

## **BOARD NOTES:**

### **March 10, 2020, Regular Board Meeting:**

**Consent Agenda:** The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included the minutes from the February 11<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting, the February 24<sup>th</sup> Special Board Meeting, and the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Board Meeting, and the monthly bills and salaries.

**Communications:** Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange shared a letter from Sunset Ridge PE teacher Mrs. Lisa Mattera praising Teaching Assistant Mrs. Marti Bennett's work in the district.

**Audience Comments:** Community member Mr. Tom Whittaker expressed his displeasure in the Board's conclusion to the December events involving Mr. Davis Garcia-Espinal. Community member Mr. Michael Gallagher expressed his anger at the Board regarding those same events. Community member Mr. Chris Lefferdink expressed his concern regarding the District's reputation. Community member Mr. Phillip Preston expressed his disappointment in the District's response to said events. Community member Ms. Jamie Cherry voiced an accusation against an unnamed teacher, but did not provide details.

**Board Policy Revisions:** The Board had a first reading of Board policy 465.02 (Criminal History Searches for Employees, Visitors, Students, and Private Contractors).

**New Business:** The Board reviewed new administrative procedures, including the supervision of private vendor employees, the 2<sup>nd</sup> shift custodial cleaning schedules, the Raptor visitor management system, and the private vendor contract review process. Dr. Stange updated the Board on the status of our advocacy towards clarifying mandated contract language, pointing out that many surrounding districts have the same unclear contract language regarding vendor employee background checks that we did. He has scheduled meetings with legislature and will keep the Board apprised of progress. The Board discussed a thorough cost analysis of outsourced custodial and food service versus in-house, agreeing that outsourcing is the best solution for the district and requesting that Chief School Business Officer Mr. Tom Beerheide collect more data. Dr. Stange announced the Board Policy Committee's first meeting will be on March 19, 2020, at 9am.

**Finance and Facilities:** The next meeting is April 14, 2020, at 6pm.

**Education Committee:** Board member Mrs. Anne Peterson reported that Dr. Stange provided a profile of the District discipline practices, which included legal considerations, recommended best practices, a district discipline snapshot, and parent feedback on existing practices. Sunset Ridge Principal Dr. Ivy Sukenik summarized the Foundations approach at SRS, and described the structure of the new Conflict Resolution Committee. The next meeting is May 12, 2020, at 6pm.

**IASB:** No report.

**PTO:** Mrs. Peterson reported that they are pleased with the preliminary results of the book fairs, and that slating and budget work has begun.

**NSSED:** Board member Mr. Bill Hayes reported that their union negotiations are going well, and they continue efforts toward tweaking their re-branding and financial model.

**Northfield Park District:** No report.

**Village of Northfield:** Board member Mrs. Nancy Detlefsen reported that they have started working on the Safe Roads Grant.

**Foundation Fund:** No report.

**Administrative Reports:**

**Dr. Stange:** There were 5 FOIA requests relating to the events involving Mr. Garcia-Espinal. Additionally, there was one requesting information on our landscaping services, one requesting any and all purchasing records, and one requesting information on grading scales. Dr. Stange reported that the water testing conducted at Middlefork as a follow up to the plumbing replacement project came back well below notification lead levels. These results will be posted on the District website. Dr. Stange detailed the District's COVID-19 response plan, which includes deeper daily cleaning of all common areas, touchpoints, and classrooms, tracking illnesses that are respiratory in nature, regularly communicating with township leadership and state health organizations, and preparations for e-learning days. We are taking a wait-and-see approach on whether or not to cancel the Outdoor Ed and Washington, DC, trips. The Board discussed options for traffic management in the SRS parking lot, directing Dr. Stange to collect more information. Dr. Stange presented evidence to the Board that reenactment-type active shooter drills can cause trauma to students and staff. After a brief explanation of the District's 3-year laptop replenishment cycle, the Board approved Dr. Stange's recommendation to sell current laptops to those interested at a reduced price. And Finally, Dr. Stange was happy to introduce Mrs. Jennifer Kiedaisch as the chosen candidate for the new Middlefork principal.

**Dr. Greene:** 50 kindergarteners have registered for the 2020/21 school year. The wasps nest in the gym was successfully sprayed, but will take a little while for the entire nest to be killed off. The teachers are hard at work preparing their e-learning plans should we need them.

**Dr. Sukenik:** 1st grade Explorers Club participants came to collaborate with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Computer Science students. The Northfield Police department is going to participate in the school's SEL and Constitutional Law curriculums. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies and Computer Science teachers are teaming up to teach students about the historical impact of technology on lifestyle.

**Recommendations:** The Board approved the Closed Session Minutes from February 11, February 24, and March 2, 2020. The Board accepted the resignation of Advanced Learning Program Teacher Dr. Beth Pauls, and approved a resolution authorizing notice to a non-renewal teacher. Additionally, the Board approved the employment of both Ms. Kathleen Schmidt (long-term substitute) and Mrs. Jennifer Kaidaisch (Middlefork Principal).

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the April 14, 2020, Regular Board meeting.