

JANUARY BOARD MEETING NOTES

IV. Consent agenda items

c. Expenses continue to run ahead of last year. Salaries will come back when we bill Turkey Valley for Ag/Maintenance/Transportation. Reviewing purchased services and supplies—will share more at the board meeting.

d. Brad Schmitt recommends Tyler Braughton as a 7th grade boys basketball coach. Trisha Smith has submitted her resignation as the JV softball coach.

e. and f. We are putting board policies here now unless you have concerns. If I recommend a change, I will move them to new business.

g. We have allowed our staff to attend the Technology Integration Conference in Dubuque. It is June 16th and 17th and we have had about 30 staff members attend the last two summers. We pay for the conference and motels and the staff members voluntarily attend if they choose. I feel we should continue this as long as staff are willing to go. This is paid for with Teacher Quality funds.

h. Last year we sent some staff members to the PLC conference in Minneapolis. This is a valuable conference to allow our staff to see and understand what a Professional Learning Community looks like. We will take volunteers who did not attend last year. Again, the Teacher Quality funds will pay for \$12,000 (approximately half) and we will pay the balance just as we did last year.

i. We need to approve Kelsey Plagman as an EOP graduate.

VIII. Old Business

- a. Last month we discussed having a student representative on the school board. We will discuss this further and I will present some ideas on the role of this individual along with some ideas on the selection process.

IX. New Business

- a. We need to discuss and approve this new meeting format. I have moved many things into the consent agenda. Are you comfortable with it. Things I left out were items I felt needed discussing. The things above are items we have done in the past so you should have some background on most of them.
- b. I will have a list of summer projects to recommend we complete. They will come out of Sales Tax Dollars. Some are easy like the new gym floor—some will require some discussion as we talk about downtown. Noticeably absent will be the roof on the 1913 building and tuckpointing; however, there is some painting and things happening in the elementary areas.

- c. We need to approve the members of our School Improvement Advisory Committee.
- d. I would like to purchase 10 Welding Simulators for Mike Kuennen. This includes curriculum for the class as well. The total cost is \$45,675 for the simulators. In addition, we need to purchase 4 wire feed welders and related equipment so the students can take what they learn and transfer it to real world welding. We only have primarily “stick” welders and that’s not very realistic. The cost for those will be \$11,424.51 This will come from Sales Tax Dollars
- e. We have discussed hiring an outside firm to come in and evaluate our downtown facilities. IASB offers a service called ICAT that will do just that. Estes Construction out of Des Moines will come up and evaluate all parts of the building and prepare a formal report for our review. It is \$7,000 for the basic report and slightly higher if they bring in engineers to review all of our mechanical systems as well.
- f. A question has been brought up about outside groups using our facilities on Sundays and Wednesday nights. Often it is parents doing basketball practice with their traveling teams or AAU sports or something similar. I am hearing it is causing a conflict with some religious education activities on Wednesday night and some church and/or family things on Sundays. We can do nothing and continue as we are. This is sending the message that it’s the parent’s decision to decide what his/her child does on those nights or we could say no activities by any groups to work with the local churches. To be clear, I’ve had no “formal” complaints about this.
- g. I have received a letter from the Association asking about Early Retirement and if the district plans to offer it.
- h. School Start Date for 2015-2016. I plan to follow a similar process for the school calendar as I’ve done in years past; however, we need to discuss the start date as it will impact what I do in calendar planning. I recommend we request a waiver; however, it’s a matter of which date or dates to look at.

X. Board Learning Time

- a. We will be discussing Standards Based Learning.