

March 2018 Board Notes

4c. Finances continue to look good. We bumped up a little in the general fund, but are still looking good. Cash balance remains strong and all funds are above last year. A note on the bonds, we still have over 6.7 million dollars in the bank from last year.

4e. We may have some personnel recommendations by board time as we are interviewing teachers. At this time, Mr. Schmitt recommends Jordan Richards as a middle school track coach. We have a resignation from Kelly Hoskins in 3rd grade.

8a. Last month you pulled out our early retirement policy because the dates have not been updated, they are now updated to match what we did this year and are ready for your second reading.

8b. I will have a copy of the latest version of the school calendar for your review. This is information only at this time, but will do the final approval in April.

8c. Last month I shared the IBN 28E agreement with you. I don't have any concerns and recommend you approve it this month.

8d. At this time, we will be authorizing the sale and advertising it at the April meeting. I have attached a number of items for your review. There is not a decision needed at this time, but you should review the attachments. These are the same ones we've done in the past.

8e. Right now the consultant tells us we probably have \$500,000 in unallocated funds. I will have some options to think about, but I will recommend we wait until the end of the project before spending these funds. Then we will know for sure how much we have. The only thing is if we want to do some things to make any additions at the end easier to do. One example is the Ag/Industrial Tech center. If we think we may want to add on to it, we could do some things now to make that easier and less expensive later.

9a. We have reached a tentative agreement with the Teacher's association. They will ratify it on Tuesday or Wednesday, so I recommend we approve this pending their ratification of the contract. I will share details at the meeting.

9b. We will have some high school students to request permission to go to the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester to serve meals to the people staying there. This is a good project for these students. Since this is out of state, the trip will need your approval. They are planning to go on a Sunday afternoon and return later that evening in June.

9c. I will be discussing the status of some shared positions with you between here and Turkey Valley. This would have been discussed at the joint meeting, but need to discuss it now in order to move forward. They have a need to increase their band position to $\frac{3}{4}$ time and we are unable to continue to share Mr. Adam with the increased time. In fact, our own high school band program has grown where his time here is needed anyway. In

addition, in the science area, our enrollment here has grown to the point where we need to bring Mrs. Ohrt back here full-time as well. Actually, if I could have done it last fall, I would have. This is largely because of our addition of Computer Science to our curriculum. This has been a popular class, but has filled Mr. Pemble's schedule to the point that we've overloaded him. Bringing her back will help with that. Ag will stay the same. They also have a need for a part-time Iowa Big North person in their district and potentially help with TAG and social studies. I know there are rumors out there, but it's really a giant puzzle as I work to address the needs of both districts in the best ways possible.

9d. We need to have bond counsel for our upcoming bond issuance. We worked with Ahlers and Cooney the last time and I recommend we use them again.

9e. We need to approve our agreement with UNI to allow students to observe in our classrooms and also student teach as needed. This is a great experience for education students and our own students and staff. I recommend we continue to do this.

9f. We need to approve the agreement with Wartburg. This is the same as 9c for UNI and I recommend we approve this.

9g. We are one of 16 schools in Iowa to receive a federal bus grant for the replacement of a school bus. The grant is a rebate of \$20,000 toward the purchase of a bus with a 2017 or newer engine in it. We also have to destroy the bus it replaces. We will hopefully have some bids and options to discuss at the meeting. As of Friday, I only have one bid. The propane buses are working well. It appears we are getting approximately 5 mpg with the propane compared to 8 mpg with the diesel.

9h. I will be reviewing the 2018-2019 budget with you in preparation for our budget hearing next month. It looks like our tax rate will be declining approximately 13 cents per thousand for the coming year.

9i. We need to set the date and time for the public hearing on the 2018-2019 school budget. We are moving this meeting to April 10th as the normal meeting date, April 16th will be after the budget must be certified with the county auditor.

9j. We need to amend the current year's budget. The primary reason is related to the bonds for construction. Specifically, we are issuing \$9,415,000 in bonds this year and we weren't sure if it would happen this year or next when we did last year's budget.

9k. We also need to hold a public hearing on our school start date and calendar for next year. I recommend we do this in April and approve the calendar the same evening.

10a. Remember your book for the discussion

10c. There has been a change in the law since we last issued bonds. You can read about the change in the attachment under Section X Discussion Items. It's titled "Issue Price Rule" Read it over. We will discuss this more at the meeting.

10d. The original joint board meeting was cancelled because of weather. I would like to reschedule the meeting to April 16th at 6:30 in the Turkey Valley Elementary Library.