

August 16, 2021 School Board Notes

4b. Christy is still working on the minutes from the work session and will get them posted by the time of the meeting.

4c. It's only July so there is nothing remarkable about the financial reports. I will point out the good position that food service is in. Also, June financial matters are winding down. Most expenses are in but we have about \$500,000 in outstanding miscellaneous income for last year that we're waiting on. When that comes in we will be in a good position to end last year.

4e. We have resignations from Terri Phillips for food service and Jackie Lemke from her position as high school paraeducator. We need approvals for Larry Wright, Julie Denner, and Laura Zenk as paraeducators. These are pending background checks.

8a. We need to approve the second reading of the listed policies.

9a. We need to select our final student school board member.

9b. We will have a set of parents here to ask your permission to allow their child to be immediately eligible at the district where the child open enrolled to. The family filed for open enrollment prior to March 1st which is the deadline for open enrollment to occur. At the time that they filed, the law stated the student must sit out of varsity athletics for 90 school days. In the closing days of the legislature, they passed House File 847 which provides some additional reasons why open enrolled students may be eligible to play immediately. In this situation the law states: "An open enrolled student is immediately eligible to compete in varsity athletics if one of the following applies:....The board of directors of the resident and receiving district agree to waive ineligibility." There are 4 other reasons listed, but this is the one that applies in this situation. There is nothing that says a board must do it—they may. I have a few thoughts related to this. First, when they open enrolled they knew the rules and that there was a 90 day waiting period. However, the rule has now provided this opening. Second, if this one is allowed, then we should assume that all of them in the future will also be allowed as you will be establishing a precedent. In the end, some would say this is punitive to try to prevent students from open enrolling out. In this case as in most cases, the student had open enrolled knowing they would have to sit out 90 days. They open enrolled anyway. Will the 90 day period make a difference? I don't know. I believe it was put into place to address concerns about districts recruiting neighboring students. We can talk more at the meeting.

9c. The board has discussed the importance of sending the message to our community, parents, students, and staff of the boards belief in the importance of project based learning and continuing it. I will have a sample resolution at the board meeting for your review and proposed changes or approval related to this.

9d. We need to approve our fuel bids for the year. We have LP bids and also Diesel and gasoline. The LP bids come from Agvantage and Consolidated energy. I recommend we go with the low bid from Agvantage for LP. Kwik Star is the low bidder for gas and diesel; however, with past problems with diesel gelling up from Kwik Star, I recommend we go with Kwik Star for gasoline and Five Star for Diesel.

9e. We sent out snow removal bids and only received 1 bid back. I recommend we go with the one we received.

9f. We would like to purchase two new Chromebook carts to be used in 4th grade. This is our lowest grade based on our latest ISASP results so we feel these would help with that. We've had difficulty getting quotes because most companies don't know when they would be able to ship. Mr. Cantu found these and they are available in a reasonable time frame of 2-4 weeks.

9g. We need to replace our auditorium microphones. Several years ago, the FCC gave the frequency they operate on to cell phones. We've continued to use them but they are now putting out a constant hum because of the interference. We have a reasonable quote here, Mrs. Cantu also had a quote that was nearly \$50,000 and that seemed a little excessive—I believe they were professional quality microphones. I recommend we approve these.

9h. We have approximately \$12,000 in unpaid fees from last year. These include registration fees, unpaid lunch accounts, damage fees, etc. This is the most we've ever had. My office has sent out monthly letters reminding these families what they owe and asking them to contact us to set up a payment plan. That has worked as the unpaid amount was substantially higher, but now we're down to these. We looked into taking them to small claims court, but found the filing and required fees to be excessive in handling this. I visited with our attorney and he advised that he recommends schools reach out to a collections agency to take over these collections. They then take a percentage of what they collect as their fee. I'm looking for your thoughts on this at the meeting and if you're okay in moving forward with this.

9i. As I had previously noted, we received a grant to pay for 40% of the cost of two propane buses. We have three quotes for these buses. I contacted our mechanic and he recommends we stay with Bluebird because he has less parts to stock and he also has the tools and programming to work on them. It is more expensive, but he believes we will more than make up the difference in the savings from not requiring different spare parts.

9j. The New Hampton Educational Excellence Foundation has been working with the Rochford family to put some type of structure on the legacy pathway (engraved bricks) to draw attention to it and also provide a place to have a type of "victory" bell. The Rochford family would like to do this as a memorial to Jerry Rochford. The foundation is seeking your approval to have this installed. It will go between the two concrete pathways leading to the football stadium on the concrete pad that is installed by the beginnings of the brick pathway.

9k. We have a couple of vehicles to dispose of. I would like to offer them for sealed bids. They are our 2008 Chevy Impala and our 2008 Chrysler Sebring. The Chrysler Sebring had the driver side front wheel rust off the bracket. I asked Mitch Laures to have their staff take a look at it. It can be repaired for about \$1,500 and then it would be worth about \$1,500. It has some other rusty spots as well. The impala needs some engine leaks repaired at \$900, a new horn for \$100, new brakes and rear rotors for \$600 and also 10 new lug nuts and studs. When they removed the tires they were rusted on and broke when removing them. Again, we're looking at spending \$1,600 and ending with a \$1,500 car. In addition, as they have gathered some rust on them I'm not sure after we fix them that they would pass inspection anyway, so I'm asking your approval to offer them for sealed bids.

9l. We need to approve our ESSER III plan. This is a rough budget for these expenditures. My plan is to spread these expenditures over the next three years. We are planning on a variety of things with this plan including our high school athletic trainer, mental health counseling throughout the district, and other items as noted. This can be amended at any time and must be reviewed at least once every 6 months. I will explain more at the meeting.

9m. We need to approve our Return to Learn plan for this year. The key to this is flexibility. We will have cleaning and sanitizing products available for any staff member who desires them. We will have hand sanitizing stands throughout the buildings and we will also have our dividers and other things available. Our plan is to make all of this available to any staff who wants them. We want them to have whatever they need to feel comfortable. We will keep the drinking fountains off for the year, but most everything else will be fairly normal. I will review this more at the meeting.

9n. I will have a review of our ISASP data comparing our performance to that of the states.