

February 2019 Board Notes

At 6 p.m. we will meet with the consultant for an update on the building project. With the weather, it sounds like it may be a phone meeting.

NOTE ON FOOD SERVICE: I have two companies coming to present on food service options for next year. I have asked one to be here at 6:45 and the other at 7:45. I would recommend we do the hearing, consent agenda, public comment, and then the first presentation. We can do the other one when we see fit. They asked to be separate so no “secrets” are revealed. It’s a little silly as it is a public meeting.

IV. We need to hold a public hearing on the Chickasaw County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The county supervisors have already approved and each of the cities in the county and both districts in the county will also need to approve it. For the most part, it’s pretty self-explanatory. This plan serves several purposes. Most important it forces everyone to take a look at potential hazards and ways to minimize them and prepare for them in case they happen. In addition, if an emergency should occur, this document also meets some requirements to engage FEMA and other federal resources. I recommend we open the meeting for comments and listen to any we may get, and then I recommend we approve the plan.

4d. On the financial reports—overall we look good. One note, on the General Fund statement, this year and last year are reversed. In other words, year to date expenses are \$5,232,570 this year compared to \$5,176,259 last year. Bob will have a corrected one at the board meeting. That is a 1.1% increase over last year which is still well below the 2% I’ve used in my projections. I believe the increase will continue to drop some as purchased services are up, which is generally special education outside the district and open enrollment out. Both are similar or down to last year, but schools are better at getting billings out in a timely manner. Something to keep an eye on. All other areas look good. I want to draw your attention to the food service account. It’s currently \$156,056. That’s likely the highest it’s been since I’ve been here.

4f. It doesn’t look like we will have any personnel recommendations at this time.

7. We will have two middle school students here to present their pieces that they are taking to Ford’s Theater Oratory Retreat. You have a request later, to approve their trip to Washington D.C.

9a. Food Service—we will have two companies—Taher and Opaa here to present. The presentations will be done separately. I would encourage you to plan on time after the last presentation to hold a public discussion on what you heard. Last time, I asked you to think about why you really wanted to change. At this time, it doesn’t make a lot of sense financially as our department is doing well. If it’s about additional choices for our students or something else, please be sure to share your thoughts.

9b. School calendar. Just continuing the discussion. I will have two samples to present. There is currently legislation that has been proposed that would allow schools to start school on any day during the week that contains August 23rd, unless the 23rd falls on a Saturday, then the first day of school will be August 25th.

10a. We need to approve the Pay Applications for Cresco Builders--\$783,194.25 and for Young Plumbing for \$230,184.05. We will have hard copies at the board meeting.

10b. The Cross Country team would like to do their 5K this spring as their annual fundraiser. It needs your approval.

10c. We need to pass a resolution to participate in the budget guarantee for the next school year. This is all local property tax, but it helps cushion our budget when we are experiencing declining enrollment. This allows us to have at least 101% of this year's budget available for next year. It looks like it will be \$61,880 for next year. I recommend we approve this.

10d. At last Monday night's meeting, the Turkey Valley board was approached by some parents about allowing their students to come to New Hampton next year and participate in the new soccer program. The board has asked me to research a few things. First, what would we charge to do this? This is the big one and I see that we have 3 options. 1. We charge them nothing like we do with Wrestling. 2. We charge them some set amount per student—I would look at \$250 or something similar. 3. We charge them an equal per student share of any excess costs in the program at the end of the season. For example, if we had \$3,000 in excess costs and there were 30 students in the program. That would come out to \$100 per student for excess costs. We would bill them at the end of the season for \$100 for each student they had in the program. Second, they didn't ask this specifically, but would we consider any change in name—like Wrestling—would we consider NH/TV soccer? Finally, as far as transporting their athletes, that issue belongs to them and I will recommend we leave it up to the student to find their way here. These seem kind of simple, but remember Sumner Fredericksburg has also asked to be a part of our program. Do we have to treat them the same? I'm not sure we do as we do have an established partnership with Turkey Valley that provides quite a bit of benefit to us. These are all things to think about. I have asked Mr. Schmitt to be prepared to share his thoughts as well.

