

Board Meeting Notes

March 17, 2024 Meeting

4. Public Hearing for Instructional Support Levy. We need to open the public hearing and provide time for any public input on the Instructional Support Levy. We use as much Income Surtax as we can with the minimum amount of property tax—so we have minimal impact of our property tax levy. This resolution is good for five years beginning with the 26-27 school year. We would then close the public hearing after everyone's had a chance to speak.

4a. We then need to adopt the resolution.

5b. Nothing too extraordinary in finance reports. We are running ahead of last year. We had an increase of 40 students which increased our funding. Also, we received funds to pay to move the teacher minimum salary and other salaries to a higher level. We are fine where we're at.

5d. In personnel items, we have the following resignations: Dave Leichtman as Head Girls Basketball coach, Andy Hugeback on 7th grade wrestling coach, and Alexis Martinek from her 2nd grade teaching position. We have the following new hires: Bryanna Carlise, preschool; Brandi Harrington, Kindergarten; Gracie Abitz, 2nd grade; Bethany Jurrens, 4th grade; Maddi Moorman, 7th grade girls track; Jenna Heeren JJV Softball pending suitable numbers or as a volunteer coach. We also have the following transfers: Michael Stille from 3rd grade to 2nd grade and Stefanie Thronson from Literacy Leader to 4th grade. Finally, we have the following volunteers to approve: Dwight Schwickerath, trapshooting; Paul Ewert, boys and girls golf, and Sarah Dungey, Soccer. We hope to have two additional teachers hired by the time of the board meeting.

10a. Someone from Hacker Nelson will be here to present the 2023-2024 audit to you.

10b. We have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Iowa DOT that would allow some of our staff to administer the knowledge test so a student can get their Instruction Permit to drive. This would be good for some of our students and I recommend we do this.

10c. Aleks adventure is a math learning program that we currently use with older students. It has now become available for students in grades k-2. This is engaging and reinforces what the students are learning. Cost is \$11,002.50 for 5 years and will come from the general fund.

10d. We need to approve our photography contract for our extra-curricular activities. This is the same one we've used recently and we're very happy with it. I recommend this be approved.

10e. We need to approve continuing to share our Wrestling and Soccer programs with Turkey Valley. It has been working well and I recommend you approve this.

10f. The carpeting in the High School Choir room is showing quite a bit of wear and is in need of replacement. It could be put off a year, but I thought I would add it to our projects to be completed. We will need to have our asbestos contractor in to take out the existing carpeting and tile underneath as they tested with asbestos. That is estimated to be around \$10,000. We have quotes from Midwest Floors and Dungeys for this project. I recommend we go with Midwest Floors for the choir room. The carpet they are presenting is rated for "Heavy Traffic" and has a pile weight of 28 oz per square yard. The two quotes from Dungeys are rated "Moderate Traffic" and have pile weights of 26 oz per square yard and 20 oz. per square yard. I assume the heavier pile weight leads to better wear. This will be \$6,496.18 out of SAVE funds.

10g. The carpet in the elementary library is becoming unsafe in some spots with excessive wrinkles and other issues. We need to replace it. We are recommending carpet squares so we can replace high traffic areas down the road. We have quotes from Dungeys and Midwest Floors. In looking at the carpet tile quotes, the one from Midwest Floors has a density of 6,585—the first quote from Dungeys has a density of 4,661 and the second quote has a density of 5,735. I recommend we go with the Midwest Floors quote for \$16,172.16. This will come from SAVE funds.

10h. We are adding a fourth section of 4th grade. As such, we need to prepare another classroom for use. This will be on the second floor next to the existing fourth grade room on the Northeast corner of the building. We will put a new door in place. There is already a second exit from the room—so I'm comfortable that we are bringing this room up to code and having it ready for student use. We have one quote from Darren Steinlage to install a new door for \$8,100. I recommend we do this.

10i. I'm working to take care of any outstanding projects before the end of the year. The downtown electronic sign has been in place for nearly 24 years. We currently have one panel in the bottom right corner that is no longer working. Because of its age, there are no replacements available. I've had Jeremiah seek quotes to install a new sign. He contacted three sign

companies for a quote. One of the companies referred him to the third company which is where we got a bid and the other company did not respond. The sign continues to work and I've asked Kyle to try to avoid using the bottom right corner when he makes content for the sign. If you want to address the issue and replace it now, we have a quote for \$34,778.57. This would be for a slightly larger sign with much finer resolution as the pixels are closer together. This is a project that has some issues, but could be put off if you would like.

10j. Our phone system has had some issues this year. It was installed in 2019 when we opened the new middle school. Unfortunately, Panasonic, the company that makes the system got out of the phone business in 2022. So when we've had issues, we've had to go to Ebay to purchase the needed parts and then have our service company install them. Having a reliable phone service is essential in our business. Jeremiah had some initial quotes but we weren't happy with them as they had ongoing monthly costs that were rather high. I have attached them for your review. We found another solution that is more reasonable and I've talked to other schools who have it and are very happy with it. I hope to have a quote for you at the time of the board meeting.

10k. Our access points for internet access throughout the district are managed through software that requires a subscription. There are changes coming to the management system so we only need a one year software subscription at this time. Normally we purchase 5 years—but we know it's changing so we are doing 1 year to get us through that time. The low bid is from Reliable Network solutions for \$5,387.79 and will come from SAVE funds.

10l. We need to do our annual purchase of Ipads for our incoming 5th grade students. We purchase every fifth grader a new one and they use it for all four years they are in the middle school. We will purchase 90 IPads at a cost of \$29,160. This will come out of SAVE funds.

10m. We need to purchase protective cases for the Ipads from above. These are the plastic cases that go on the Ipad to protect them from damage during use. These will cost \$2,609.10 and will come out of SAVE funds.

10n. We also need to purchase carrying bags for the Ipads and for the freshman who are receiving new Chromebooks. The Chromebook were ordered earlier in the year to be used for ISASP testing. The bags will cost \$4,320 and will come out of SAVE funds.

10o. We need to approve our Local Government Risk Pool agreement for next school year. The total cost for next year is \$134,413.50. This is very in line with where it's been and really allows us to plan for natural gas costs for the coming year. This does come out of the management fund, but has been a good use of district funds.

10p. Another review of the calendar to this point. We will also be sending out a survey to staff to get their feedback before the final hearing in April. The only action is setting the public hearing date for April 21 at 6:30 p.m.

10q. I will be reviewing the upcoming budget. The big thing to note is that the state has not yet set Supplemental State Aid. That creates problems for us as we have to do some guessing on what they may do. I will talk about that at the meeting, but when they set it, I expect our tax rate to drop some.

10r. We need to reschedule our first budget hearing from March 24th to March 31st. You had previously set it to March 24th; however, do to publication issues with the notice, we need to move it to March 31st.

10s. We also need to set budget hearing #2. I recommend we do this in conjunction with our regular April board meeting on the 21st.