

Board Proceedings

The Board of Directors for the New Hampton Community School District met in a joint work session, Thursday, March 27, 2014 with the Turkey Valley Community School District in the Turkey Valley Elementary Library. President Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with directors Rosonke, Ewert, Baltes, Superintendent Jurrens, and Board Secretary Ayers present.

Director Rosonke moved to approve the agenda. Director Ewert seconded the motion. Ayes: Baltes, Ewert, Rosonke, and Rasmussen. Nays: none.

Superintendent Jurrens thanked the Turkey Valley board for hosting the meeting and inviting the New Hampton board to a joint meeting to explore ways in which the two schools could work together. Jurrens explained that this session was an opportunity for both districts to come together in mutually shared vision for each of the districts. Superintendent Jurrens noted that New Hampton, like many rural schools has declining enrollment. New Hampton currently has three person departments and is looking at only needing two or two and one have person departments in the future. Reduction of staff will mean that course offerings will be reduced. Jurrens said that the strengths of New Hampton are the Vo-Ag and Business Ed department have broad course offerings. In the future, New Hampton is planning on increasing the CTE programming to include CNC machining, offer more college classes, and expand technology (1:1). Jurrens emphasized that the Districts need to look out for the students by discovering ways to improve instruction and offer courses that enhance the students' education. Jurrens asked how can we maintain programs in spite of enrollment loses and fewer teachers? Operational sharing in the long term would be one way. Jurrens outlined a plan that might work for both Districts. A theoretical plan could have four steps that would be benchmarks, based on enrollment, when action could be taken. Step one could be the two district share resources, (staff) that would have minimal effect on the students as classes could be taught through the ICN or have teachers travel between the two schools. Step two would be to formally share classes with alternative ways of delivery. Step three could be sharing of students' part of the day. Several districts in Iowa have been sharing in this way for ten years. Students would take the core subjects in one school and then be transported to the other school for specials. Step four would be the final decision that would need to be made as to a possible merger. Jurrens believes that step four could be well in to the future. After working with New Hampton through this plan, hopefully Turkey Valley would see New Hampton as a partner and continue the relationship going forward.

The Turkey Valley board thanked Mr. Jurrens for his presentation.

Baltes moved to adjourn a 7:45. Director Ewert seconded the motion. Ayes: Rosonke, Ewert, Baltes, and Rasmussen. Nays: none.

Attest: April 14, 2014

Tom Rasmussen
Board President

Bob Ayers
Board Secretary