10e. Mrs Nelson would like to take her art students to Minneapolis to visit the Minneapolis Institute of Art. They are going to view an exhibit of Egyptian artifacts from ancient cities that were lost to the Mediterranean Sea. You can learn more about the exhibit here. <https://new.artsmia.org/egypts-sunken-cities/>

10f. Mr. Rude has the opportunity to take the two winners from his Oratory Competition to Washington D. C. as part of the Ford's Theater Oratory Retreat. They will have the opportunity to perform their pieces at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. Mr. Rude's Ford's Theater Fellowship will pay all costs related to this travel. We will hear the students perform during student achievement earlier in the meeting.

10g. We have had a request from Head Start to be located in our building when we move to the new Middle School Next fall. They are currently in a classroom in the Methodist Church. In addition, their playground is across the street and unfenced. In order to use the playground, they must take their 3 and 4 year old students across the active street and then keep an extra watchful eye on them to make sure no one wanders off. In addition, they have some of the students with the greatest needs in our district. If they were in our building, we could provide a safer environment for those students and we would be able to assist them as they work with those challenging students. In addition, I anticipate the AEA will also want to eventually be located in our building. This would give Head Start direct access to even more resources to help them as they work with their students. We are looking at having them located in the current middle school band room after we vacate it. They have seen the space and are excited as it's much larger than their current space and of course they access to our playground. We currently provide their lunch program, so it would also stop us from having to deliver lunches every day to them. I know our elementary music teacher is opposed to this, because she would like to move down to the band room. Currently we teach students in grades k-8 in the current Music classrooms. That will be changing next fall to K-4 students only. We're eliminating four grades from the program and now more space is wanted. I get it, every teacher would like a larger classroom—but our jobs are to look at the big pictures—what is best for the students? Finally, I'm not sure if Head Start was not allowed in our building that the K-4 music program would end up in that room anyway. It is a large space and we have a lot of staff who could use the space in a variety of ways.

10h. When we started the construction project, we always stated we would maintain the 1913 building but close off the top two floors. One of the needs of that building is putting a new roof on it. If we put a new roof on it, I recommend we take off the air vent/cupolo and repair the hole and roof over it. In addition, a number of parapet walls on that building are in disrepair and I am recommending we remove them when we reroof. I have two quotes for your review. One from Northern Cedar Roofing for \$66,598 for tearing off the existing shingles and replacing them with new shingles. We also asked them for a bid for steel roofing and you can see it will cost an additional \$42,267 for steel shingles. I recommend we go with the basic shingles. The last time the building was shingled was about 30 years ago. If we get another 30 years, who knows what the district will decide to do with the building at that time. I doubt they will be looking at reroofing it. In addition, there is a quote from Randall Construction to remove the parapets and the cupolo from the building for \$85,800. They would work together to complete the work. We need to do this eventually, I recommend we do this now. This will come from our SAVE funds.

10i. We are looking at some potential snow make-up days. I have sent a survey to the staff and will attach it to the board site later on Sunday. They were asked about going to school on the Conference Comp day on March 1st, the day after Easter, and on the two PD days—but dismissing students at 1:15 on those days and then have PD until 5:00. I will have more to share at the meeting.

10j. Our school budget is due April 15th. That is the day of our April meeting, but Bob has to submit the approved budget to the Auditor by 5 p.m. that day. I normally do a budget preview at the March meeting and then we hold the hearing and approve it at our April meeting. With the date of the April meeting that's not possible. So, I could do my normal presentation at the March meeting and then we could hold a special meeting to have the budget hearing and approve the budget. Otherwise, we could hold a special meeting before the March meeting where I could present the budget and then hold the hearing and approve the budget at the March meeting. My preference would be to hold the hearing at a regular meeting so no one feels we are trying to hide anything. That would mean we would hold a special meeting before the March meeting and then hold the budget hearing and approve it at that meeting.

Reminder that we will be finishing up our book study during the discussion part of the meeting.