

APRIL BOARD MEETING NOTES

IV. We need to start this meeting with our public hearing on the 2016-2017 budget. The purpose of the hearing is to allow anyone from the public to comment on the proposed budget that was published in the March 25th paper. Publication of the budget must be between 10 and 20 days before the hearing. This year we published 17 days before the hearing. As mentioned previously we published at a 4% Supplemental State Aid. We're fairly certain it will be 2.25% so it will lower our rate slightly (about 2 cents) from what we published. If you're okay with everything, I recommend we approve the budget for 2016-2017

V. We need to hold a public hearing on the 2016-2017 start date and calendar. We've received some feedback at this point from our community survey. I will have more for you by board meeting time. The majority is clearly in support of the start date. The biggest concern is probably the two-hour early out on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. On the latest data, 54.5% are okay with it. 28.8% prefer the one hour early out and 16.7% would like something else. If you're okay with the start date and calendar, I recommend we approve them as presented.

VI. c. Finances continue to look good. A reminder that we will be spending an extra \$70,000 in TSS Money in June to pay off the carryover that is noted in the Audit.

e. We have a resignation from Susan Anderson as middle school principal. We need to approve Adam Eichenberger as a STAR Mentor

h. We do placement agreements with the area colleges so they can send their students to our district to do student teaching and other observations as they go through their teacher preparation programs. We do these every year.

X. a. I will have more information on the LED lighting project. I've had a lot of positive feedback from community members including business owners who have done this. This is after they saw the notes in the paper from last month's meeting. We purchased some on our own for two rooms to see which type of light we like best. They will be open for you to see before or after the meeting on Monday night.

XI. a. We need to approve our contract with the New Hampton Education Association. We reached a tentative agreement in negotiations and they have ratified it. I recommend we approve this.

b. We need to approve our contract with the New Hampton Support Group as well. We have reached a tentative agreement with them as well and they have also ratified it. I recommend we approve this.

c. We need to approve the teaching staff for next year.

d. Last year we started a four year plan to update our musical instruments at the middle school level. Participation continues to grow and it's been a long time since the district spent money on this program. I recommend we go with the West Music bid at \$21,966 as presented. Mrs. Adam will be at the board meeting as well to answer any questions you may have.

e. After our community meeting, it was suggested I look at our Bullying policy. There have been some recommended updates from IASB. I will have the updates for you to review and approve a first reading.

f. I recommend we terminate the current high school cheerleading contract.

g. Family and Consumer Science classes are experiencing incredibly low numbers. This is a pattern that we have been watching for the last several years. Here is the current enrollment: Child Safety 11, Family/Consumer I--- 5 in one section and 8 in another, Advanced Foods 6. That's four classes with a total of 30 students. The rest of the day is spent supervising 3 study halls. When you compare that to other classes with 25 to 30 and sometimes more in a section and teachers who teach seven periods a day, we cannot afford to keep this, nor do we need to, a full time program. I recommend we reduce this program to half time next year

h. We have a late open enrollment request for a high school student from the Howard Winneshiek district, When a student open enrolls in and there are no issues, I am allowed to routinely approve it and I do. If there is an issue, only the board can deny an open enrollment request. This request was filed well after the March 1st, deadline. The only reasons we can approve a late request is because of a change in residence (i.e. a student moves from our district to their district and wants to still attend our school), district reorganization or whole grade sharing agreements, or pervasive harassment or severe health. This doesn't meet any of these requirements. So to be in compliance with Iowa law I recommend we deny this. I have contacted the parent and have informed her of what I would be recommending.

i. We have always belonged to Iowa School Finance Information Services, ISFIS, and I recommend we continue our relationship with them. They provide valuable financial information and are a great resource when needed for questions. Cost for next year will be \$1,424.

j. We have always belonged to the Iowa Association of School Boards. This year it cost \$3,465. We don't have final numbers for next year yet, but hope to have them in time for the school board. I expect them to be in the area of \$3,603. If we don't have it in time for the meeting, we may postpone it until May.

k. We need to approve our EOP graduates for this year.

l. We need to approve the 2016 graduates for this year.

m. Odyssey of the Mind has once again made it to the World Competition and they have always asked for \$1,000 to help defray the costs. This comes out of the TAG budget and I recommend we approve this. They will also use one of our vehicles for the trip.

n. In February you approved the new windows for the high school U. When they came to double check measurements, they found one window they didn't include in the bid. It's not in the U, but in the room adjacent to the gym lobby. This will increase the price of the quote by \$2,400. I recommend we do this so all windows will be complete.

o. The concrete going up to our alternative school has heaved up. I believe this is the second time this has happened. In addition, John Bear would like to concrete in the areas around the garages to clean up the areas and provide a dry place for outside parking. Since we may be doing construction on the West side with a building project, we won't do anything there; however, we would like to do the East side of the garage near the ticket booth. So, this would be repairing/redoing the sidewalk to the alternative school, fill in the grass space east of the garage. I have included the specs and the two bids we received. I recommend we go with L & C Builders as they have the low bid.

p. We've had a request from Prairie Lakes Church to use our middle school auditorium, cafeteria, and some classrooms for Sunday School and Sunday Services. They would like to use them all year. My concern is assigning a custodian to work every Sunday may create a hardship on our custodians. The Church would pay all expenses, but having to work every Sunday would be tough when you're already working all week. They have asked about being assigned a key and they would take care of everything themselves. Some other things to consider would be snow removal in the winter and cleaning that happens in the summer. There will be a representative from Prairie Lakes at our meeting to answer any questions you may have.

q. We have a contract with Youth Frontiers to assist with the 9th grade retreat next fall at the high school. It's been well received and helps the freshman transition to the high school. The cost is \$2,995 and I recommend we approve this.

r. With the resignation of Mrs. Anderson we need to look at whether we would like to replace our middle school principal position. With me being shared next year and still being in the buildings we are, I would like to replace the position. When we get to the point or at least closer to being in a 7-12 or 5-12 then we can look harder at going to two administrators.

s. We need to approve the sharing of Maintenance Director and Transportation Director with Turkey Valley for next year. The language of the contracts will say or his/her designee. In addition, I would like your permission to ask to share the Business Manager for .2 time for next year. This will generate 3 FTE students for sharing incentives from the state. This would help me as I work with their financial documents and reports to get them on a similar track. We will continue to share online business classes with Howard Winn and band with Turkey Valley, but we are looking to discontinue the half-time Spanish with Charles City.

t. We need to have a discussion on our future facilities. Specifically, how quickly do we want to move on this? Do we want to look at a smaller bond issue? The board members should have a discussion on your thoughts and feelings on a project. I will do a small presentation with some options and financial numbers to start off the discussion.

u. I will have paper copies of the audit for you and will review the audit concerns at the board meeting.

XIIA. There is an IASB workshop coming up on April 25th in West Union and April 26th in Clear Lake. Here's the description from their website:

The culture of the board room impacts the classroom. Your board can work together and make a difference in student learning. But how?

Join other education leaders from your area and learn effective strategies that will enhance your board's leadership habits. New and veteran board members alike will take home tips and tools you can use to make a difference. Using the best research from the field, including IASB's groundbreaking Lighthouse Research and Standards for Effective School Boards, IASB's board development team will lead this intensive workshop series.