

February 2023 School Board Notes

4. We will hold a public hearing on the parking lot. This is to give the public a time to come and express any thoughts they may have on the project. I've heard nothing but positive on it.

5c. Nothing out of the ordinary in finances. We are running as expected at this point in the year in the general fund. I would point out in the SAVE fund there are some wild swings in what we receive. Again, this is because we are receiving actual sales tax collections for the prior month. As expected, sales taxes were quite high in December because of Christmas.

5e. In personnel items, Mr. Schmitt recommends Nicole Sanford as a 7th grade ELA teacher for next school year; Mr. Manson recommends Rachel Bauler as the high school Vocational Agriculture instructor and Shannon Pethoud as the high school library associate; and Jodi Cerwinski recommends Roxanne Gray for a 5.5 hour per day position in the food service department; John Bear recommends Jason Dallman as a full time custodian. Mr. Frerichs also recommends David Coltrain as a volunteer soccer coach, Chad Pemble as the middle school musical director, and Laura Schwickerath as the freshman volleyball coach. We also have a recommendation for an additional ELL teacher for next year, but that is in new business since it's an additional position.

9a. I've heard from a lot of community members, business people, and parents about the daycare issue. All have been positive. The Daycare board would like to borrow through a USDA revolving loan to do this project. They are looking for us to commit to funding \$100,000 spread over 3 or 5 or even 10 years. I would recommend \$33,000 per year for 3 years. This would come out of SAVE/PPEL during that time. I've heard from a number of parents who have shared this would be helpful to them. I believe we will have representatives at the meeting to address you on this issue. I will have additional thoughts to share as well.

9b. I will have the first draft of the school calendar for your review. No action is needed at this time. After the meeting I will send it and a survey to the staff for their input. Then bring the revised copy with staff input to the March meeting for review again with the final approval happening in March.

10a. We need to review bids for the parking lot and potentially award the winning bid. We had 7 bidders. The low bids were as follows: For Asphalt, Mehmert Tiling was the low bidder at \$468,524.63 and Wicks was the low bidder for concrete at \$648,203.47. I am very comfortable with the asphalt bid, but will have some budgetary information to share at the board meeting in case you want to consider concrete. You can see the attachment with the engineer's estimate and the bid tabs from all the bidders.

10b. We continue to see a large uptick in our ELL population. As of February 3rd we had 73 ELL students in the district. This week we had 3 more join us and we expect 3 more in the near future. I believe this speaks positively for our program, our district, and our community.

However, with this growth we need to add more support. At this time, I believe our need will continue to grow, so we would like to hire an additional ELL staff member. We have advertised on Teach Iowa in anticipation of this and would like to offer a contract for next year to Hannah Jenkins, a current student teacher with Mrs. Roberson.

10c. UMB is the bank that holds are pre-levy dollars until we use them to pay off our bonds in 2025. We need to approve them as a depositor. We have used them each time we do a pre-levy. I don't foresee us doing a pre-levy this year, but \$750,000 gives us plenty of room for what we have and what is coming out this year.

10d. MercyOne works with us to take all of our medical waste. We just need to update our agreement with them.

10e. We send some students to Crossroads in Decorah and this is just updating our agreement with them.

10f. We won't need the budget guarantee this year, but I like having it on the agenda each year so it is always there in case we need it. Just an FYI—with the 3% SSA and the increased enrollment, we will receive \$264, 281 in new money next year. Student cost will increase from \$7,413 this year to \$7,635 next year.

10g. I would normally have the preview of our budget for this month; however, the legislature is working on some corrections to valuations so any numbers I showed you would not be correct. After the corrections, the numbers I currently have will likely be 9 to 11 cents higher because of the change in valuations. It has to do with multi-residential rental properties being reclassified as regular residential properties. A clarification, this current law is correcting a mistake that was previously made in how the valuations are calculated. Our rate should be 9 to 11 cents higher, but a mistake in valuations would have lowered it. This legislation corrects that mistake. The legislature has passed it this week and the governor is expected to sign it next week, so I will be able to present this in March as planned. The legislation also includes an extension of the budget certification date to April 30th, so I'm planning to present the budget in March and then hold the hearing and approve it at the April 17th board meeting.

10h. I will have hard copies of the 2021 audit for you. I will share the findings and then we can do the final approval in March. The field work for the 2022 audit is completed and I will share the findings from that as well.

10i. We will do chapters 2-5 in our book study.