

BOARD NOTES:

March 12, 2019, Regular Board Meeting:

Spotlight on Students: Students participating in Middlefork's 1st grade Explorers Club came to tell the Board about what they have been working on. Middlefork Principal Dr. Mary Frances Greene described the grade-wide project as a student-led group research assignment that culminates in an Explorers Club Museum exhibit at 1st grade portfolio night in April, adding that it has been a part of Middlefork's curriculum for the better part of 30 years. Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange commented that Explorers Club is an early manifestation of the District's commitment to student-driven, one-child-at-a-time methods, and commended the students on their passionate approach to their projects.

Consent Agenda: The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included minutes from the February 12th Regular Board Meeting and the monthly bills and salaries.

Communications: Dr. Stange shared a Winnetka Current article describing the Go Green IL winter meeting that the District hosted at Sunset Ridge School, and alerted the Board to the ongoing art exhibit at Village Hall that is currently displaying artwork by Middlefork students.

Capital Improvement Update: One bathroom at Middlefork will be renovated over spring break to serve as an example for the plumbing inspector to confirm that our approach meets requirements. Dr. Stange was happy to report that the roof HVAC units and screening plans were approved by Northfield's Architectural Committee, and the PTO has pledged to donate \$25,000 to the project as a result of their successful benefit fundraising.

Audience Comments: Board member Mrs. Jill Mirkovic relayed a message from community member Ms. Sarah Crawford requesting that the District consider purchasing a handicap accessible lunch table. Dr. Stange read a communication on behalf of community member Mr. Charlie Pick encouraging the district to continue to actively explore and promote programming to improve tolerance of and respect for diverse populations, and wishes the district to publically articulate how it intends to do so through its SEL curriculum.

Board Open Discussion: The Board discussed the work of the Social Justice Committee. Dr. Stange and Sunset Ridge Principal Dr. Ivy Sukenik each described their reflections on the recent survey given to Sunset Ridge students regarding forming a Gender Sexuality Alliance, commenting that much was learned from the experience that would better inform practices going forward. Dr. Sukenik described part of the work of the committee as giving teachers, students, and parents better tools with which to tackle hard topics such as racism, classism, ableism, gender identity, and other complex issues that students are wrestling with every day. She informed the board that she is working with professionals to design and implement staff education, and plans to form a parent advisory committee for the Social Justice Committee. In regards to the results of the GSA survey, Dr. Sukenik reported that there was notable student interest in forming such a club. This would most likely take place next year in the form of an Inclusion Club focusing on inclusion and tolerance of marginalized groups.

New Business: The board approved the Middlefork project contract terms with Pepper Construction.

Finance and Facilities: The next meeting is April 9, 2019, at 6pm.

Education Committee: The next meeting is May 14, 2019, at 6pm.

IASB: Board member Ms. Amanda Alpert Knight reported that there are new IL State Board of Education officers. Dr. Stange reported that legislation out of Springfield has determined that districts should have 176

school days, a day being 5.5 hours of clocked direct teacher contact, allowing “banked” time for early release days. He noted that our approved 2019/20 calendar remains unaffected, as it is already in compliance.

PTO: Mrs. Mirkovic reported that they had a very successful benefit, raising over \$70,000, which allows them to pledge \$25,000 towards the Middlefork Capital Improvement project. They are also trying a phone-in option for meetings, which would make it easier to have a quorum when needed.

NSSED: Board member Mr. Bill Hayes reported that they have met with all their participating districts in order to align their services with district needs. Their clean audit was completed, they are rolling out a new communication platform, and the Dan Habib presentation was a great success.

Northfield Park District: Board member Mrs. Nancy Detlefsen reported that they are preparing for summer camp. Additionally, they received a \$1M grant that will go towards renovations at Clarkson Park, including a permanent band shell, new playground equipment and poured rubber surface, new pavilion, a splash pad, and the formation of two ice rinks, all to be completed by the spring of 2020.

Village of Northfield: Board member Mr. Scott Subeck reported on the art exhibit at Village Hall, and the progress of the proposed subdivision on Willow Road, Walden Lane.

Foundation Fund: Board member Mrs. Anne Peterson reported that they are working on a mailer to the whole community that would detail the new Sunset Ridge building’s awards and accomplishments, and explain how the donations were spent.

Administrative Report: There were two FOIA requests this month, one from a research assistant regarding charter school applications, and another from a janitorial company regarding outsourced custodial services. Dr. Stange confirmed that 40 kindergarteners are registered for next year, and Dr. Greene is hopeful that more will continue to enroll. This low enrollment number does put the Board in the unfortunate position of reducing Kindergarten teachers to two, which can cause movement in other staffing areas, as the reduction is mostly dependent on dates of hire. Dr. Stange reviewed the schedule of the upcoming 8th grade DC trip. 68% of current 8th graders are attending the trip, which falls within the 54-83% average. The Board approved Chief School Business Official Mr. Tom Beerheide’s reappointment as Assistant Township Treasurer, a position that assigns him the responsibility of overseeing the District’s investments. Lastly, Dr. Stange reiterated the learning opportunity that occurred after the GSA survey was given, pledging to better foster the District’s “learning community” through improved communication.

Recommendations: The Board approved the Closed Session minutes from February 12, 2019. The Board also accepted the resignation of middle school Spanish teacher Ms. Shelby Cavnar, and approved the honorable dismissal of Math/Science teacher Ms. Keetra Tipton (due to Ms. Tiffany Neuhausel returning from family leave) and Spanish teacher Ms. Anna Murphy (due to low Kindergarten enrollment), to take place at the end of the school year.

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the April 9, 2019 Regular Board meeting.