

BOARD NOTES:

June 5, 2018, Regular Board Meeting:

Spotlight on Students: Members of the Sunset Ridge Robotics Team, who previously had won the State competition, described to the Board their experience of going to the World Robotics Competition in Kentucky. Led by Director of Technology Ms. Sheri Styczen, the 4-member team was required to build, code, and control their robot in specific tasks in order to receive points. While the team did not place, they enjoyed meeting their peers from different countries who share their interest in robotics, finding it to be quite a unique and exciting experience. Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange congratulated the students not only on their accomplishment, but also their ability to work together, take risks, and use failure as an opportunity to learn.

Consent Agenda: The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included minutes from the May 7th Regular Board Meeting and the monthly bills and salaries.

Communications: Dr. Stange highlighted an article in the Winnetka Current that detailed the Sunset Ridge performance of “James and the Giant Peach.” He also called attention to an email sent to board members from a Winnetka resident exploring the role of data gleaned from the 8th grade New Trier placement tests.

Capital Improvement Update:

Middlefork School: Dr. Stange reported that preliminary plans for Middlefork School were recently shared at a Parent Connections meeting, a PTO meeting, and a 2nd Cup hosted by Middlefork Principal Dr. Mary Frances Greene. All forums resulted in positive feedback and support of the proposed plans, which include improvements to the entryway canopy, main entrance, main office, library, and plumbing systems, in addition to the inclusion of multiple small group spaces. The Board must decide at the July 17th Board meeting if the project should proceed.

Sunset Ridge School: Dr. Stange reported that landscaping that did not survive the winter is scheduled to be replaced. After discussions with Wight and Co regarding the ongoing issues with the HVAC system, it has been determined that Wight will be taking over the oversight of troubleshooting this area.

Strategic Planning: Dr. Stange reported that the administrative team is working on developing action plans for the identified goals.

Old Business: The Board had a second reading of Board Policy 710.12, regarding tobacco products, and Board Policy 715.01, regarding student discipline. Both policies are being modified to include vapor products. After a brief discussion of how to best communicate changes in Board policies and Student Code of Conduct to families, both policies were approved. The Board also agreed to continue to have the Northfield Park District provide snow plowing and salting services at both schools.

Audience Comments: Northfield resident Mr. Tom Whittaker addressed the Board on his desire to have a lightning detection system installed at Sunset Ridge School. The Board instructed administration to explore cost and options.

Board Open Discussion: Board member Mrs. Nancy Detlefsen informed the Board that she had attended the first of 6 “Northfield 2040 Plan” meetings, Northfield’s strategic planning process. Topics explored include balancing a rural but also dynamic feel, walkability, nurturing existing businesses, attracting future businesses, and how to better incorporate the Avoca school district and its families into the village. Dr. Stange also informed the Board that spring MAP test results had, yet again, broken measureable records, which indicates that we have extremely high student growth in the district.

New Business:

- After discussing the need to create guidelines regarding plaque size, placement, wording, and material, in addition to variety of tree, the Board approved the planting of a commemorative tree at Middlefork School at the request of the PTO.
- The Board conducted a Public Hearing concerning the intent of the district to sell \$5.7 Funding Bonds for the purpose of paying debt related to the Sunset Ridge Capital Improvement Project.
- The Board approved the Prevailing Wage Resolution, which confirms that the District does indeed pay prevailing wage.
- The Board approved the authorization of the law firm of Franczek Radelet P.C. to assist the District in property tax appeals.
- The Board approved a move in employee dental plans from Guardian to Delta Dental, which will include a rate decrease (paid by employees), 100% coverage for preventative care, and orthodontia coverage.
- The Board discussed an opportunity to partner with Skyline Studios Theatre Program, which would allow students in grades 2-5 to participate in a theatrical production. Rehearsals would take place at the Park District, and the final performance would be in the Sunset Ridge theatre.

Finance and Facilities: The next meeting is July 17, 2018, at 6pm.

Education Committee: The next meeting is September 11, 2018, at 6pm.

IASB: Dr. Stange reported that Illinois' new budget features the state's latest attempt to tackle the growing debt in its teacher pension fund. Under the current system, districts can raise teachers' salaries by 6% annually in the last four years of their careers, which increases the income they receive from their pensions. The new law lowers this yearly increase to 3%. Districts could still offer more, but they would be required to supplement pension costs.

PTO: Board member Mrs. Jill Mirkovic reported that the Boosterthon Fun Run was a success and the PTO exceeded their fundraising goals. They are looking forward to the Family Fun Night on June 13th. Additionally, the PTO transitioned to their new leadership, with Mrs. Jenny Damon as President for 2018/19.

NSSD: Board member Mr. Bill Hayes reported that the co-op is using fund balance to purchase a new building, to be used for classes. There will be no assessment to the feeder districts.

Northfield Park District: Mrs. Detlefsen reported that the Park District is interested to see how the new farmer's market model will work, having moved it to Clarkson on Wednesday afternoons and evenings, and offering live entertainment.

Village of Northfield: No report.

Foundation Fund: No report.

Administrative Report: Dr. Stange reported that Kindergarten enrollment stands at 48, with 26 boys and 22 girls, and that a handful of grades will potentially be adding new students due to new families that are in the process of moving to the district. He informed the Board of Mrs. Sarah Dengsavang's desire to move to the open 2nd grade position, which would leave an opening for a part-time Spanish Teacher. This prompted a discussion of how to best fill the Spanish position given its scheduling limitations. The District continues to search for an Advanced Learning Math/Science Teacher and Teaching Assistants.

Recommendations: The Board approved the Closed Session minutes from May 7, 2018. Also approved were salary increases of select administrators, support staff, secretarial staff, teaching assistants, and custodians, and

the employment of Sarah Dingsavang as 2nd Grade Teacher. FMLA requests were approved for both Brittany Pengiel and Melissa Draka. Resignations were accepted from Ioannis (Yanni) Averinos, Laura DeFelice, and Kirsten Fenton.

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the July 17, 2018, Regular Board meeting.