

BOE Meeting Highlights

Virtual Board of Education Meeting January 20 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.

Organizational

- Ashley Sudderth was sworn in.
- The Board voted for all officers to remain the same for 2021.

Public Participation

- Beth Bertucci, Spanish and middle school English teacher, asked the Board for permission for students to fundraise for a study abroad trip to Costa Rica in March of 2022. So far she has 5 students interested.

Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- They sold bonds at a lower rate and that will save the tax payers of the district money.
- There is a letter by our commissioners to the Governor asking for the ability to have more local control of shut downs by letting the local health departments make decisions or go back to the region approach that was more effective.
- He presented the amended 2020-21 budget. The original budget was a worst case scenario and it is a lot better now. Looking to next year, it will be tougher. The enrollment across the district is down and with that cut the whole fund equity will be wiped out. The Board will have to be aggressive with planning.
- The mandated paid Covid sick days ended on January 1st so the Board has to make a decision on how to pay staff out with Covid. They later decided to keep what they've been doing for the remainder of the school year.
- There are NEOLA policy updates including Covid language and threatening behavior towards staff.

Principal's Report-Kim Harris, South Range Elementary

- She welcomed Ashley to the Board.
- It's still quiet at school without any fluff.
- The school received a "Building a Healthy Community" grant. One portion is for improving active recess and they will be getting a movable playground cart. It also includes \$1500 for staff wellbeing.

- There are a few students returning from virtual learning at the new semester. There are 11 still virtual. None of the 17 students that left for homeschooling have returned.
- Mrs. Normand, 4-6 English teacher, was going to share tonight but will share next month about a pen pal project with a school in Japan.

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

- It's great to have all of the students back!
- The end of the semester is January 29th. Due to the virtual learning in the fall, there will not be traditional exam week. The students will have full days Monday-Thursday and still have a half day on Friday.
- Ms. Raether, English teacher, wanted to acknowledge three of her students for having their poetry nationally published.
- Mrs. Lewandowski, art teacher, shared some student artwork.
- Mrs. Johnson, culinary arts teacher, has requested a leave of absence for the second semester.
- There will be a full day teacher in-service on February 19th.
- Addie Saltarelli was staying in the area for our basketball program but received a job opportunity out of the area and had to leave. She may decide to go into teaching at a later time so maybe we'll lure her back. Steph Sterbenz is stepping up to varsity coaching.
- Winter sport schedules have changed many times. They are able to practice right now with social distancing. The basketball season was extended by the MHSAA and has 16 scheduled games. The hockey season wasn't able to be extended due to ice time and has 14 scheduled games.
- Board member Eric Mattila asked how many of the seniors that chose virtual learning are coming back for their last semester in school. It's a good number. There are still a little over 50 virtual learners at the high school.
- Board member Ashley asked if the Board has discussed not providing bussing to athletic events. The school will still bus to all events. There is not a Jeffers JV girls basketball team which is the same in many schools. The games will be triple headers with boys JV, and girls and boys Varsity. This cut bus runs down and is saving the district money.

Action Items

- The Board discussed several action items.

Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary