

## **BOARD NOTES:**

### **February 11, 2020, Regular Board Meeting:**

**Public Statement by Board President:** Mr. Adelbert Spaan read from a prepared statement informing the audience that the Board would be discussing the internal investigation with its attorneys in that evening's Closed Session, the results of which will inform action steps taken toward improving the safety and security of the District's students and staff. Mr. Spaan thanked the community for their patience and support.

**Audience Comments:** Community member Mr. Dan Shanley communicated his disappointment in the media's depiction of events, and faith in the Board to work through the necessary steps to come to resolution. Community member Mr. Tom Whittaker asked that the Board fully explore the circumstances surrounding the event in order to improve any existing security gaps, review the safety and security policies and procedures, and requested that the Northfield Police Department become more involved in the school community.

**Board Open Discussion:** Mr. Spaan informed the Board that he had reached out to several local politicians regarding potential legislative change surrounding criminal background checks.

**New Business:** The Board approved moving the next Education Committee Meeting to March 10, 2020, at 5:30pm.

**Consent Agenda:** The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included the minutes from the January 14<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting, the minutes from the January 26<sup>th</sup> Special Board Meeting, and the monthly bills and salaries.

**Communications:** Mr. Spaan expressed his gratitude for the many letters, emails, and phone calls the Board received regarding this latest event, underscoring the importance of open communication between the community and the Board.

**Old Business:** Board member Mr. Rory Welch explained why he was proposing the formation of a Board Policy Review Committee. Comprised of four Board members and Dr. Stange, the committee would examine policies up for review outside of the regular Board meetings. After the members had completed their review, they would then offer the policies as a Consent Agenda for approval by the full Board, with the option to pull out any policies that required further discussion. These Policy review meetings would be posted as open meetings. The Board approved the formation of the new Board Policy Committee.

**Finance and Facilities:** The Board approved the 2020-2021 Budget Disignation. The next meeting is April 14, 2020, at 6pm.

**Education Committee:** The next meeting is March 10, 2020, at 5:30pm.

**IASB:** No report.

**PTO:** Board member Mrs. Anne Peterson reported that they are in discussions concerning their fundraising efforts this year, they would like to have their budget and slate completed by April, and are getting ready for conference meals, Middlefork Service Night, and the Sunset Ridge Book Fair.

**NSSED:** Board member Mr. Bill Hayes reported that they are in contract negotiations with both of their unions, and they are in the process of planning for their member districts' yearly requested needs. Mr. Hayes attended the annual National School Boards Association's Equity Symposium in Washington, DC., assisting them with advocacy for NSSED interests.

**Northfield Park District:** No report.

**Village of Northfield:** Board member Mrs. Nancy Detlefsen reported that the 2040 Strategic Plan is up for approval at their next meeting, and she is working with Village Board members on a Safe Roads grant.

**Foundation Fund:** No report.

**Administrative Reports:**

**Dr. Stange:** There were 18 FOIA requests relating to the events involving Mr. Garcia-Espinal. There was one FOIA requesting information regarding current administrative and support staff employed by the district, and one seeking information on any certified staff that are retiring this year. Enrollment for next year's Kindergarten class is currently at 46 registered, but could possibly go as high as 60. Feedback on the District's discipline practices is still being collected from the Parent Connections Committee, and will be presented at the next Education Committee.

**Dr. Greene:** The size of each of next year's Kindergarten classes depends on the make-up of each group. Service Night is coming up on March 11<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm.

**Dr. Sukenik:** New Trier registration for current 8<sup>th</sup> graders went smoothly. The District will be working with a new photography company for school pictures after a bad experience this year. A group of randomly selected 9-year-olds will be taking the National Assessment of Educational Progress test. A Peer Jury/ Conflict Resolution Committee is being formed in direct response to students' request to resolve conflicts they are experiencing in their grade levels. The students are working out the parameters of the group with guidance from staff.

**Recommendations:** The Board approved the Closed Session Minutes from both January 14 and January 26, 2020.

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the March 10, 2020, Regular Board meeting.