

## **BOARD NOTES: May 11, 2021 7:00pm, Regular Board Meeting, Sunset Ridge School**

*Items Approved: 4/13/21 Consent Agenda, 4/13/21 Closed Session Minutes, 2021-2022 Board Calendar  
2021-2022 Board Officers, Committee Representatives/Liaisons  
Board Policy 706 (Student Data Privacy and Security)  
Employment of Jon Bingaman (7<sup>th</sup> Grade English/Language Arts Teacher)  
Employment of Meghan Moorman (Special Education Teacher)  
Employment of Jennifer Hope (School Psychologist/Counselor)  
Maternity Leave (Employee A)*

**ROLL CALL (7:05pm):** all present

**CONSENT AGENDA (7:07pm):** The Board **approved** the Consent Agenda, including minutes from April 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting, minutes from April 27<sup>th</sup> Special Board Meeting, and monthly bills and salaries.

**COMMUNICATIONS (7:08pm):** One FOIA request from J Doe related to salary and benefits of non-certified staff. Dr. Stange confirmed with legal counsel that D29 is obligated to respond to anonymous requests.

**OLD BUSINESS (7:09pm):**

**Strategic Planning (7:09pm)** The Board felt the district is at an inflection point, picking Battelle over CEC as an innovator/transformational vendor who will be helpful in gathering stakeholder input (including student), and looking at excellence nationwide. Options will be examined to contain and/or spread cost across fiscal years.

**Full-Day Kindergarten (7:25pm)** Planning is fully underway for full-day kindergarten starting August 2021. An option will be offered for two weeks of half-day (pickup at lunch, just through Labor Day weekend).

**Public Comment (7:40pm)**

Dr. Stange read submitted emails as requested:

- D29 community members (196) submitted a petition in support of including LGBTQ+ subject matter in District 29's health curriculum, noting it has been part of the curriculum for many years, is a requirement/guidance/best practice per many governmental organizations, and aligns with D29 mission
- D29 parents Jackie & Erik Johnson submitted a letter asking for clarification between Title IX and Illinois HB 246 (Inclusive Curriculum Law), expressing support for the LGBTQ community, expressing concern about the district overstepping into a parent's role, and asking the community to remember similarities vs differences with the common goal of encouraging kindness, respect, and recognition

In person comments were as follows:

- D29 parent Ann Peterson read a letter expressing hope and confidence that the future of the district will measure up to its past, leading through sometimes difficult conversations related to inclusivity in the same way it did previously with character education and then with social-emotional learning
- D29 parent Sarah Crawford expressed a history of feeling welcome in this community, not experiencing discrimination here until the last board discussion, and hoping we will acknowledge those who feel they must hide their differences

**NEW BUSINESS (7:58pm):**

**Board Open Discussion (7:58pm)** Ms. Joseph recognized it is brave to submit public comment. Mr. Subeck noted the Board is not considering the omission of any required curriculum and is committed to improving communication on sensitive subjects. The Board supports the training of staff on LGBTQ+ topics, equal access to facilities and programs for all students, and gender-support plans for LGBTQ+ students. All students and staff are welcome and respected, differences are to be celebrated, and all public comments are appreciated.

## **NEW BUSINESS (continued):**

**Approval: 2021-2022 Board Calendar (8:01pm)**

**Approval: 2021-2022 Board Officers, Committee Representatives/Liaisons (8:02pm)**

## **REPORTS (8:05pm):**

### **Return to School Task Force (8:05pm):**

- Discussion on potential mitigations to quarantine impact (recess & PE are the pinch points).
- Consensus was not to change any policies for the remaining four weeks of the school year (7<sup>th</sup> grade PE separation now in place, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade PE separation would require band/orchestra changes)
- For the fall, remote learning will be based eligibility requirements.
- Discussion that in short-notice quarantine situations, sick days do help reduce classroom complexity.

### **Finance and Facilities (8:20pm):**

- IMRF audit finding related to Social Security levy vs IMRF (IMRF has a balance that is too high).
- Remediation was to split Fund 50 expense account into two funds (50/51) and over-levy social security for a period of time going forward until the balances are aligned, as recommended by the auditor.

