

BOARD NOTES:

May 14, 2019, Regular Board Meeting:

Spotlight on Students: Members from Dolphin Waves Media, Middlefork School's news broadcasting club, demonstrated their talents toward creating a weekly online newscast. The students conducted a live broadcast, which showcased their skills as reporters, script writers, studio engineers, technology experts, camera operators, and editors. Meeting often before school, participants are able to gain experience in every aspect of the production, and look forward to transferring their skills to WSRS when they arrive at Sunset Ridge School. Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange commented that this activity is a great opportunity to reinforce what the learning community refers to as "The 4 Cs," which are Critical Thinking, Creativity, Communication, and Collaboration. After thanking Mrs. Sarah Dengsavang and Mrs. Donna Kasper for their stellar leadership, Dr. Stange admired the students' commitment to their education and enthusiasm for learning new skills.

Consent Agenda: The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included minutes from the April 9th Regular Board Meeting, minutes from the April 30th Special Board Meeting, and the monthly bills and salaries.

Communications: Dr. Stange informed the Board that the District had received a \$108,630 rebate check from ComEd in response to the solar energy project, which was presented at a ceremony attended by State Representatives Robyn Gabel and Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz, ComEd officials, school staff and administration, and the Sunset Ridge student group Energy Activists. Dr. Stange shared a copy of the latest Board newsletter, which details the Middlefork Capital Improvement project taking place this summer. The Board acknowledged the receipt of a letter from community members Mr. and Dr. Whittaker regarding their concerns over the District's response to a student's social media posts, safety/security training in the District, communication systems, Board policies, and the professionalism of communications.

Capital Improvement Update:

Middlefork School: The Capital Improvement Leadership Team will continue to meet during the summer months to monitor progress on the project. Logistics have been finalized with the Northfield Park District regarding building usage for summer camp. Furniture for the Learning Center and small group rooms has been chosen, and plans have been made for the \$25,000 PTO donation to go towards classroom furniture pieces that support different learning styles. Dr. Stange informed the Board that the bids for the classroom doors/frames replacement and Speech office renovations came in approximately \$20,000 over budget. These components of the project fall under the District's Life Safety budget, as they are required in order to be in compliance with current codes, and are not part of the original \$2M overall project expense. Chief School Business Official Mr. Tom Beerheide informed the Board that there are enough funds in the Life Safety budget to cover the additional expense, and the Board agreed it is money well spent.

Sunset Ridge: Dr. Stange updated the Board on the Village's position regarding the incorrect positioning of the water service vault buried under the driveway, which is to approve the District's plan to procure a long-term extended warranty and maintenance bond to cover any incident related to weather damage.

Old Business: The Board approved the 2019-2020 Board Meeting Calendar.

Board Open Discussion: Dr. Stange thanked outgoing PTO President Mrs. Jenny Damon for her dedication to the District this past year.

Finance and Facilities: Mr. Beerheide presented an explanation of why the District's ISBE Financial Profile Report went down from last year's 3.70 score to this year's 3.45, which is twofold: 1.) The outstanding long-term debt the District incurred to fund the new Sunset Ridge produced a low score in the percentage of remaining long-term debt borrowing ability indicator. As we pay down the debt this score will begin to rise.

And 2.) the Kraft PTAB expense recorded by the auditors, which reflects the first refund of \$243,004 issued for the 2010-2012 years, caused our expenditures to exceed revenues in the operating fund summary calculated by the State. However, after the FY 2019 audit and the final Kraft PTAB is recorded, the expenditure to revenue ratio should return to a higher score. After a brief discussion, the Board approved a 2-year lease agreement with Wesley Childcare. The next meeting is July 16, 2019, at 6pm.

Education Committee: Board member Mrs. Anne Peterson reported that District Administration presented a deep dive into the year's progress toward Strategic Plan goals. The next meeting is September 10, 2019, at 6pm.

IASB: Dr. Stange reported that Governor Pritzker is pushing for a progressive state income tax bill, which would also include a property tax freeze. This is something the District needs to watch, as a property tax freeze would affect our ability to pay for expenses that continue to rise each year by CPI. However, the State has included the statement that the freeze would apply for levy year 2022 only if it meets its minimum contribution requirement to the Evidence Based Funding Formula and to mandated categorical payments. Districts would only be allowed to levy tax rates if the State fails to meet its obligations. Dr. Stange also reported on the status of SB 60, which would repeal the 3% pension liability limit and revert back to the previous 6% threshold, which has an impact on our teachers that are currently in the retirement track. Dr. Stange also reported that Gov. Pritzker continues to support marijuana legalization.

PTO: Board member Mrs. Anne Peterson reported that they had their last meeting of the year, at which they approved the budget and slate. However, they are still seeking a President Elect, Nominating Chair, and House and Grounds Chair. They are squaring up their budget by collecting outstanding expense reports, school kits orders are at 40% of students, and Family Fun Night is June 5th 4-8pm.

NSSSED: Board member Mr. Bill Hayes reported that the co-op continues on their plan to use staff reductions, new revenues, and fund balance to make up for the budget shortfall, and are doing a deep analysis of how their financial model needs to change in order to effectively move forward. Membership and tuition rates have also increased. The Board discussed hosting a NSSSED classroom at Middlefork within the next two years, agreeing that it was time the District did so.

Northfield Park District: Board member Mr. Rory Welch reported that they are preparing for the Clarkson Park renovations, with community engagement meetings scheduled in the upcoming weeks. They are finalizing their summer camp logistics in anticipation of the Middlefork project, and expect everything to go smoothly.

Village of Northfield: No report.

Foundation Fund: Board member Ms. Amanda Alpert Knight reported that they have had a presence at many District events in order to increase brand recognition.

Administrative Reports: Dr. Stange reported on one FOIA request from SmartProcure soliciting all purchasing records from 11/27/18 to the present. Incoming Kindergarten enrollment is currently at 45, which ensures it will be split into 3 sections. Sunset Ridge Principal Dr. Ivy Sukenik introduced Ms. Evelyn Levin, whose employment as Spanish Teacher is on the agenda to be approved. Dr. Stange called the Board's attention to an updated document that details the staffing elements, building features, and protocols in place in support of building safety and security.

Middlefork School: Dr. Mary Frances Greene reported that class lists for next year are being created, Portfolio Nights are being enjoyed by all, and pilot programs in reading are beginning their evaluative stages.

Sunset Ridge School: Dr. Sukenik reported that the spring musical Cinderella was a great success, and spring concerts are in full swing. The creator of the "We All Live Here" project visited with students to plan an art installation. A Panorama Survey is in development to give to students and parents/guardians, with the adult portion to be vetted by the new SELPAC committee to assure it hits the correct marks. Evening with the Eagles

is on May 29th at 6pm. Discussion continues with students on why their MAP score no longer immediately appears at the end of their test.

Recommendations: The Board approved the Closed Session minutes from April 9, 2019, and accepted the resignation of Ms. Shelia Rossi effective June 7th. The Board approved the employment of Ms. Evelyn Levin (SRS Spanish Teacher), Ms. Jacqueline Kotula (Technology and Innovation Specialist), the 2019-2020 Administrator and 12-Month Staff salary increases, and the increase in the Substitute pay rate.

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the June 11, 2019 Regular Board meeting.