

BOARD NOTES:

October 15, 2019, Regular Board Meeting:

Spotlight on Students: Members of Sunset Ridge School's sports teams shared with the Board the many benefits they receive from participating in athletics. In addition to the physical advantages, students described opportunities to build character, resilience, and confidence, to improve time management and decision-making skills, develop healthy habits that benefit both mind and body, and many others they can build on in high school and beyond. Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange commended the students on representing District 29 so well, expressing his pride in all of our teams' performances on and off the fields and courts.

Consent Agenda: The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included the minutes from the September 10th Regular Board Meeting and the monthly bills and salaries.

Communications: Dr. Stange shared that, after a reunion that included a tour of the new building, the class of 1965 made a \$1,000.00 donation to the district. Thank-you notes were received from Friendship Circle of IL, regarding their event hosted on district property, and community member Mrs. Erin Dotzler, regarding support from district staff at a charity event. Additionally, an email from community member Mrs. Laura Blair was sent to the Board expressing her opinion concerning resolutions that will be voted on at the annual IASB conference in November.

Capital Improvement:

Middlefork School: A few punch list items remain to be completed on the summer renovation project. The Park District plumbing issue that was originally thought to require extensive work underneath the gym floor was discovered to be a minor clog and will not need anything other than regular maintenance. After discussing possible future projects for Middlefork, the Board agreed to hold off on community engagement until a better financial picture, including projected costs and available funds, could be developed.

Sunset Ridge: The Village of Northfield received all of the documents related to the water main underneath the parking lot, which closes the issue.

Board Policy Revisions:

The Board had a third reading of and approved these policies:

230.01 (Unexpired Board Term)
235 (Board Code of Conduct)

The Board had a second reading of and approved these policies:

241.05 (Board Gift Ban)
245 (Board Officers)
247 (Board Representatives/Liaisons)
520.02 (Hiring Process)
625.21 (Avoidance of Abduction and Abuse)

The Board had a first reading of these policies:

459 (Emergency Closings)
465 (Safety and Security)
465.01 (Warning Systems)
465.04 (Emergency Plans)
465.06 (Threat Assessments)
720.23 (Emergency Drills)

Old Business: The Board confirmed that a Special Board meeting will be held on January 30, 2020, in order to participate in a Board Self-Evaluation.

New Business: The Board discussed several new legislative mandates that will affect schools in the near future, including PA 101-0227, mandating that the teaching of history shall include a study of the roles and contributions of LGBTQ individuals, and use textbooks that include the roles of individuals protected under the state's Human Rights Act; PA 101-0455, requiring threat assessment procedures and the creation of a Threat Assessment Team in all school districts; HB 2627, requiring school security personnel to notify, and take reasonable steps to include, parents and school mental health staff when a student is being detained and questioned on school grounds in regards to a suspected criminal act; PA 101-0591, requiring districts to develop an appeals process for unsatisfactory teacher evaluations; PA 101-0521, regarding documentation should a school employee be prosecuted for a sexual offense, in addition to requiring districts to conduct background checks of all current employees every five years; and PA 101-0531, regarding the resignation of tenured teachers during the year without Board approval. In response to PA 101-0455, the Board reviewed the District's newly drafted Threat Assessment Procedures.

Finance and Facilities: Board member Mr. Scott Subeck reported that the committee discussed options for field irrigation. Since the field is at the higher end of the property and no longer receives the drainage it did in the old location, regular watering of the field has become necessary in order to keep it strong. As a precaution against the field being damaged, the Board agreed to put a hold on field rental opportunities until a watering solution can be reached. The committee also discussed potential future Middlefork School capital improvement opportunities. A representative from the district's auditing firm reviewed the FY19 audit, which was then approved by the Board. The next meeting is January 14, 2020.

Education Committee: The next meeting is November 12, 2019, at 6pm.

IASB: Dr. Stange reported that the Board's IASB membership has been renewed. Board member Ms. Amanda Alpert Knight reported that among the resolutions to be voted on at the November conference, two are of particular interest. They concern whether or not the IASB should advocate for legislation that would (a) support districts' ability to decide whether or not they would allow school staff to carry concealed weapons, and (b) provide funding for the employment of School Resource Officers. After agreeing that District 29 would continue to not allow weapons in its buildings no matter what the outcome of the vote is, Ms. Alpert Knight advised Board members to email her their opinions regarding the resolutions, as she would be casting the District's votes at the conference.

PTO: Board member Mrs. Anne Peterson reported that the switch to the new online directory platform is complete and almost all updated. They are still working on collecting dues. Mrs. Jenny Gallagher has agreed to be President Elect. Upcoming events include the Middlefork 60th Birthday Sock Hop, the book fairs, 6th grade social dance, and a skype with author and District 29 alum Misa Sugiura.

NSSD: Board member Mr. Bill Hayes reported that they are meeting with all the member districts to confirm that services are aligned. They continue to review their financial model with the goal to finish by year's end.

Northfield Park District: Board member Mr. Rory Welch reported that despite its non-approval at the Architectural Committee, the proposed bandshell at Clarkson Park received Village approval. Aftercare will be provided during District 29 conferences.

Village of Northfield: Board member Mrs. Nancy Detlefsen reported that they are urging all residents to complete the survey regarding the potential legal sale of cannabis in Northfield.

Foundation Fund: No report.

Administrative Reports:

Dr. Stange: Due to a complication in PowerSchool relating to documentation, enrollment is now recorded at 466 rather than 461, even though actual enrollment has not changed. The Board discussed the challenges that arise when the District has to verify a student's residency, and the importance of having an objective, universally applied process. After discussing contracting with an outside company to handle residency investigations, the Board approved the option to engage in a trial this year. The Board also took a first look at a potential 2020/21 school calendar.

Middlefork Principal Dr. Mary Frances Greene: Everyone is very excited for the 60th Anniversary Sock Hop, and all the other fun activities that will happen throughout the day. Procedures are under review that address situations in which a family is interested in having their child skip Kindergarten and go straight to first grade.

Sunset Ridge Principal Dr. Ivy Sukenik: Now that the weather is getting colder, students who arrive early can sign in on Google Docs and wait inside the vestibule. Service Leagues will be taking their first field trips soon. The school is hosting NSSED's professional development offered to all districts. 4th grade students are taking a field trip to trick-or-treat at North Shore Place's memory care facility, offering a great social-emotional learning experience for everyone involved.

Recommendations: The Board approved the Closed Session Minutes of September 10, 2019, and accepted the resignation of Teaching Assistant Jessica Speck. The Board approved the employment of Ms. Irene Koliopoulos as 7th grade Student Services Teacher.

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the November 12, 2019, Regular Board meeting.