

BOE Meeting Highlights

Board of Education Meeting June 12, 2019

The Board of Education encourages the public to attend the meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month. There is an opportunity at the beginning of each meeting for input from the public. After that the Board conducts the School District's business, including the Superintendent's and Principals' Reports, position appointments, and issues to act upon.

Budget Hearing Meeting

- Mr. Keteri presented the final 2018-19 budget and the projected 2019-20 budget. Fund equity is at 8% which is still good but it did go down this year. The Board was committed to fixing some issues in the buildings such as the heating system at JHS. Other unexpected things came up such as increased fuel prices, the need for an extra aide at SRE, and adding a volleyball program into athletics. The presented budget for next year I going off the most conservative projected budget from the state. With the renovations this year, snow removal and maintenance are two areas that are expected to be lower costs. There will be hiring of two teachers at JHS. The food service budget ended more negative than expected. Participation was down this year. Not everyone that helps in the kitchen has been coded that way in the past so the budget also reflects that added real cost.

Regular Meeting

Public Participation

- Hans Wienke from the MEA addressed a grievance on behalf of teacher Priscilla Chynoweth, who also spoke. She is retiring this summer and would like to put in her letter now but would like to keep the health insurance through August 31st, the end of the contract. She worked the full school year so would like the full benefits through the end of her contract so she can keep her son covered. If she has to wait to put in her letter until August she would miss out on two months of her pension and the Board would have to wait until then to fill the vacancy. The Board's position is that the date of retirement is the termination date and in the past any retiree's insurance benefits would end on retirement date.

Project Manager Report-Tim Seppanen

- The project is off and running with crews at SRE and JHS. At SRE, demolition is getting done and security film is being applied to windows. At JHS, a storm sewer was relocated and foundation walls were poured. The slab should be poured next week and masonry started. Ledges for the gym will be poured and steelwork will begin in a couple weeks.

- He thanked the staff at the schools for helping getting everything cleaned out of the rooms that needed it.
- In the next month the roof will be started at SRE. They had changed to a 20 year warranty to save money but after further investigation they will stay with the 30 year warranty 90 mil roof. The 20 year warranty didn't save as much as expected and was a lower quality. After talking to different sources, they think this is the better choice.
- The pool is also getting worked on.

Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- A contract with the teachers' union was agreed on. It was a good negotiating session and was wonderful working with them. He compliments the group of teachers on the negotiations committee.
- Mr. Lishinski will recommend two new hires for JHS.
- There are some NEOLA policy updates for the board, including changing the substitute teacher requirement to 60 credits, emergency plan guidelines, and voting policy.
- The Board will have to approve State Aid borrowing for the summer.
- John and Ruann Opie will be donating a Mac lab to Jeffers again. He is looking into leasing options for some of the computers.

Principal's Report-Kim Harris, South Range Elementary

- It is amazing the amount of work that has been done in just 3 days. She thanked Karri Larson, Nikki Lishinski, Val Dosbon, and Ron Outinen for getting everything packed up so quickly and neatly.
- Pending retirement, Sara Nordstrom will move to Title 1 and a first grade position has been posted.
- The end of the year picnic was great. They couldn't have had better weather for it in Twin Lakes.
- The SRE staff is continuing training this summer with several professional developments.

Principal's and Athletic Report-Steve Lishinski, Jeffers High School

- Class Day and Commencement both went very well. The senior class did a great job of maintaining a positive culture in the building and will be missed. It was a great year and a lot can be attributed to them.
- Various teachers will be participating in professional development this summer. Teachers are doing a great job.
- The Art Club made several murals for the building.
- He wholeheartedly recommends the hiring of Elizabeth Bertucci as an English/Spanish teacher and Tony Arens as an Industrial Arts/Math teacher. Both have two years' experience and will be a good fit.
- Free sports physicals will be on Jun 20th. UP Health does a great job of supporting student athletics and is greatly appreciated.

- 2019-20 sports schedules are being made already. The first event will be a volleyball meet in Lake Linden on August 26th and the first home event is the cross country meet at the Kilpela farm on August 27th.

Action Items

- The Board discussed several action items.

Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary