

BOARDS NOTES:

February 13, 2018, Regular Board Meeting:

Spotlight on Students: Students from Sunset Ridge's band, orchestra and choir programs performed selected pieces they have been perfecting in preparation for outside performances and contests. Sunset Ridge Principal Dr. Ivy Sukenik detailed the hard work, dedication, and practice hours that go into preparing for each performance. Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange commended each student on their willingness to devote themselves to their musical endeavors, and assured them that not only will their training support their academic careers, as evidenced by research, but it will also be a comforting presence in their daily lives as they grow into adulthood. Dr. Stange also thanked the music teaching staff for their great leadership in creating a program that allows our student musicians to flourish.

Consent Agenda: The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included minutes from the January 16th Regular Board Meeting, and the monthly bills and salaries.

Communications: Dr. Stange was proud to announce that District 29 has been named Educational Institution of the Year by the Winnetka-Northfield Chamber of Commerce, and will be honored at their 42nd Annual Recognition Lunch on April 11th. He also shared a recent newspaper article that profiled a local robotics tournament that our district students participated in. In fact, one of our teams took first place in the "Teamwork" category, and will be going on to state competition! Dr. Stange explained that this, together with our students presenting at the recent Students in Technology conference, is proof that our new computer science curriculum is meeting, and even exceeding, our expectations.

Capital Improvement:

Sunset Ridge: Dr. Stange was happy to report that the previous problems with the HVAC system in regulating the temperatures throughout the building seem to be resolved, but continue to be closely monitored. The nosing on the Presentation Stairs should be completed before Spring break. There was a small leak in one of the music rooms, which is being addressed. Additionally, cold and wet temperatures have caused shifting in the bricks that border the front entrance. These will be adjusted in the late spring to early summer.

Middlefork: Administration looks forward to visiting other schools in the area in order to gather design ideas as we continue to study the scope of the Middlefork Capital Improvement project.

Strategic Planning: Dr. Stange discussed the results of the 2018 Parent and Staff School Perceptions Survey, commenting that while there is much to celebrate about our district, there is always room for improvement. The results of the survey are posted on the district website's home page. The Board discussed the meeting schedule for the Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

Old Business: The Board had a second reading of policies 700.02, Sexual Harassment Regarding Students, and 500.20, Personnel Policy Against Sexual Harassment. The Board also continued to refine the District's procedures and fees as applied to the rental of outdoor and indoor space at both schools.

Finance and Facilities: Board member Mr. Scott Subeck reported that the committee reviewed the July '17 through December '17 financials. The next meeting is April 10, 2018, at 6pm.

Education Committee: Board member Ms. Amanda Alpert Knight reported that the Library/Media Specialists from both Middlefork and Sunset Ridge gave in-depth presentations on how their departments not only provide curriculum and technology support to teachers, but also strive to make the library a lively, current, and engaging place for students through the use of book clubs, contests, and collaborative projects, among other methods. The next meeting is March 13, 2018, at 6pm.

IASB: Dr. Stange reported on anticipated changes in the PARCC tests, which are in response to gathered feedback.

PTO: Board member Mrs. Jill Mirkovic reported that although the district school calendar has been modified for an extra snow day, the PTO calendar of events remains unchanged.

NSSD: Board member Mr. Bill Hayes reported that the co-op's Strategic Plan has been approved, and they look forward to its implementation. Additionally, Mr. Hayes has been appointed to their Nominating Committee.

Northfield Park District: Board member Mrs. Nancy Detlefsen reported that discussions continue regarding the usage of facilities outside of school hours, which include improving communication between stakeholders regarding the rental of Middlefork's small gym.

Village of Northfield: No report.

Foundation Fund: No report.

Administrative Report: The Board reviewed the most recent enrollment numbers, which include 45 registered children for the 18/19 Kindergarten class. They also discussed anticipated vacancies to be filled in both 4th and 6th grade teaching positions.

Recommendations: The Board approved the Closed Session minutes of January 16, 2018. While the Board approved the release of Closed Session minutes, none were released due to confidentiality concerns. Also approved was the destruction of Closed Session verbatim tapes, which is a periodic bit of "housekeeping" the Board engages in. Additionally, the Board approved the FMLA and General Leave Requests by Shelby Cavnar, and the Extended Maternity Leave Request by Natalie Doebler.

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the March 13, 2018, Regular Board meeting.