

Eldora-New Providence Schools Board of Education
Regular Meeting

February 8, 2021 – High School Auditorium

Present: Board Members: Maggie VanderWilt, Jared Cook, Marc Anderson, Emily Herring, Greg Salvo and Nick LaVelle, Jay Stanish arrived during the meeting, Superintendent Dr. Adam Zellmer and Board Secretary Cindy Bierle, High School Principal Mike Rundall, Elementary Principal Kevin Henrichs, and visitors.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Maggie VanderWilt with the reading of the mission statement “Embracing today’s challenges, preparing for tomorrow’s world.”

Discuss/Action Consent Agenda

Board Secretary Bierle presented the board with two additional bills from Agvantage FS for gasoline and diesel of \$2,649.45 and Innovative Ag for diesel of \$517.57. Dr. Zellmer noted we had one resignation and one staff recommendation. **Motion** by Emily Herring seconded by Nick LaVelle to approve the consent agenda. All voted in favor. The motion carried. Included in the consent agenda along with the agenda, January regular and joint meeting minutes, report of disbursements, and financial report were the following items: a staff resignation from Pam Tidman as elementary kitchen assistant and a staff recommendation for Diane Petty as high school special ed para.

Public Report Time – None.

Schools Cannot Do It Alone Presentation/Book Study Opportunity

Dr. Zellmer informed the board the Central Rivers AEA had purchased a book for each board member in their area. Schools are being asked to do more each year and the book helps with how to work with community partners and others on these issues. Dr. Zellmer noted he would assign chapters for the following meeting and send out discussion questions. The board agreed to do the book study and will start with the Intro and Part I for the March meeting. (Jay Stanish arrived during the discussion.)

Discuss/Action Second Reading of Board Policy 407.6 Early Retirement

Dr. Zellmer noted this is the second reading of the early retirement policy. **Motion** by Nick LaVelle seconded by Greg Salvo to approve the second reading of Board Policy 407.6 Early Retirement. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Discuss/Action Early Retirement Applications

Dr. Zellmer informed the board we had three early retirement applications submitted: Ruth Halvorsen, Dick Shindelar, and Daryl Hartwig all from the High School. The timing will allow the District to get an early start on the hiring process. **Motion** by Jared Cook seconded by Nick LaVelle to accept the Early Retirement Applications. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Discuss/Action Second Reading of Board Policies for Section 103B

Dr. Zellmer noted this is the second reading of board policies for Section 103B issued by IASB and approved by Ahlers Law Firm. **Motion** by Greg Salvo seconded by Jared Cook to approve the second reading of Board Policies for Section 103B. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Discuss/Action Equipment Maintenance Insurance

Dr. Zellmer informed the board he and Cindy had been working with Jester Insurance on an Equipment Maintenance Insurance Policy that would allow us to pay for the policy out of Management Fund and free up General Fund money that was otherwise used to pay for equipment repairs. He noted we had the option of locking in the rate for 3 years or getting a portion of the premium returned if we did not use it to capacity. **Motion** by Marc Anderson seconded by Maggie VanderWilt to approve the Equipment Maintenance Insurance Program. All voted in favor. The motion carried. (Greg Salvo left at this point.)

Discuss Facilities Planning Next Steps

Dr. Zellmer noted that Estes Construction recommends that the Buildings and Grounds committee meet with them to start the process of prioritizing projects. There will be a zoom meeting on Wednesday, February 10th and the committee of Nick LaVelle, Jared Cook, and Marc Anderson will attend the zoom. Dr. Zellmer noted the proposal by Estes Construction broke the priorities into 4 classes with a high and low end on each.

Discuss COVID Update

Dr. Zellmer noted the COVID numbers are good at the District with no new cases and no new quarantines. Last Friday 120 staff were vaccinated with 10 staff already having been vaccinated through other priorities. That is 65% of the staff between the 2 districts. He noted six more employees will set up through Medicaid to get vaccinated as well. The District will continue the same guidelines until some regulations go away. In person events will be opened up with masks and 6 foot distancing still in place.

Administrator/Supervisor/Superintendent Comments

Elementary Principal Henrichs reported the elementary professional development day was spent on digging deeper into literacy and the April 5th day will be spent preparing for the state test. FAST tests were a good indicator of growth from 52 – 66% efficient. High School Principal Rundall noted honor rolls had been published and a virtual ceremony held, professional development focused on course offerings, curriculum work for next year and ISAS prep, Speech qualified for state, Academic Decathlon was 3rd in our district behind 2 schools who have a class for the program, prom planning is going on, and the high school is planning a pseudo activities afternoon this Friday. Dr. Zellmer has been working on political advocacy noting our representatives are against the voucher portion of the bill, keeping up on the school house grant bill, SSA advocacy (Senate at 2.2%, House at 2.5%), attended the ISFIS budget workshop virtually with Cindy today, and will take a vacation day next Monday.

Set Date and Time of Next Regular Meeting

The next regular board meeting will be Monday, March 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjourn

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.