

BOE Meeting Highlights

Board of Education Meeting May 10, 2023

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.

Regular Meeting

Public Participation

- There were no public comments.

Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- The projected budget from the state looks to be good. It still needs to be passed but is higher on all plans with the allocation being different. There will be additional funding for mental health and at risk.
- He is cautiously optimistic for projected student numbers next year. The Junior Jets class might be small. The Great Start Readiness Program for 4 year olds has a large interest. These and the incoming students in kindergarten and 9th grade should exceed the outgoing seniors. The GSRP teacher posting will be going up.
- He recommends Steve Nordstrom as the business manager and teacher.
- Kari Kantola, Junior Jets teacher, turned in her resignation as she will be getting married and moving. This position will also be posted.
- The schedule was worked on at JHS and they do not expect to have to hire for next year.
- There is a John Deere tractor with a broken brush. He is looking into the costs of fixing or replacing it.
- Bargaining may have new things to be bargained into the contract in the future, such as teacher evaluations.
- This year might be the highest amount of scholarships the Foundation has provided.

Principal's Report-Kim Harris, South Range Elementary

- The flag pole should be able to be fixed soon now that the ground is without snow and drying up.
- They recently had ACES Day, All Children Exercising Simultaneously. Thank you to Angela Luskin at Portage Health for doing this. She said SRE is the only school that continues this every year.
- Thank you to Mrs. Schuett, 5th/6th science teacher, and Mr. Segula, 4th grade teacher, for teaching Human Growth and Development to the 5th and 6th grade.
- Art and Music Night will be next week.

- Camp Nesbit will be the following week. This will be Ms. Lehto's, 5th/6th math teacher, last year as Camp Director. Mrs. Irizarry, 1st grade teacher, is interested in taking it over.
- Picnic day will be June 7th at Twin Lakes. June 8th and 9th will be half days.
- MStep testing is underway. 5th grade is testing this week. The Third Grade retention law is in place this year but was repealed for following years. There was one student who will be getting a letter from the State.
- The GSRP class should have 16 students. Kari Kantola did a wonderful job with the Junior Jets and it will be hard to fill her shoes. Both of these will be posted as said.
- The Booster Club has gone up and beyond of spoiling the staff for Teacher Appreciation Week.

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

- Mr. Palosaari, science and social studies teacher, and Mrs. Pera, math and science teacher applied for a STEM grant from MDE to purchase growing stations that can produce lettuce in a short time period. It will be used for the lunch program, culinary programs, and to support STEM and science classes for 6th-8th grade.
- Mr. Palosaari and Mrs. Pera took kids to do a trash pick up.
- Mrs. Pera will be taking the 8th graders raking at local cemeteries. She also took the Quiz Team to the NMU Quiz Bowl tournament where they did well. It will be exciting to watch them progress over the next few years.
- Ms. Raether took the Travel Club to Minneapolis. It was a valuable experience for students.
- He anticipates the freshman class to be at 58-63 students including those from E.B. Holman.
- Class Day and Commencement is coming quick on Friday, May 26. Both will be in the new gym and streamed on the NFHS network.
- Exam week will be June 6th-9th with half days on June 7th, 8th, and 9th.
- He recommends Aaron Helminen for the head hockey coach position. He was the assistant and is highly recommended by past coach Pat Nettel.
- Spring sports are finally underway. Good to see softball back. Baseball is doing well. The track team is small but doing well.

Action Items

- The Board held a moment of silence for Robert Thompson, retired teacher, who recently passed.
- The Board thanked the Culinary Classes for providing bars and fruit and veggie pizzas.
- The Board discussed several action items.

Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary