

BOARD NOTES:

April 9, 2019, Regular Board Meeting:

Spotlight on Students: Several students from Sunset Ridge School, across all grade levels, came to let the Board in on the details of the plethora of clubs that are available to students before school and during recess. Participants in Magic Club, D & D Club, Big Books Club, Script Writing Club, Scribbler Siblings, Tech Club, Marvel Club, and Empathy Ambassadors presented the ins-and-outs of their groups, emphasizing the fact that they are all student created and led. Librarian/Media Specialist Ms. Lauren Gray added that she encourages any student who wants to start any type of club to let her know and she would be happy to help her/him/them develop the idea, promote it, and implement it. She explained that it is her priority to champion student voices while ensuring that the Learning Center is used to its full potential. Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange praised the students on their creativity, responsibility, leadership, and passion, thanked them for working to create such a positive and inclusive school climate, and expressed his great appreciation for Ms. Gray's mentorship.

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

Communications: Dr. Stange informed the Board that Sunset Ridge has received, for the second year in a row, the Best Communities for Music Education Award from The NAMM Foundation, and he thanked the music staff for their dedication to our program. Only 13 schools in Illinois were chosen for this award! He also shared that an American flag had been flown in honor of our SRS Fiber Optics robotics team aboard an E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System aircraft during a mission.

Old Business: Dr. Stange informed the Board that a handicap accessible lunch table will be purchased for the Sunset Ridge lunchroom.

Capital Improvement Update:

Middlefork School: The renovation of one bathroom at Middlefork was completed during spring break and now awaits final approval by a plumbing inspector, which will be the go-ahead for the rest of the bathroom renovations to take place this summer. It was also discovered that the flush valves on all of the toilets will need to be replaced, as they are old and will not match the replacement fixtures. After review, the Board approved the bid contract for asbestos removal as part of the Middlefork capital improvement project, which Dr. Stange was happy to report came well under budget.

Sunset Ridge School: The District was recently informed by the Village that one of the water service vaults located underneath the driveway does not meet the required 5-foot depth that was outlined in the original architectural drawings. This is because old plumbing from the original building was found to be in the way, so most likely a "field decision" was made to modify the plans. After Dr. Stange described meetings to discuss this situation with the architects, contractors, and excavators, the Board discussed options moving forward, instructing Dr. Stange to gather more information.

Strategic Plan Update: Sunset Ridge Principal Dr. Ivy Sukenik gave a brief presentation on the new Athletics Committee tasked with evaluating our athletic program and making recommendations where appropriate. This committee included administrators, teachers, and parents who met over the course of the year to review each section of the existing District 29 athletics guidelines. Based on those recommendations and discussions, draft adjustments were made and shared, and a parent survey sent out to gather feedback. The committee continues to fine tune the guidelines with the goal of supporting a robust athletics program that also reinforces the District's commitment to social and emotional learning opportunities.

Audience Comments: Board member Mrs. Anne Peterson read a communication on behalf of community member Ms. Jamie Cherry asking the Board to consider replacing the yellow temporary speed bump at Sunset Ridge with a permanent, more gradual speed hump.

Board Open Discussion: The board discussed the pros and cons of replacing the speed bump. Dr. Stange let the Board know that the previous weekend's 8th grade Washington DC trip was a resounding success, with Board members adding that they had received great feedback from parents whose children had attended. Dr. Stange also presented the agenda for the April 30th Special Board Meeting to seat new members, a reminder of Board committee positions, and a tentative Board meeting calendar.

Finance and Facilities: Board member Mr. Scott Subeck reported that Kraft Foods' property tax appeal has been closed and their refunds issued. The Board approved the 2019-20 contract renewals with Smith Maintenance, our custodial company, and Call One, our landline provider. The Board asked for assurance that all 11 district landlines are necessary, which Dr. Stange will look in to. The next meeting is July 16, 2019, at 6pm.

Education Committee: The next meeting is May 14th, 2019, at 5:30pm. The time was modified from 6pm to 5:30pm to allow for a more in-depth presentation of the year's work towards achieving Strategic Plan goals.

IASB: Dr. Stange reported that a bill is working its way through that would mandate an increase in PE minutes for 1st through 8th grades. This could significantly impact the District's scheduling, as some other activity would need to be sacrificed in order to meet the mandated minutes.

PTO: Board member Mrs. Jill Mirkovic reported that the portal to order school supply kits had opened. The famed author Kwame Alexander is scheduled to visit Sunset Ridge on Wednesday, April 10th, thanks to PTO funding. They are still looking for a Nominating Chair, House and Grounds Chair, and a President Elect.

NSSSED: Board member Mr. Bill Hayes reported they had hired a new Business Official and North Shore Academy Principal. They are making adjustments in staffing as they evaluate district needs. In creating their budget, they realized there was a shortfall, which fund balance will be used to cover. Dr. Stange noted that as more children are integrated into classrooms across the service area, there appears to be a shortage of NSSSED specific classrooms that meet the needs of our youngest pre-K students. Dr. Stange is working with NSSSED to find a solution that is not burdensome to those families.

Northfield Park District: Dr. Stange thanked the Park District for their donation of a gently used John Deere riding snow blower.

Village of Northfield: Board member Mrs. Nancy Detlefsen reported that their 2040 Comprehensive Plan community engagement meeting was well attended and produced many creative ideas for village development. Those plans and ideas will then be presented to the Village Trustees, followed by more community engagement opportunities.

Administrative Reports: The District received one FOIA request from NBC5 regarding school storm shelters. Dr. Stange reported that 43 Kindergarteners are registered for next year, which will likely increase to at least 47. This indicates that in all likelihood there will be 3 Kindergarten sections. Dr. Sukenik is preparing for next year's staffing requirements by advertising an open Spanish Teacher position. Dr. Stange proposed that Administrative Reports include a briefing from each school's principal, an idea that the Board was very receptive to. Those reports are as follows:

Middlefork School: Dr. Mary Frances Greene reported that IAR state testing is going well so far, even with the addition of one extra test resulting from Middlefork being chosen as a field test school. State mandated sexual abuse education will be starting soon, as will Bike Safety Week. Class placement work for next year has

begun. Dr. Greene is meeting with parents who have children in the incoming 3rd grade class to address concerns regarding the imbalance of boys to girls.

Sunset Ridge: Dr. Sukenik reported that IAR state testing is going well and thanked Director of Technology Mrs. Sheri Styczen for a smooth implementation. The Creator of the “We All Live Here” project visited the school to discuss ways to engage in an exercise on inclusivity that culminates in a permanent art installation. He proposed a magnetic poetry wall on the green roof patio that would be an opportunity to foster school community and student ownership. The Robotics team is heading to the world championship for the second year in a row on April 28th! Newberry Medal author Kwame Alexander is visiting the school on April 10th.

Recommendations: The Board approved the Closed Session minutes from March 12, 2019. The Board also accepted the resignation of Kindergarten Teaching Assistant Mr. George Gemeinhardt, and approved the contract renewal for Director of Student Services Ms. Emily Dunham.

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the May 14, 2019 Regular Board meeting.