

## February 21, 2022 SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

4b. Financial reports are really on track as expected. We're running ahead in the general fund, but with the ESSER funds we will be fine. Supplies is the big jump and there are a variety of reasons for this. Year to date the elementary has spent \$13,000 out of the carnival funds. This is a little higher than normal—but it's expected. We've also purchased some software and other items that will be covered by ESSER and a reminder that we had over \$100,000 in textbooks at the start of the year. We will likely need to amend our budget at some point with the additional ESSER funds we're spending. The other areas are as expected.

4d. We have several personnel items to address. First, we have a resignation from Ashley Mattke from her Industrial Technology Teaching position. We need to approve Ashtin Evans as an elementary paraeducator, Macie Njus as our JJV Softball Coach and Bob Newbrough as a volunteer boys golf coach.

8a. I will share the school calendar at the board meeting. This is the second time we will discuss the calendar and will discuss it two more times before approving it. After the meeting, I will share it with the staff and get their input and bring that to the March meeting. The April meeting is where we will hold the public hearing and do the final approval.

9a. At this time, it doesn't look like we will need the Budget Guarantee Resolution, but I like to pass it anyway. First, just in case we need it and second when I do the agendas I use the previous year as a guide for any ongoing things and this is a good reminder to check this each year. The state has set Supplemental State aid at 2.5% for next year. The Budget Guarantee allows us to levy taxes to make sure we have at least 101% of what we had last year. If we're getting over that amount, then we are not eligible for it. As mentioned earlier, we won't need it this year but it's good to just make it a habit to approve every year so we're sure to have it when needed.

9b. Mr. Cantu will be present to discuss his recommendations for technology purchases. We are looking to upgrade the wireless network at the elementary school and the high school. At the elementary he will be replacing all access points and adding 9 more to take care of some areas where coverage is weak. At the high school, he will be replacing all units. These two buildings mostly have the original wireless units that we first installed and they are past their useful lives. We did the middle school when we built the new building so it's still good to go. We will use E-Rate funding for this which means we will receive back 60% of the cost of the purchases. You can see the bids, he recommends we go with OXEN as the total cost will be \$75,825 and after the E-Rate discount it will be \$30,330. Communication Innovators is cheaper, but they didn't meet the bid requirements—specifically, their equipment is only 5 Ghz and we have a lot of stuff that requires 2.4Ghz. The items from OXEN does both.

9c. The music department would like to request your permission to have a music trip to Florida next school year. They are still finalizing dates—they would like to have it in January—but if you can give them permission and then work out the dates with Mr. Manson, they can start planning their fundraising and other needs.

9d. We need to approve this agreement to share Medicaid data with our reimbursement company. We need to share the data in order for them to apply for reimbursement on our behalf. I recommend we do this.

9e. I would like to approve the list of certified staff for the 2022-2023 school year. The first day we can issue contracts is March 15<sup>th</sup>. I would like to have them ready to go on that day so that we know where we're at for next year. When they are issued, staff will have 21 days to return them.

9f. During the strong wind storm, the Ag Department's High Tunnel was destroyed. We received reimbursement from the insurance company for it, so we would like to get this replaced as soon as possible. You can see the estimate for the parts of the high tunnel at \$9,404.09. Mr. Russ is working on getting the labor cost and also the cost for the ends including the overhead doors. We received over \$25,000 from insurance for this and he expects the additional costs to be in the 10 to 12 thousand dollar range. Since we have insurance funds to cover this, I'm asking your approval to move forward so they can get this up as soon as possible. The balance of the insurance funds will be used for interior items that were destroyed.

9g. The custodians have been talking with me about a new lawn mower. We currently have our large pull behind and our 72 inch John Deere. Last year we had a 72 inch Grasshopper which is no longer operational and a small Cub Cadet that has the deck rusted out. They would like to get a flat deck for the John Deere (the current deck articulates and often leaves tracks and other issues). This makes sense and would cost \$4,900. They would also like a 60 inch Grasshopper to replace the other one. That would cost \$23,481.50. I'm not sure we need that yet as we have the John Deere for trimming and the large pull behind for the large areas. At this point, I recommend we approve the new Deck for the John Deere and I will let you know my thoughts on the Grasshopper at the board meeting.

9h. The Upper Iowa and Northeast Iowa Conference Superintendents have met and discussed a possible merger between the conferences. I will have an update on where this is at and also I will be seeking your thoughts as well.

9i. The 2022-2023 budget needs to be certified by April 15, 2022. Unfortunately, our April meeting is after that date. I will review the information with you on Monday with the hope of certifying it at our March meeting. The state has set SSA at 2.5% so we can move forward. The big decision you will have will be if we want to do any additional surplus Levy to prepay the middle school bonds. We are levying 45 cents this year to do that. Last year we did 25 cents. If we did 25 cents it would save \$73,080 in future interest costs on the bonds.

Last year our 25 cents saved \$68,040 in future interest cost and this year we did 45 cents which saved \$123,480 in future interest costs. This year our total levy is \$11.04998. Next year, if we did a 25 cent surplus levy our total levy will be approximately \$10.62004. If we did 45 cents it would be approximately \$10.82329. Matt Gillaspie from Piper Sandler is doing an example at 45 cents, but I estimate it will be around \$131,544 in future interest savings. If we do 25 cents we will be levying \$73,960 more in property taxes next year compared to this year. That's because of increased valuations. If we do 45 cents, we will be levying \$189,960 more in taxes this year compared to last. The overall levy rate is .22719 less than last year but because of increased valuations the overall amount is higher. A couple of notes—These numbers will likely adjust slightly as I don't have the current income tax receipts which will impact the Instructional Support Levy a small amount. We will get those on March 1<sup>st</sup>. In the end, you get the idea—the rate is going down, but the overall tax amount will increase. We can talk more at the board meeting.