

BOARD NOTES:

November 14, 2017, Regular Board Meeting:

Spotlight on Students: The Board welcomed 4th and 5th grade students from the WSRS News Crew broadcasting program. After conducting an actual on-the-scene news interview, the students explained the process to produce a successful weekly broadcast including production, direction, writing, sound, lighting, and cross-grade level collaboration. Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange commended their commitment to the program, pointing out that the public speaking, editing, and collaborative working skills they are honing through this program will be valuable long after they have left Sunset Ridge School.

Consent agenda: The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included minutes from the October 10th Regular Board Meeting, and the monthly bills and salaries.

Communications: Dr. Stange shared information on the proposed property tax freeze that goes for Senate approval in January. He reminded the Board that school districts, who receive most of their funding from property taxes, create their budgets based on projected income. If that income is frozen at current levels, it becomes difficult to keep up with costs that rise with inflation or to fund future planned projects. A property tax freeze would be detrimental to the district.

Capital Improvement Update: Dr. Stange reported that weekend crews are hard at work on Sunset Ridge School punch list items. In order to complete the Learn About the Building Wall, we only wait on the installation of the mural. After that is completed, the monitor displaying the building's energy production and consumption will be mounted. The playground equipment and basketball court have been completed. Adjustments to the detention pond's pumping station and the building's incoming voltage have been made, and all are working correctly. The District purchased wind-based renewable energy credits at an extremely reduced rate in order to offset part of the new building's carbon footprint, which will qualify it for LEED Platinum and Zero-Net Energy status, to be finalized in the spring. While Dr. Stange regretfully informed the Board that, due to wet weather conditions, crews most likely will not be able to finish sodding the field until spring, he was happy to add that the rest of the landscaping and the walking path around the property is near completion.

Board Open Discussion: Board member Mr. Adelbert Spaan shared that he is happy with the board's efforts so far towards Strategic Planning, and looks forward to creating focus groups and steering committees in support of that endeavor.

New Business: The Board had a first reading of Board Policy—Acceleration, which is a new IL mandate relative to the acceleration of students beyond their chronological grade level. The Board also discussed moving forward with the Middlefork capital improvement plans, which involve the use of \$2M of Fund Balance put towards renovations at Middlefork School with a projected completion date of summer 2019. The Board requested that Dr. Stange proceed in discussions with architect Wight & Co and construction manager Pepper Construction in order to get the ball rolling.

Finance and Facilities: After a thorough presentation by auditing company Mills and Cooper, the Board approved the FY17 Audit. The Board also approved the 2017 Tentative Tax Levy. The next meeting is on January 30, 2018.

Education Committee: Board member Ms. Amanda Alpert Knight reported that Dr. Stange gave an in-depth presentation on the annual assessment data the district collects, including parent surveys, The IL 5 Essentials survey, New Trier placement tests, PARRC tests, and Map tests. The next meeting is December 12, 2017.

IASB: Ms. Alpert Knight again touched on the dangers of the proposed property tax freeze. Dr. Stange informed the Board that he and other district staff would be attending the upcoming Joint Annual Conference.

PTO: Board member Mrs. Jill Mirkovic reported that the PTO had their final PTO Gifts meeting and would be reporting the results of that funding opportunity at their next meeting. Yearly projects such as the Northwest Settlement House program and Social Dance were all going smoothly.

NSSSED: Board member Mr. Bill Hayes reported that the co-op continues Strategic Planning, refining their mission and reestablishing their core values. They also continue to review their departments.

Northfield Park District: Board member Mrs. Nancy Detlefsen reported that they are reviewing their field rental and snow plow agreements. They are looking into Middlefork School room rentals as a way to lessen constraints on their summer camp sizes. They are happy to be helpful in any way they can regarding the proposed Middlefork School capital improvements, and thanked the District for allowing them to use the Sunset Ridge School gym for Panthers basketball.

Village of Northfield: Board member Mr. Scott Subeck reported that the village continues to debate the proposed townhome development on Winnetka Avenue, which is not within the school district's boundaries.

Foundation Fund: Board member Mrs. Anne Peterson reported that the Foundation has provided the district with \$960,000 in support of the new Sunset Ridge building, with an additional \$73,000 to be provided over the next 2 years. They plan on sending an emailed letter to the community this month highlighting the ways in which those funds were utilized. They are exploring creating their own website and are interested in welcoming new members to their ranks.

Administrative Reports: Dr. Stange presented the results of the IL School Report Cards for both Middlefork and Sunset Ridge Schools. These results are published on the district website. The Board discussed the proposed 2018-2019 school calendar, which would start one week earlier than other schools in the area in order to maximize the summer for Middlefork renovations.

Recommendations: The Board approved the Closed Session Minutes of October 10, 2017, and accepted the resignation of teaching assistant Sarah Golden. The Board also approved one-time payments to Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange, Chief School Business Official Mr. Tom Beerheide, and Director of Buildings and Grounds Mr. Corey Dreher, in recognition of their exemplary work on the new Sunset Ridge School building project.

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the December 12, 2017, Regular Board meeting.