

Regular & Joint Meetings of the Boards of Education of the
Eldora-New Providence & Hubbard Radcliffe CSD
Monday, February 12, 2024 @ 6:30 P.M.
South Hardin High School Media Center, Eldora, IA
TENTATIVE AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order

ENP – Board President Jared Cook at 6:30 p.m. with reading of mission statement – “Embracing today’s challenges, preparing for tomorrow’s world.”

HR – Board President Jacob Bolson

Present: E-NP Board Members: Jared Cook, Nick LaVelle, Marc Anderson, Breanne Butler, Emily Herring, Jay Stanish, and Mark Sparrow, Superintendent Adam Zellmer and Board Secretary Cindy Bierle, High School Principal Mike Rundall, Elementary Principal Kassandra Albright, Director of Learning Sherri Walker, and visitors. H-R Board Members: Jacob Bolson, Tracey Rieks, Marty Eide, Laura Imsland, and Kelli Miller, Board Secretary Deb England, Middle School Principal Kevin Henrichs, and visitors.

Introductions

Each participant introduced themselves, told where they were from, and what buildings they had students in.

Review of Joint Board Meeting Norms: (Dr. Zellmer)

We are South Hardin Schools with ENP & HR Business Units, Have fun, Have an agenda, stick to it, and stay focused on topic being talked about, No sidebar conversations, No personal attacks on each other, staff members, or programs, Our decisions are Student Based and Data Supported, Feedback is important for growth, We keep our commitments.

Follow the SPACE guidelines: S - Seek Opportunities to be Involved, P - Praise/No Put Downs, A - Active Listening, C - Community Feeling / Make Everyone Feel a Part, E - Empathy / Put Yourself in Place of the Other Person

Discuss/ Action Consent Agenda (ENP)

In order to conserve time and focus attention on non-routine matters on the agenda, the Board will consider a number of items grouped together as a Consent Agenda, all items to be approved in one motion. Before a motion is made to consider the Consent Agenda, any board member may request an item be removed from the Consent Agenda. The removed item will then be considered for separate action. Emily Herring asked to move item 5.02 to immediately following the public report time. **Motion** by Jay Stanish seconded by Emily Herring to approve the consent agenda and move item 5.02 to immediately following the public report time. All voted in favor. The motion carried. Included in the consent agenda along with the Board Meeting Agenda; January Regular and Work Session Minutes; Report of Disbursements; and Financial Report were the following items: an open enrollment request for Faith Carpenter from ENP to IF (move); staff resignations from Jared Kadolph as assistant football coach and Barb Ellis as elementary para/special ed route driver; and a staff recommendation for Suzy Teske as volunteer girls’ tennis coach.

Discuss/ Action Approve Agenda (HR)

Discuss/ Action Approve Consent Agenda (HR)

Previous Meetings Minutes, Reports on Budget & Approval of Warrants

Communication (ENP & HR)

Public Report Time

Audience participation shall be in accordance with School Board Policy #204.11 that indicates "a citizen wishing to make a brief statement, express a viewpoint or ask a question regarding an item on the agenda shall be allowed to speak during the public report time". Policy #204.11R adds "any individual desiring to speak shall give his or her name, address, and the group, if any, that is represented. The presentation should be as brief as possible. Unless an extension of time is granted a speaker shall be limited to five (5) minutes. Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of school operations and programs as concern them. But in public session, the Board will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor against any person connected with the school system".

E-NP Board President Jared Cook read the audience participation guidelines and asked for any public comments. Several members of the audience including ECC Director Kendra Kendall, ECC Board Members Emma Chase and Matt Kuecker, Betsy Kuecker, Melissa Stocks, Carey Calloway Morton, Joe Herring, and Rebecca Stanford spoke in favor of the Eldora Children’s Center, noting it is a much needed part of the community and without it the District would potentially lose several incoming students. They felt that the ECC Board needed more time to explore options of where they could relocate if the District were to use their current space as classrooms and not rent the space to them.

Discuss/ Action Approval of Architectural Contract with OPN to Complete ENP Elementary Addition & Renovation to Create Safe & Secure Campus

Dr. Zellmer stated six years ago Estes Construction performed a facility condition assessment with the guidance of several staff and community members, noting the #1 priority of the group was safety and security and #2 was quality educational learning environments. He explained the board had asked him to get a bid and contract from OPN to complete an elementary addition and renovation to create a safe and secure campus for all PK-5 students under one roof during the school day. Emily Herring read the statement Dr. Zellmer had presented to the board stating "By approving this you would be agreeing to moving forward with taking over the three classrooms and office currently rented by Eldora Children's Center and utilizing them for Art, Music, and Pre-School Classrooms at the end of the 2024-25 school year." She stated this was not communicated properly and if safety was #1 priority why was the sprinkler system and safe walkway not put in place and why did we remodel the Tiger PACK building and now not use it. It was noted that the Bond Issue not passing changed several plans for building usages. Mark Sparrow asked the group to work towards finding alternative solutions for the daycare. Several board members felt acting on this was not giving the Eldora Children's Center proper time to review their options and come up with a plan for a different space for the daycare to be located. Jared Cook stated the safety issue and connecting the buildings was not an option when the bond did not pass and apologized for any misinformation that had been presented. Marc Anderson noted everyone understands the importance of daycare but the elementary staff and board agree that the space is needed by the District. He questioned how long we should table the action, noting there will always be uneasiness. Nick LaVelle stated the meeting that afternoon with the ECC board was good conversation and we know it is tough to come up with a plan and he would like to table the action until the next board meeting to provide the ECC time to work on a plan. **Motion** by Nick LaVelle seconded by Emily Herring to table item 5.02 until the March 18th Eldora-New Providence School Board Meeting. He noted the board has extended a plan and it may or may not work for the ECC. Emily Herring noted moving the ECC is gaining the district 1 office space. Voting in favor: 6. Opposed: 1 (Marc Anderson). The motion carried.

AEA Advocacy & Services Explanation

Amy Starr, Regional Administrator for Central Rivers AEA, spoke to the boards on the new legislation that is being proposed to eliminate or reduce the AEAs. She informed them of the District's flow thru dollars to the AEAs and the difference in how much it would cost if we tried to provide those services on our own. Several AEA employees were on hand and thanked the boards for their support.

2024 Legislative Session Update & Implications

Dr. Zellmer noted that State Supplemental Aid had not been set by the legislators for next year, with the law requiring it to be set by the previous Friday. He is hoping that Operational Sharing will be extended from 21 – 29 and the current positions will go back to what their original weightings were.

Reports (ENP & HR)

ENP Elementary – Mrs. Albright stated FAST testing is complete and grades 1 and 2 have completed MAP testing for winter, with grades 3 – 5 testing in February. She noted PLCs are working on literacy curriculum, the elementary is focusing on empathy and kindness, World Read Aloud Day was February 7, professional development is doing a book study on school culture, special ed teams are focusing on providing students with severe social-emotional behavior instruction and alternative communication devices, and the elementary is implementing a security check-in system.

HR Elementary – Mr. Mangold was not in attendance.

SH Middle School – Mr. Henrichs noted they were having good student scores, the semester honor roll had 61% with a 3.0 or better, 7th grade Dare is being used, students of the month, and girls wrestling.

SH High School – Mr. Rundall stated the end of quarter grades will be coming out, parent teacher conferences are approaching, 129 students were on the A or B honor roll, Academic Decathlon is going to state, students of the quarter is going well, the new counselor is doing a great job for kids, and IJAG has had their first Class A CDL successful student.

Director of Teaching and Learning – Mrs. Walker noted she had accessed media services for ESL students at Hubbard-Radcliffe elementary, attended several meetings, and completed yearly training for assessment coordinators.

Superintendent – Dr. Zellmer stated his comments were in the board packet and he had updated them on the legislative changes coming.

ENP Business Items (ENP)

Discuss/Action Early Retirement Applications and Resignation Letters

Dr. Zellmer presented the board with 2 more early retirement applications from Dee Priske and Kristin Shindelar. He recommends approval and noted four of five certified staff eligible for early retirement this year took the package that was offered. **Motion** by Marc Anderson seconded by Nick LaVelle to approve the early retirement and resignations of Dee Priske and Kristin Shindelar. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Discuss/Action Approval to Solicit Bids for HS Classroom Furniture, HS Exterior Doors & Windows, HS Roof Repair, Band Room Flooring & Paint, HS Auditorium Curtain, HS Auditorium Stage Refinishing

Dr. Zellmer reminded the board that at the work session on January 29th it was requested this would be an action item to solicit bids for these projects for completion over the summer of 2024. **Motion** by Jay Stanish seconded by Marc Anderson to approve to solicit bids for high school classroom furniture, high school exterior doors and windows, high school roof repair, band room flooring and paint, high school auditorium curtain, and high school auditorium stage refinishing. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Discuss/Action Set Date & Time for the April Final Budget Hearing

Dr. Zellmer informed the board with spring break and new budgeting requirements we need to take official action and set the date and time of our April Final Budget Hearing now due to the publication requirements. **Motion** by Breanne Butler seconded by Nick LaVelle to set the date, location, and time for our Final Budget Hearing for Monday, April 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the ENP District Office. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

