

# **BOE Meeting Highlights**

## **Board of Education Meeting June 13, 2018**

The Board of Education encourages the public to attend the meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month. There is an opportunity at the beginning of each meeting for input from the public. After that the Board conducts the School District's business, including the Superintendent's and Principals' Reports, position appointments, and issues to act upon.

Here are some highlights from the last meeting. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at 6:30 P.M. in the Jeffers Media Center.

### **Budget Meeting**

- A meeting was held about the final 2017-18 budget and the original 2018-19 budget as well as the proposed millage.
- The district ended the year with a nice fund equity of over \$340,000 thanks to everyone including the Board, administration, and staff. Two years ago it was at \$5,000. Next year's budget should be balanced with no surplus or deficit. If the millage bond passes it will be great to get all the needed things done. If it is not, the district would have to make cuts to make necessary improvements to things such as lockers, roofs, and windows.

### **Regular Meeting**

#### **Public Participation**

- Richard Cormier, social studies teacher at JHS, was new this year and introduced himself to the Board and thanked them for all the work they do for the school.

#### **Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri**

- The infrastructure committee met with applicants for the owners representative position during the upcoming mileage extension proposal. They recommend Tim Seppanen who was a part of the library and new gym project. Rendering of the plans will be available soon. The plan for the library to be changed was taken off and the cafeteria will be moved to the third floor and the library will remain the same. Things needed the most are the JHS cafeteria, and at SRES the roofs and windows and the principal's office moved. The bond extension would be \$5.3 million without raising millage for the public. There will be a public meeting at the end of June and a couple in July.
- The custodial/maintenance position at JHS was posted internally and he recommends Paul Ek.
- Nikki Lishinski, teacher at SRE, will be moving into the K-8 technology position.
- There is not a recommendation for the JHS resource room yet. They interviewed a few people and made an offer but the person is out of town currently.
- The culinary class did a wonderful job making food for Jean Stevens and Cheryl Ruohonen's retirement party recently.

- He called two companies for summer cleaning bids. U.P. Janitorial had the less expensive bid.
- The district will have to borrow from stated aid because of cash flow. This is normal.
- The MEA is looking to decertify the support staff union. He is looking at options. He recommends the head cook position be privatized without offering insurance as it is a 180 day position.
- There are some NEOLA policy updates. Nothing regarding policies.

#### **Principal's Report-Kim Harris, South Range Elementary**

- The end of the year was fun but busy. Things went smoothly at Camp Nesbit. The picnic day at Twin Lakes was great.
- It was great having Mr. Williams this year giving counseling support. He began the year with 3 hours a week but increased it by the end of the year. He met with 12 students and was a great resource. She hopes the school can continue having him.
- The after school program this year was a great service for families. The two staff members worked well together and with the kids. She hopes the school can continue the program. When asked by the Board how it was funded it was mainly from a \$6000 donation from the Foundation. Mr. Keteri said it will be presented to the Foundation board again but if they choose not to, the district would not be able to budget for it.
- There will be some professional development this summer. Sara Nordstrom, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, and Joanne Feeley, resource room teacher, will be going downstate for a reading conference. Mande Lehto, 4-6 math teacher, and Jessica Schuett, 4-6 science teacher, will be going to Houston for a STEM inservice. The Health Committee, Mande Lehton, Laura Larson, Jess Schuett, Lori Geschel, and Mrs. Harris will be continuing with year 2 of their grant. They will all share things they learn at upcoming district inservices with the staff.
- Nikki Lishinski is moving into the K-8 technology position. At first she was leery because great teachers like her are hard to find. She had four applicants she has interviewed in the past. She recommends Charley Heltunen, who taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade for the district before, and that he will be great for the kids.

#### **Principal's and Athletic Report-Steve Lishinski, Jeffers High School**

- The year went by quick.
- There will be a lot of professional development this summer. Himself, Mr. Cormier, social studies teacher, Ms. Raether, English/German teacher, and Mr. Kilpela, science teacher, are taking classes at NMU. Mrs. Pera, science/math teacher is in a science program for middle school and going to Chicago for a math conference. Mr. Palosaari, science teacher, is also in the science program for middle school and is taking classes at MTU.
- He recommends hiring Sienna Jaehnig for the English position. They had 7 candidates and interviewed 5. She was a quality applicant that will fit the needs of the district.
- Hopefully he will have a recommendation for the special education position by the next meeting.

- 71 students took part of the free physicals put on at Portage. He appreciates all that UP Health does for this free service for students.
- Sport schedules for the 2018-19 year are almost complete.
- Coaching assignments will take place in July.

#### **Negotiations Committee**

- They met with the teachers union and have a tentative agreement. There were 15 proposals, 5 of which were money related. They would get a 2% raise and their steps. There is a 0.6% stipend for homeroom teachers. Negotiations went smoothly. The district was able to offer more than in the past few years with the tight budgets.

#### **Action Items**

The Board discussed several action items.

*Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary*