

BOE Meeting Highlights

Board of Education Meeting May 13, 2021

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

- Travis Asiala, senior student, apologized for his role in the senior 'prank' the night before and asked if there was anything he could do to help clean it up.
- Jenna Roberts, a parent of JHS students, spoke about an issue her son is having with other students. He gets harassed and then lashes out and is rightfully punished but he is at a point where he doesn't like school. She knows this is an issue that every school deals with but doesn't want it to get to a boiling point. President Niemi said she can have a private meeting with Mr. Lishinski and a board member.
- Sara Pennala, parent of JHS students, appreciated Mr. Lishinski for reaching out to her son who is virtually learning. He was invited to come to the school and was pleasantly surprised with it. She hopes this is a door that is continued to be opened. She is also a parent of a senior and would like to know what happened at the senior 'prank' so she can address her child. She said her only complaint about JHS is a communication breakdown but appreciates being heard when she does bring up issues.
- Laura Larson, parent of SRE and JHS students and SRE teacher on leave, thanked the Board for everything they've done through this year and for granting her her leave. Her father, who has passed, was a former Board member and always deeply researched any issue. She asks the Board to do the same and to stand with what is right. There was a policy at the beginning of the year when masking was optional for students to not 'mask shame' anyone who wore a mask. She feels that students on the other end have been scolded and shamed for not wearing a mask. She would like the Board to have a policy about health decisions that parents make being private for both students and faculty. She is also concerned that vaccinations may be addressed by staff to students and shouldn't be. Students are sent home for disrespect but she feels staff members should have the same standard. She would like to know Board members' stances if there is a choice on masking and would really like them to survey parents about their concerns and decisions for their own students from this year and for the next.

- Russ Larson, parent of SRE and JHS students, said his concerns had been addressed by Mrs. Larson and he echoes the sentiment.

Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- There is a lot of one time funding available, some more or less restricted on what it can be spent on than others. It is something to be looked into with a drop of around 30 students this year who may or not be back for next year. They are still working on shuffling teachers around for next year and still are in need of a guidance counselor position.
- The plan for summer school is still in the works.
- Class day will be May 28th in the gym for seniors and up to 6 family members. It will be streamed virtually. Graduation will be that night outside to be unlimited. There are plans in place in case of bad weather.
- There will be union negotiations. The Board can go into closed session to discuss those.
- The seniors did their 'prank' last night. It's been a 'tradition' for some years. What was done went past that in its scope. The building was trashed. There were tables overturned, writing on windows and walls, glitter everywhere, silly string everywhere. It looked like a tornado had went through. President Niemi was there at 2 in the morning trying to kick students out and was disrespected. Mr. Keteri was called and came in at 3AM. All the students were kicked out and the adults were cleaning until the start of school so the building could be presentable.

Principal's Report-Kim Harris, South Range Elementary

- The Village of South Range received a grant from the Portage Health Foundation and is working with the grade school on a greenhouse. Miss Ruohonen, first grade teacher, has been working on getting this project, along with Mr. Arens from JHS to make beds for it.
- The first and third graders cleaned up the grounds for Earth Day.
- Mr. Arens, JHS teacher, brought the seniors to rake up the lawn.
- MSTEP testing is underway. The 5th graders had 4 tests, the rest will just have two.
- She thanked Mr. Palosaari, JHS teacher, for coming to teach human growth and development to the 5th/6th grade boys. She thanked Mrs. Schuett, 4-6 science teacher, for taking over teaching the girls after Mrs. Harris has done it for 25 years.
- The school will be going to Twin Lakes on June 9th for their annual picnic day.

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

- Ms. Bertucci, English/Spanish teacher, had a successful can drive for Travel Club. She would like to continue over the summer as well as

doing a clothing sale. She also wanted reported that the Holocaust unit ended with student letters to the author of the book that was purchased through book club funding.

- Mrs. Raffaelli, band director, Mrs. Lewandowski, art teacher, Mrs. Lucchesi, cosmetology teacher, and Mr. Arens and Mr. Miller, industrial tech teachers are putting together a video to highlight the arts and students' work this year. Mrs. Rafaelli is spending a lot of time putting this together.
- He expects the freshman class to be at 51 next year with 19 E.B. Holman students.
- May 28th will be Class Day and commencement. Class day will be streamed from the new gym. Commencement will be on the front lawn.
- June 7-0 is exam week with half days of June 8-10.
- Spring sports are underway. Tournaments and finals are all scheduled.

Action Items

- The Board discussed several action items.

Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary