

January Board Notes

4a. Financial reports look good. We have bumped up quite a bit from last year, but I expect it to fall back next month. We had some additional costs as I had Christy pay for some items with Cares Funds as we were told they need to be spent by December 31st. We may move some of those expenditures since it's now been extended to the end of 2021.

4d. Mr. Frerichs recommends Amanda Husak as an assistant large group speech coach. Their numbers are quite high and it is warranted. In addition, Mr. Schmitt recommends Linda Stevens as a middle school paraeducator.

9a. Another group for IBN will be present to talk about their project during student achievement and they will be asking for permission to conduct a fundraiser to carry it out.

9b. We need to approve our At-Risk Drop out prevention plan. It is similar to what we've done in the past with a designated at-risk person at each building, plus we use some for elementary reading intervention, some individual counseling and some building security. The one change is we may be looking for some outside social workers to come into our buildings to meet with students. We've listed this in the past, but have not had luck finding anyone.

9c. We need to approve our request for \$326,985 in Modified Supplemental Amount for At Risk/Drop Out Prevention. This is the maximum amount we can ask for which is what we ask for every year. These programs are important and this funding does make a difference. In addition to this funding, we are required to use \$108,995 from the general fund in matching funds. Again, this is similar to what we've done in the past. One note—this is all local property tax dollars. I feel it's important that you know where it comes from.

9d. It's time to start the discussion on the school calendar. We will follow a similar timeline to what we've previously done. We start with discussing when we want school to start, then in February I will bring the first draft for your review. We will then gather input on the calendar and bring the input and the calendar back in March and finally do the final approval in April. At this time, I'm looking to start school on Monday, August 23rd with some early out days the first couple of days. This would be similar to this year when we started on Monday, August 24th. A good note, because of how the calendar and Memorial Day falls, we may be out a full week before Memorial or we may decide to take additional breaks.

9e. We need to appoint a board member to the Chickasaw County Conference Board. This has been Joe in the past.

9f. The Families First Coronavirus Relief Act days expired on December 31st. These were commonly known as COVID days. With the latest relief act, the Congress

allowed private industry to extend the use of the days until March 31st. They are helping private industry pay for them by extending the tax credits until that date. As a public school, there is no funding mechanism for these so this is simply a general fund expense. In other words, the days used during the first semester were all general fund expenses for the district. However, it's important to note that if they weren't COVID days, they would have likely been sick days and family illness days. So, the district would have still had the expense. Through December 31st, we've used 286 days of COVID leave. We could not extend them and then have our staff just use their sick days. The majority have plenty of sick days so it would not likely be an issue. There are some newer staff who could run into some challenges—but the sick day banks could be used to address these and I also have some discretion in the contracts to provide emergency days. I know we all agree we want to take care of our staff during this time.

If a staff member knows they have COVID days—that may provide more encouragement to stay home when they're feeling ill. That may provide a sense of security for other staff members knowing that a person can stay home and not have to worry about running out of sick days.

Finally, if a staff member is sick whether it's COVID days or regular sick days, these are still expenses for the district. Financially, there is no immediate additional cost to the district. I will share some additional thoughts at the meeting.

9g. I would like to have a discussion on the high school parking lot. Do we want to look at paving the whole thing with asphalt? Do it in sections with concrete? I will have some information to share at the meeting and will be looking for your feedback. This is more informational as no final decision will be made.

9h. We have some students making some poor choices in our parking lot after school hours. I've seen some concerning videos with students really spinning around in the lot and tearing up the gravel portion. This has happened on weekends when there were cars in the lot and gravel was thrown all over the cars. In addition, I've seen videos where students are being pulled behind cars across our lot. We've notified the police and they tell us they cannot do anything unless the board passes a resolution prohibiting this activity on our parking lot. I will have some specific language at the meeting and encourage you to approve it.

9i. I will share some information on the district's finances including an update on the most recent ESSER funds we will be receiving for COVID related expenses.

9j. We will continue our book study with Section 3

10b. It's time to start thinking about our join board meeting and some potential dates for it. Please be thinking about potential dates so I can share them in February with the Turkey Valley Board.