

BOE Meeting Highlights

Board of Education Meeting August 14, 2019

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

- Eric Sauvola, a parent, came to inform the Board of an incident that happened in early August between his son, a Jeffers junior, and another boy. His son was assaulted and threatened. The police were called and the matter is currently with the prosecutor. Mr. Sauvola believes the other boy will be transferring to Jeffers this year and is concerned the situation will escalate further and wants the administration and Board to be aware. Mr. Keteri and Mr. Lishinski said every measure will be taken to ensure everyone's safety.

Project Manager Report-Tim Seppanen

- With school coming up it is crunch time with all hands on deck.
- At the elementary, the roof is nearly done, the rubber is down and the flashing is next and it all went well. The floor coverings will be complete Thursday. In the office, the windows and doors were put in. The north wing is ready for school. The south wing is being cleaned by Ron Outinen and the maintenance staff. The pillars will be done Thursday. The storage building is 95% done and will be ready for the start of school.
- At the high school, they are working on getting teachers into their rooms. The flooring has been started and should be done by next week. The band room will be worked on Thursday. The art room will be worked on Friday. Some areas will still be worked on during the school year so they are working on prepping those areas to not disrupt the school. The cafeteria floor was poured and the roof is on. The rubber roof will be put on next week. The new entry way is being worked on. The parking lot will still be closed at the beginning of the year so parking will be in the front. Mr. Lishinski's office is still set to be ready by November 1st and the cafeteria after the holidays. Lockers are 80% done and the rest will be by next week. Hallways are painted. Next Thursday the fire marshal will be coming to approve the opening for students. This will give enough time to fix any problems if there are any. The new enunciative fire alarm system is operational.

Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- Priscilla Chynoweth, SRE Title 1 teacher, turned in her retirement letter. Steve Aho, JHS resource room teacher, and Kelsa

Dykehouse, K-12 art teacher, turned in resignation letters. Mr. Aho accepted a position at Hancock and Ms. Dykehouse is moving to Texas. The principals have recommendations for the open positions.

- The principals have the handbooks ready for approval with small updates.
- The Board can look into getting a snow enloader from Keweenaw Automotive. It wouldn't save money for the district as much as time and efficiency. The Board told him to look into it more.
- The bond project is coming along well. Tim Seppanen has done a wonderful job as a project manager. He coordinates and trouble shoots well on the spot and has helped the work continue to go. Next week they will be looking for people to help clean and move things at Jeffers.
- He and Mrs. Harris recently went to an Administrator's Academy. They met with legislators. There isn't a budget set yet for Michigan. The district has an increase in enrollment so he doesn't expect the district to go into fund equity. The current enrollment is 483, about the same at SRE, and up a lot for JHS. By next year Jeffers will probably be Class C.
- He recommends changing breakfast prices to \$.50/\$.25 for reduced/free for free lunch students. For lunch he recommends \$2.40 for SRE/\$.40 for reduced/\$2.65 for JHS. The lunch prices have to change to meet with the guidelines.
- There was an issue with Mrs. Chynoweth's retirement this summer in regards to insurance. Her retirement is dated for June. If the Board wants they can go after for the premium they paid for July and August but he recommends against it for staff morale and the cost of legal fees which would be more, and to negotiate it in the next contract.
- The pool has been rerouted and new pumps are ready. There was some asbestos in the ceiling being taken care of. It will be filled in September then drained to check for leaks then filled again.

Principal's Report-Kim Harris, South Range Elementary

- It is confirmed that SRE will have a Best Start Program next year. It will give an assistant in one of the kindergarten rooms.
- The suggested school supply list was emailed to the parent listserv and posted to the website.
- August 22 is packet pick up day.
- Sara Nordstrom will be moving from 1st grade into the Title 1 position. Mrs. Harris recommends the hiring of Laura Ruohonen for the open 1st grade position. Miss Ruohonen student taught in the kindergarten at SRE last year so it will be a great start. It will be a blessing to have Miss Nordstrom still in the building.
- There is a math recovery course that several staff members have taken part of, Mande Lehto, Lisa Pyykkonen, Chelsea Myers, and Sara

Nordstrom. It helps the teachers to get a good handle on students weak math areas.

- Nikki Lishinski, K-8 technology teacher, has been doing a lot of professional development this summer. At one of her classes she learned that the district is ahead of the game with teaching coding.
- Kindergarten orientation will be August 28th at 5:30PM. Fourth Grade orientation will be the same night at 6PM.
- The handbook is ready for approval. Small changes include the tardies and absences policy, student placement policy, and adding a consequence rubric to the expectation rubric. The chromebook policy will be worked on with the upper el staff.

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

- Professional development is ongoing. Mrs. Lishinski attended Code.org in Grand Rapids and GenCyber at MTU. Ms. Raether, English teacher, completed two graduate level classes towards her masters.
- Students and parents can pick up schedules August 22 until 5:30 at JHS as long as the construction project allows it. If not it will be moved to SRE and info will be posted.
- Jump Into Jeffers, 7th grade orientation, will be 10AM-12PM on August 28.
- 9th Grade orientation will be 7PM on August 28.
- The first day of school is September 3. Suggested school supply lists are on the website and have been emailed to the high school parent listserv.
- The handbook doesn't have any major changes. The next year will offer Spanish and there will not be German offered.
- He recommends the hiring of Paige Gwyn for the art position. She was a part time art teacher at Lake Linden. He recommends the hiring of CJ Koehler for the special ed position.
- He thanked the Sports Booster Club for all their work last year. They are purchasing new uniforms for the cross country/track teams.
- He recommended the hiring of coaches. (Can be found on website under athletics.)
- The first athletic event is volleyball at Lake Linden on August 26th. The first home event is the Kilpela Cross Country Invite at 4PM on August 27th.
- The 5K/10K will be September 21st.

Action Items

- The Board discussed several action items.

Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary