

# BOE Meeting Highlights

Virtual Board of Education Meeting December 9, 2020

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

- There were no public comments.

## Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- Last school year's audit is in and the district is in sound financial footing. The food service account is neutral. It was a very good report after being so cautious and weary about the budget last year. The general fund is healthy. Not all districts are in as good of shape. The district will need to be on top of the budget for next year. Jason Auel, business manager, reminded the Board that there was a reduction in state aid that was replaced by federal aid for last year and this, but the aid for year 2021-2022 will be questionable. Mr. Auel also let the Board know that the capital funds project ended as a huge success coming in on budget which is rare, due to the Board, Mr. Keteri, and Project Manager Tim Seppanen doing a great job. This sentiment was echoed by Mr. Keteri that Mr. Seppanen was a good investment and should be recognized since the awards dinner where he was going to be named as the Community Impact Person was cancelled due to covid. He also recognized Mr. Auel as being vital in helping the district navigate the end of last year.
- The district has 2 bids for a mobile website. Aptegy is a company that can do an app, messaging system, and website for \$15,000. Opus, the company currently with the district's site, would be able to do a mobile site but without an app or notification system for \$6,000.
- He thanked Mr. Steve Nicholas, Board member, for his 16 years of service as this was his last meeting. He expressed his gratitude for all the support and dedication both personally and professionally.

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

- It's been pretty quiet at school without any of the usual 'extras' going on.
- Mrs. Raffaelli, music director, will be releasing the K-3 Winter Program online. She appreciates all of Mrs. Raffaelli's hard work to get it virtual.

- Mrs. Lishinski, technology teacher, is now a certified Google instructor and has been vital to the district these last months.
- The teachers have been doing Merry Mondays to bring in some cheer.
- Students decorated bags and made cards for Little Brothers food deliveries on Thanksgiving and Christmas. They received back some thank you notes, some really touching, that were shared with the kids so they could learn about the reaches of their kindness.
- After the virtual learning in September and coming back to full masks, some students went virtual but are starting to come back to in person learning.

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

- Congrats to Ms. Raether, English teacher, for completing her Reading Specialist Masters degree. She is also helping facilitate two book studies for local teachers starting next week.
- Another congrats to Mr. Palosaari, science/chemistry teacher, for graduating from MTU with an Applied Science Education Master's degree.
- Ms. Gwyn, art teacher, received 3 Sky grants for individual students to purchase art supplies. She is also working on donating an iPad to a student and additional grant opportunities.
- The district posted a letter permitting students in grades 9-12 to come into the building for academic support with a rotating schedule. It isn't ideal but the best they can do.
- Christmas Break is after school on December 18 and returning January 4.
- Athletics has taken a hit from the closure. Schedules are changing to make it work.

Darren Niemi personally thanked Steve Nicholas for his years of dedication and service to the Board, staff, and students of the district. They will miss his years of experience and wisdom as well as his comradery on the Board.

### **Action Items**

- The Board discussed several action items.

The Board went into closed session to discuss the superintendent's evaluation.

*Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary*