as related to District 29. They also discussed what data was needed in order to move forward, and what is already available to use. Mr. Spaan reiterated that while Strategic Planning is a months long process, the Board hoped to have a new plan in place by June.

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

Board Open Discussion: Mr. Spaan congratulated the Administration, staff, and Board members on a successful Opening Ceremony for the new Sunset Ridge School. It was wonderful to see so many alumni, retirees, parents, students, and community members present at this joyous occasion.

Finance and Facilities: The Board approved the Ratification of the 10 Year Life Survey as of May 2017, which covers required and recommended improvements to Middlefork School. The Board opened a public hearing, as required by law, in order to approve the final FY 2018 budget. After no public comments were offered, the hearing was closed and the budget was approved. The Board also reviewed the FY 2018 Compensation Reports, which will be posted on the website. The next meeting is on October 10, 2017.

Education Committee: Board member Ms. Amanda Alpert Knight reported that the first meeting would be a deep dive into District data, which includes PARCC, MAP, IL 5 Essentials, and parent survey results. The meeting will take place on November 14, 2017.

IASB: Ms. Alpert Knight reported that the Joint Annual Conference will be held on November 17-19, 2017. She also reported that details are yet to come from IL government leaders on the evidence based school funding formula.

PTO: Board member Mrs. Jill Mirkovic reported that the PTO had their first meeting and is off to an enthusiastic start. They plan to use social media as a means to communicate with district parents, and is creating a new website that will be separate from, but linked to, the District's website. They have cultivated a relationship with The Bookstall bookstore in order to bring free author visits to both schools, and they look forward to the upcoming New Family Social and the Annual Book Fair in November.

NSSD: Board member Mr. Bill Hayes reported that the co-op has started their own Strategic Planning process by soliciting community engagement through surveys sent out to all districts. They have also welcomed two nursery schools to the co-op, including Northfield Community Nursery School, which will allow them to provide a higher percentage of services in general education settings in neighboring communities.

Northfield Park District: Board member Mrs. Nancy Detlefsen reported that the Park District has made some improvements to their gym facilities. They were very pleased with their summer camp enrollment, and continue to promote their before-school care program in spite of staffing changes. Northfield Panthers Basketball will be using the Sunset Ridge gym for practices twice a week in return for all the help they offered the District while the property was under construction.

Village of Northfield: No report.

Foundation Fund: Board member Mrs. Anne Peterson was happy to report that the Foundation reached their goal of raising \$1M by school's opening day, for a grand total of \$1,030,000. Mrs. Peterson thanked the Foundation members for all of their hard work over these 18 months, reiterating that many of the enhancements in the new Sunset Ridge School would not be present was it not for the Foundation's dedication. Mrs. Peterson also reported that their Recognition Preview event was a lovely occasion enjoyed by all who attended.

Administrative Report: Dr. Stange reported that there are 12 new students (not including Kindergarteners) at Middlefork and 22 at Sunset Ridge. Both schools are fully staffed, including assistants. The board approved the District Title 1 Plan, which details the District's process for determining eligibility and providing supplemental instruction to students that are at-risk or failing IL Learning Standards. This is a federal requirement, and will allow the District to apply for grant funding. Dr. Stange discussed the possibility of providing the Board with emailed updates on a monthly or bi-weekly basis that would keep members abreast of ongoing issues and educative initiatives, allowing them to deepen their district perspective. The Board was receptive to this idea.

Recommendations: The Board approved the closed Session Minutes of August 15, 2017, and the employment of Teaching Assistants. The Board also accepted the resignation of Jackie Bresse-Rodenkirk.

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the October 10, 2017, Regular Board meeting.