**Education (8:24pm):** Updates on strategic plan/committees were provided in 5/11 Education Committee mtg

**Policy (8:25pm):** Mr. Welch noted the Board had a second reading, whereby Policy 706 (Use of Educational Technology: Student Data Privacy and Security) was **approved**.

### **External Relations (8:28pm):**

**IASB (8:28pm)** Ms. Alpert Knight reported that HB 7, which passed in the House, did not move past committee in the Senate. The bill had called for referendums on district consolidation in small districts like D29. Other noteworthy bills relate to a structured plan mandate, and teacher safety walk-outs.

**PTO (8:34pm)** Ms. Joseph reported budget finalized (w/o 8<sup>th</sup> grade dues), new officers/committees.

**NSSD (8:35pm)** Mr. Spaan noted update in packet.

**Northfield Park District (8:35pm)** Mr. Welch reported on before/after care, previously provided by both Wesley Child Care and the Northfield Park District. Administration will consult with previous Wesley participating families to discuss whether the Northfield Park District can meet all needs.

**Village of Northfield (8:50pm)** Mr. Subeck reported new leadership is in place.

**Foundation Fund (8:51pm)** Ms. Alpert Knight reported a new meeting coming up.

### **Administrative Reports (8:51pm):**

**2020-2021 Enrollment (8:51pm)** Dr. Stange reported 68 in upcoming 1<sup>st</sup> grade needs watching. For 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the Board supports 0.5 FTE using CARES funds to reduce potential 26 student math section to 13

**2020-2021 Staffing (9:03pm)** Employment items noted for closed session.

**Summer Bridge (9:04pm)** Dr. Stange recommended to change course, use funds during the year for supplemental instruction as better cost benefit vs. a bridge program. Board supported the change.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Administrative Reports (continued):**

#### **School & Departments (9:17pm)**

*Dr. Sukenik (9:17pm)* - MAP starts next week. IAR went first to get more instruction time before MAP. Graduation plans in progress, will be similar to last year with dedicated family parking/sitting spots. Graduation speakers include Mr. Subeck & Dr. Stange. Ana Miyares to photograph. 8<sup>th</sup> graders requested one last final cafeteria lunch of pizza and bosco stix. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade transition limited to 1 parent. Evening with Eagles (June 1) and award ceremony will occur in virtual format.

*Mrs. Kiedaisch (9:22pm)* - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade graduation plans in progress, hope to include pleasant surprises with school, siblings and parent sendoffs. Indoor ceremony will be students and teachers. Certified School Nurse recruitment in progress. Dr. Deborah Penny of Intercultural Development Inventory (a vendor used by the state department) will present to staff this week and offer optional assessment, may help guide work of Social Justice committee.

*Mrs. Dunham (9:28pm)* - Year-end wrap ups of IEPs, class lists in progress. Student Services staff are seeing increase in support needs with the longer school day.

*Mrs. Styzcen (9:30pm)* - Device collection to proceed this year. New infrastructure planned and new device security software for summer. New policy to be communicated (no take home fee of \$55, pay for repairs as incurred).

*Mr. Dreher (9:31pm)* - Grass restoration at SRS proceeds. New tree for Arbor Day at Middlefork planted by Village. HVAC issues at SRS resolved. Contracts with vendors generally in order.

*Mr. Beerheide (9:36pm)* - Three rounds of CAREs funds allocations noted in packet, totaling ~\$800K. ISBE, CHA, NSSD receive portions, leaving ~\$675K for D29. \$275K spent to date. FEMA COVID funds application in appeal, for \$52K. Interest income down given low rates. No lunch revenue/costs.

#### **CLOSED SESSION (9:50pm):**

- To Review Closed Session Minutes from April 13, 2021
- To Consider Information Regarding the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel
- To Discuss Matters Related to Individual Students
- To Discuss Potential Litigation
- To Discuss Collective Bargaining

#### **ACTION ITEMS FOR BOARD APPROVAL (10:30pm):**

- Closed Session Minutes from April 13, 2021
- Employment of Jon Bingaman (7<sup>th</sup> Grade English/Language Arts Teacher)
- Employment of Meghan Moorman (Special Education Teacher)
- Employment of Jennifer Hope (School Psychologist/Counselor)
- Maternity Leave (Employee A)

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the June 13, 2021, Regular Board meeting.