

# BOE Meeting Highlights

## Board of Education Meeting November 13, 2024

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.

### Public Participation

- Dee Dee Maki, community member, addressed the board about concerns over a Halloween costume. She also summarized others' comments she was sent.
- Torey Kostamo, community member, also voiced her concerns about the incident.
- Board President Darren Niemi read from the NEOLA policy (<https://go.boarddocs.com/mi/adams/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies#>) and explained how policy was followed. Safety of students is always a priority for the Board, school administration, and staff. Board policies are reviewed every year at the June Board Meeting.
- Trent Rajala, parent of SRE students not involved, voiced his support for the Board, administration, and staff.

### Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- The sale of the bonds went through and they were able to get a better rate than expected which will save money. UPEA and Tim Seppanen are working on blueprints for plans, which should be ready by January's meeting. Steve Nordstrom is working with them on the athletic expansion at JHS. There will be a new shop attached to the trades building at JHS. At SRE, work will include safety of students at drop off and pick up time. Bids will be out in March.
- The audit is completed. Steve Nordstrom did a 'phenomenal job'. The budget is in good shape. Enrollment is up this year, which is a good sign.
- Sienna Jaehnig, JHS teacher, asked for a leave of absence for the remainder of the year. He recommends the hiring of Madeline Larson and Mary Markham to be long term substitute teachers.

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

- The end of the first marking period brought parent teacher conferences, which were well attended.

- Friday will be an inservice where teachers will be learning about a writing program.
- The MTSS team had great things to report. For the academic side, they reported that 73% of students are reading at benchmark with the 5th grade at 90%. They are lucky to have great high school helpers who are helping get math toolkits ready. On the behavioral side, Mrs. Larson, 6th grade teacher, is the safety patrol advisor. They are doing a great job this year with 90% of 6th graders participating. There are smaller groups at recess which has worked well. They will be doing a schoolwide attendance incentive soon. Mrs. Dobson in her new role as social worker has helped.

### **Principal's Report-John Sanregret, Jeffers High School**

- The National Honor Society had their induction ceremony and it went well. One of the member's projects is a Blood Drive that will be next week. They are also helping with the TV6 Canathon. Another member's project was a special night at a volleyball game thanking First Responders.
- The Travel Club will be doing a trip to Europe and will be fundraising.
- Their parent teacher conference attendance was 'good, not great'. They again had all of the teachers in the gym at tables. They raffled off a sports pass.
- Next semester, they will be doing a thematic unit week, where all classes will be about the theme 'Copper'.

### **Business and Athletic Report-Steve Nordstrom**

- The audit is complete, and the report to the state was completed by the November 1 deadline. The general fund balance is about even from the last year, but slightly below the recommendation. The district will have to be conscientious about spending.
- Other tasks he is working on include completing open enrollment for employees, finishing Grant's Final Expenditure Reports, State transportation reports, and accounts receivable and payables.
- It was 'quite a fall' for fall athletics. There will be a fall sports banquet. The volleyball team won the Copper Mountain Conference championship. Coach Rachel Sondgerath was Coach of the Year, players Mia Nordstrom was Player of the Year, Taylor Heinonen was name to the Elite team, and Reagan Kinnunen and Montanan Heinonen were named to the 2nd team. The volleyball team hosted a Pink Out Night that raised an 'impactful amount' of money for a local family. He thanked the Calumet Copper King community for also supporting this.
- The Cross Country Team won its 4th straight UP Championship. Congrats to Coach Sam Kilpela and team.
- The varsity hockey roster has 17 players, all from Jeffers. L'Anse players decided to play junior hockey - Midgets. Six players from Jeffers play for the Hancock JV co-op.
- Boys' basketball has seven varsity players and five JV players. The JV season is in jeopardy because it cannot accommodate a game schedule with five players.

- Girls Basketball will have 11 players on varsity and 8 or 9 on JV.
- Jeffers has four athletes participating in swimming at Houghton
- Jeffers Junior Jets basketball has started and offers fundamentals and drills for students 3-8th grade. 38 kids are participating.

**Action Items**

The Board discussed several action items.

*Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary*