

## **BOARD NOTES:**

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

**Consent Agenda:** The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included the minutes from the May 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting, the monthly bills and salaries, and the approval of Board Policy sections 300 and 800, and Board Policy 250.

**Old Business:** The Board had recommended a review of the District 29 Human Resources practices in order to determine if we are in line with best practices. Chief School Business Official Mr. Tom Beerheide, Payroll and Benefits Director Ms. Colleen Faber, and Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange met with NSSED Director of Human Resources Mr. Andrew Piper to determine where are our areas for growth. The Board discussed options regarding fingerprinting daily visitors and volunteers, taking in to account that the results of the new on-site fingerprinting machine may not be dependably immediate every time.

**Board Open Discussion:** The Board praised the teachers, staff, and administration for their herculean efforts towards pulling off two very meaningful graduation ceremonies. Both the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade events were incredibly heartfelt, and very much appreciated by district families. The Board also recognized District 29 parent Mrs. Seong McGarry and the Northfield Police Department for the orchestration of the car parade in honor of Middlefork Principal Dr. Mary Frances Greene's retirement, which provided a wonderful opportunity for district families, past and present, to say farewell. And last but certainly not least, the Board thanked Dr. Greene for her 19 years of service to our schools. Her legacy of child centered education and fierce love for all of our students truly embodies our one-child-at-a-time mission, and she will be deeply missed.

**New Business:** The Board discussed changes to the 2020/21 Board Meeting Calendar, approving a new schedule that is now posted on the website. The Board also discussed the new mandate that Election Day be a non-attendance day. In order to maintain our required number of in-school days, the Board discussed the option of adding a student attendance day at the beginning of the school year.

**Finance and Facilities:** Mr. Beerheide presented the Moody's Financial Report, done annually as a way to rate the District's creditworthiness. District 29 again received a Aaa rating, the highest achievable.

Four contracts were approved this evening. The Board approved a 3-year contract with Olson Transportation for our activity bussing needs. After going to bid for our food services and receiving bids from two companies, it was determined that Organic Life was the lowest responsible bidder. The Board discussed the fact that food costs are rising due to the pandemic and are expected to stay high. Therefore, the cost of plate lunch may have to be increased. Also discussed were considerations for food staff should the need arise to close due to viral outbreaks. Mr. Beerheide added that our relationship continues to be positive with Organic Life and the students have very much enjoyed the food they provide. At the conclusion of this discussion, the Board approved a 1-year renewable contract. The Board also went to bid for custodial services, which we received six bids for. The lowest responsible bidder was GDI Services, Inc, a company that also services NorthShore University Health Systems. The Board felt confident that GDI is well positioned to handle the stringent cleaning demands associated with COVID-19 and approved a 1-year renewable contract. As part of that contract, GDI understands that we are interested in retaining two custodial employees previously employed by our past service provider. The Board went on to approve the Voluntary Employee Benefit Plan Renewal Contract, which includes United Healthcare for vision and Delta Dental for dental.

The Board discussed the use of temperature detection devices for use as part of our COVID-19 response protocol for next year. There are essentially three types of devices: Mounted systems that can scan a large number of people at one time, standing kiosks that can scan several people at one time, or handheld devices that scan one person at a time. Each one has its functional limitations and financial commitments. After some discussion of which might be best suited for our district, and keeping in mind that guidance from ISBE may

change over the summer, it was decided to purchase a small number of handheld devices so that we will be well prepared should ISBE require their use.

The Board discussed options surrounding the resurfacing and repairing of the Middlefork driveway, curbs, and sidewalks. It was generally felt that the driveway has a couple more years of life left in it, as does the sidewalk, but that the curbs might need immediate attention.

The next meeting is July 14, 2020, at 6pm.

**Education Committee:** The next meeting is July 21, 2020, at 6pm.

**Policy Review Committee:** The Board had a first reading of Board Policy sections 400 (Operational Services) and 500 (Personnel). The next meeting is June 19, 2020, at 9am.

**Return to School Task Force:** Dr. Stange reported that the group, made up of teachers, administration, and Board members, is taking the months of June and July to work on identifying needs and strategies for three different scenarios: Full in-person learning, full remote learning, and blended in-person/remote learning. The Task Force findings are continuously shared with an Advisory Committee, made up of local experts in their fields and district parents, to get additional input and feedback. Once the District has received final guidance from ISBE that is expected to come mid-summer, all plans will be shared with all stakeholders. The Task Force meetings are scheduled as open Board meetings. Therefore, anyone can connect through the Zoom link and give input during the public comment portion. The next meeting is June 18, 2020, at 1:30pm.

**IASB:** Board member Ms. Amanda Alpert Knight reported that ISBE had released guidelines supporting in-person summer school with restrictions. This should give us some data on how in-person fall learning might play out.

**PTO:** Board member Mrs. Anne Peterson reported that they passed their budget and slate for 2020/21.

**NSSSED:** Board member Mr. Bill Hayes reported that their year-end ceremonies were virtual, union negotiations are making progress, and their financial model is slated to be approved at the June meeting. Their brand refresh process is winding up, with their new name, "True North Education Co-op 804," to be approved in July.

**Northfield Park District:** Board member Mr. Rory Welch reported that they will not need to use District 29 facilities for summer camps, as they have created a scaled down model made up of four small groups of children under 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Dr. Stange reported that the District is working closely with the Park District and Wesley Childcare to determine what their needs for District facilities will be in the fall and how that will be managed.

**Village of Northfield:** No report.

**Foundation Fund:** Ms. Alpert Knight reported that they are eager to be supportive when needed, but recognize that with the economy in the state that it is, now might not be a good time for an appeal.

#### **Administrative Reports:**

**Dr. Ed Stange:** There was one FOIA request regarding attendance during remote learning. 55 Kindergarteners have completed their 2020/21 registration, and 8 others are in process. This means that there will most likely be four sections of Kindergarten. We have posted for two open positions, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher (Hillary Davis will be moving to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) and SRS Art Teacher. The Board approved the 2020/21 Consolidated Grant Application, which outlines the plans to spend State and federal funds allocated to the District.

**Dr. Mary Frances Greene:** 3<sup>rd</sup> grade graduation, both virtual and the in-person delivery of portfolios, was a big hit with families. Staff has met to wrap up year-end business and will start articulation and curriculum

work over the summer. Everyone is collaborating to understand our eLearning successes and find where our areas for growth are.

**Dr. Ivy Sukenik:** The virtual awards ceremonies were successful, as was 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation. Thank you to the Mazur family for helping us with the video and live feed. 100% of 8<sup>th</sup> grade has turned in their Chromebooks. Staff is meeting to discuss grade level content and are working to create plans that are easy to pivot from should we need to. Books are being chosen for both students and staff for summer reading that will provide meaningful content for summer reading groups.

**Mrs. Sheri Styczen:** They are turning over systems and working on registration for next year. The tech department is looking at programs that would allow parents to customize the way they receive/send /organize school communications. Students will be keeping their Chromebooks over the summer and can contact the tech department for repairs or maintenance.

**Mr. Corey Dreher:** The SRS field is healthy and the outlook is good for the summer due to our watering booster pump. We are starting to receive our disinfecting equipment, including backpack misters and UV light machinery, which we will learn how to use over the summer in order to be ready for whatever the fall may bring.

**Recommendations:** The Board approved the closed Session Minutes from May 12, 2020, the Administrative Staff Salary Increases, the 12-Month Staff Salary Increases, the Off-Schedule Staff Salary Increases, and a Request for Voluntary Transfer.

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