

June School Board Notes

4b. Nothing too remarkable in financials. We're in a good spot with only one month to go. Though June is the most expensive month as we write off our summer payroll and handle some end of year purchases.

4d. We have several personnel recommendations. Mrs. Steele recommends Laura Larsen as an elementary special education teacher and Maria Anda as an elementary paraeducator. I recommend Scott Frerichs as our summer weight room supervisor and we may have some additional coaching positions by the time of the board meeting.

8a. With the addition of the daycare project downtown we have some excess items to dispose of. It is mainly from the old middle school weight room and includes some old weight benches, squat racks, weights, weight bars, rubber flooring and other miscellaneous items from that room. The AD and coaches have checked it out and taken what they need/want for the high school weight room and also a few other programs. If there is anything else by the time of the board meeting, I will share it with you at the meeting.

8b. Stanton Electric was in to move the two light poles in the parking lot. We are responsible for moving them. The architect decided the location so they were moved to be in line with parking lot lines and also farther apart. In visiting with Chuck, he suggested adding a third pole farther out in the lot to provide additional lighting. I agree with him as once the concrete is poured there really is no way to add additional wiring under the concrete to add additional poles. So, he is supposed to be getting me a quote for the additional pole by the time of the board meeting. I would recommend we do this at this time. Also, I have asked him to run an additional conduit to each pole to allow us to run a network cable if we ever decide to put cameras on the poles.

8c. Our 3 year old preschool program operates for two full days per week. We currently have one teacher who takes care of two sections. We can have a maximum of 20 kids per section and we currently have 20 kids in each section so we are full. We also have a couple of students on the waiting list. We propose hiring a part-time teacher to allow us one additional section (2 full days per week) which would provide room for up to 60 total students or an additional 20 kids. There is some risk in this, but costs should be minimal.

8d. We usually approve the student handbooks at the June meeting. We will approve them, but be aware we will likely have some additional changes in July as we are waiting for guidance on some of the new legislation that was passed this year. This will take care of most of the changes and any additional ones will likely be additional items to be added. We have a webinar on June 22nd where we are expected to hear the additional guidance.

8e. We need to approve Student Fees for next year. All fees will stay the same for next year except for lunch prices. Middle and High School Lunch will go to \$2.85 and elementary lunch will go to \$2.75. This is an increase of 10 cents. Adult lunch will go to \$4.85. This is a larger increase, but is required by the Department of Education. Breakfast will remain at \$1.85. I will have the rest of the fees for your review by the time of the board meeting.

8f. We need to approve our shared positions for the 2023-2024 school year. We will continue to share the superintendent position, maintenance director or designee, transportation, SBO or Human Resources, and Vocational Agriculture.

8g. We have some deteriorating sidewalks on the front of the downtown building that need to be replaced. We contacted a number of local contractors but at the time of these notes we only received one bid. I recommend we move forward with this because of safety concerns.

8h. We have some downtown roof repairs to make. We knew about the area around the northwest corner near the auditorium but we've also had parts of the gym that have come loose and we've had some leaking. We're not sure how many quotes we will have as some of the contractors have indicated they are booked up and complete the work this summer. I hope we have at least one quote by the time of the meeting.

8i. The school safety grant is the grant that was made available by the governor that allows up to \$50,000 per building for security enhancements. We would like your permission to apply for the grant. Based on the security audit and input from our crisis committee we plan to install a number of new cameras with a new camera system in each building that will give us quite a few enhanced features including better zoom ability, longer storage times, and the ability to search for people by characteristics or facial recognition. We are also looking at switching our visitor management system so it will work with our camera system when people come to our buildings. At this point, you are only giving us the ability to apply for the grant. If the grant is approved, then we will come back for permission to purchase. Our grant application contains over \$50,000 per building, but we wanted to make sure we would have enough in our application in case we cannot get some items or things change. We want to make sure we can spend it all when the time comes to actually spend the funds. Attached are the quotes for the items we are selecting, but again, this is only seeking your permission to apply for the grants. If approved, we will need to get new quotes and you will have to approve the purchase at that time.

8j. These are a group of policies that are either new or revised based on legislation from this past session. I would say the big thing is the policies related to library and instructional materials selection. These are all recommended policies from IASB and I anticipate having more for your approval in July. This is the first reading and the second reading will be in July.

8k. The electric school bus grant is available again. To apply as an individual district, we would have to request a minimum of 15 buses. That's not practical. The LiOn Bus company in Illinois is putting together an application of a consortium of rural school districts in Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Their application must be for 50 buses but it allows each district to apply for as few as 1 bus and any number up to 14. All it takes from us is a letter of request to participate in their grant. They will do the rest. Because it's a federal grant, we still have to do regular bid requirements so we may or may not be able to purchase one of their buses. Their letter acknowledges that. I will have a copy of the letter the Turkey Valley District approved. If you would like to try an electric bus, this is an easy way to apply as the risk for us is low and the application is a signature on a letter. Again, there is no guarantee we would receive it, but this application is very low key.

8l. We have to purchase some intervention materials for the elementary and middle school. This will come out of our ESSER funds that are earmarked for Learning Loss. We have \$170,000 in this account and these items will meet the criteria for the funds. We have done multi-year quotes since we have the funds available. Mrs. Steele would like to purchase Really Great Reading for grades K-2 to help them with reading and provide more emphasis on phonics instruction. This is a deficit the staff has found. There is a second smaller quote that will be used by the elementary reading interventionists as well. Mr. Schmitt would like to purchase Achieve3000 for the middle school students. Again, to assist the students with their reading skills. I've attached quotes and some research for your review. The Achieve3000 is \$26,516 for a 3 year quote. The Really Great Reading is \$30,511.07 for four years plus \$3,208.60 for the interventionist materials.

8m. I've had a request from a patron to change the district rules for the issuance of school permits to students who live under a mile from the school. Iowa Code says a student must live at least one mile from the school to receive a school permit, but gives the school board authority to grant exceptions for those who live closer. On September 13, 2010 the board passed the following exception for students who lived between .75 and 1 mile from school. The student must be in 4 extracurricular activities throughout the year, a minimum 3.3 GPA, no discipline incidents at school and they must also submit a letter stating what other transportation options they've looked at and the distance to mother's and father's work locations. The student in question lives within a half mile of the school, but has a child who participates in softball, so would like the school permit so the child can drive to Mikkelson Park. This has come up before with golf students and I've denied it as it didn't fit the policy as stated. I've talked with the chief of police and he would be in favor of making the change.

8n. The negotiations committee met with a member of the transportation staff and will have some recommendations.

8o. We need to approve the Business Manager and Board President meeting at the end of the month to approve any last minute bills that come up. You will still see and approve them at the July meeting, but this helps us close our books in a timely manner.

8p. There will be some information shared on a variety of things from the current school year.