HR Business Items (HR)

Discuss/ Action Special Education Contract

Discuss/Action Purchase Hubbard Weight Room Equipment

Discuss/ Action Personnel Items to include, but not limited to:

Employment Resignation - SHMS Volleyball: Sarah Thompson

Employment Contracts - SHMS Girls Head Track: Bryce Roskens: SHMS Girls Track: Sadie Backoff; SHMS Boys Track: Richard Jeske

Common Business Items (ENP & HR)

Discuss/ Action 2023-24 Second Semester and Final WGS Proration

Dr. Zellmer informed the boards this is a bi-annual proration done each semester to help determine the billing between districts for shared students. He noted the percentages are within 1% every year and noted the special ed percentage of students is increasing in both districts. ENP SBO Cindy Bierle asked if the boards would consider charging each other on a per student ratio rather than listing all expenses for middle school and high school which is a very time-consuming job for both districts business officials. It was decided to bring a proposal to the boards for consideration. **Motion** by Emily Herring seconded by Jay Stanish to approve the Spring 2024 and Final Whole Grade Sharing Proration for 2023-24. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Discuss/ Action Set Dates & Times for Proposed Tax Notice Public Hearing

Dr. Zellmer noted we are now required to hold 2 public hearings on taxes. There will be a public tax notice sent to each property tax payer in the school district that will list the maximum City, County, and School Taxes that are projected to be levied for 2025. This hearing has to happen on or after March 25th and before the final budget hearing. **Motion** by Breanne Butler seconded by Nick LaVelle to set the proposed tax notice public hearing for Monday, March 25, 2024 at 11 am at the ENP District Office. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Discuss/ Action Hiring Shared Human Resources Manager

Dr. Zellmer informed the boards with the current demands on business managers and the importance of recruiting and retaining staff he is proposing to hire a shared human resources manager. The majority of other districts either share human resources or have a person that is devoted to just that and accounts payable in each of their districts. This is a shared position and would get operational sharing dollars for each district. **Motion** by Breanne Butler seconded by Emily Herring to approve the hiring of a shared human resource manager. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Discuss/ Action Modifications to 2023-24 School Calendar

Dr. Zellmer stated we are currently down to 12 hours banked above the 1080 required for student contact. He would like to recommend shifting the Professional Day scheduled for Tuesday, April 2nd to Monday, April 1st and then have school on Tuesday, April 2nd. This would still have students out on May 24th and certified staff done on May 30, 2024. **Motion** by Breanne Butler seconded by Jay Stanish to approve changing the 2023-24 School Calendar to make April 1st a PD Day and April 2nd a school day due to snow makeup days. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Discuss 2024-25 School Calendar

Dr. Zellmer provided the boards with a draft 2024-25 School Calendar but hopes the legislature will come through with new school start date options. No discussion was held and will be done at future district board meetings once more information is known.

Discuss Virtual Snow Days

Dr. Zellmer noted he had had questions about Virtual Snow Days and why we don't do them like BCLUW does. The state currently allows schools to count 5 virtual learning days as school count days. Mr. Rundall stated when we tried to do this during COVID there were several connectivity issues with students having no internet at home. It was noted the elementary prepared random packets not knowing when the snow days would be and the elementary computer repairs were large after having them at home. Mrs. Albright said she spoke with some teachers at BCLUW who stated the backup plan packets were not good and only about 20% of the students join in virtually. Dr. Zellmer questioned whether this is quality instruction.

Discuss NICL Gate Admission for 2024-25

Dr. Zellmer informed the boards the NICL Conference is discussing gate admission for 2024-25, noting we are currently at \$5 and have been for quite a while. The conference is currently looking at raising rates to \$6 or \$7 and possibly requiring cashless ticketing. Each school district gets one vote on these proposals and then will go with the majority of the conference wishes. It was decided to cast our vote for raising to \$7.

Discuss 2025-2030 Strategic Improvement Plan

Dr. Zellmer noted he would like to move forward with a new 5 year strategic improvement plan with the hope of developing it now and having it approved at the next joint board meeting in October. He noted there are outside groups that could help guide and lead the process for possibly \$5,000 to \$10,000. The boards instructed him to get price quotes for the process.

Set Date, Time, & Location of Next Regular & Joint Meetings

ENP: Monday, March 18, 2024 @ 7:00 PM E-NP District Office

HR: Monday, March 25, 2024 @ 6:30 PM at SHMS Success Room in Hubbard, IA

Joint Meeting: October 21, 2024 @ 6:30 PM at SHMS Success Room in Hubbard, IA

Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.