

# BOE Meeting Highlights

Board of Education Meeting September 9, 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.

## Public Participation

- Morgan Raether, English teacher at JHS, asked the Board to allow teachers to make the choice to require masks in the classroom. She herself is immunocompromised and would feel safer if allowed to require them. Currently the Board's Return to Learn plan requires them in hallways and other common areas and recommends them in classrooms. Ms. Raether had asked her classes to wear them but ran into some opposition from some students. She was one of the teachers on the committee that worked on the plan but had assumed that teachers would be able to make the decision about their classrooms. An alternative would be for some students to do virtual from another room but Ms. Raether said that wouldn't work well for how she teaches her classes. Mr. Keteri shared that at any point students have the right to pull from a class and go to online learning and that some students would probably do that if masks were mandated, causing a different problem. The Board answered that this was a policy put into place last month with extra input and questions from parents but no teachers, and with it being only a couple of days into the year and following all of the State guidelines, the Board will keep the policy as is for now. Ms. Raether can work with Mr. Lishinski and Mr. Keteri for another solution.
- Pat Nettell, parent of JHS students, thanked the teachers and Board for making this year work. He believes that kids shouldn't wear masks for 8 hours.

## Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- Mr. Keteri thanked the Board for their kind thoughts and words at his sister's passing.
- The pool is ready to go pending an inspection by the Health Department which is difficult to get with everything they have going on currently.
- Enrollment for the district is slightly down this year. It is up at the high school and down at the elementary.
- The budget is hard to get a grasp of with all the extra mandates from the State. There were some safety nets in the budget and by November/December, they should have a good feel for where the budget is. The state aid will be a blend, 75% from last year's

student count and 25% from other sources. The district did receive a significant grant from the Portage Health Foundation that helped out a lot. The district will be able to get through the year without going into deficit spending but there will need to be readjustments.

- The district will have to make an Extended Learning Plan per the State that does monthly progress testing on students since we were out for so long.
- The first few days have been a learning curve. They've been constantly changing and adapting as things come up. The number one priority is to get kids all caught up and he knows the staff will do it well.

### **Principal's Report-Kim Harris, South Range Elementary**

- Kindergarten is up to 26 students. They were able to do a kindergarten orientation with staggered times and it went very well. Parents appreciated being able to do that before the start of the year. She thanked kindergarten teachers Mrs. Geshel and Ms. Myers for their work on it.
- The district had an inservice at the end of August, Capturing Kids' Hearts. Ask any staff member, it was very good. She is glad that the district decided to still do the training with everything else going on. Teachers are already implementing things that were learned. SRE staff had an inservice day after that.
- SRE currently has 16 students doing the school's virtual learning and 14 students that completely pulled to do their own homeschooling.
- Aliah Tadych is going to be the AmeriCorps worker this year. She will fit in perfectly.
- Bridget Kinnunen will be coming on for Special Education support.
- There has been a difference in the past few days with it being quieter at mornings and lunches to keep social distancing and cohorting, but has been going well overall.

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

- Mr. Lishinski agreed that the Capturing Kids' Heart training was very worthwhile. The JHS staff had their own inservice day that had some collaboration with different teams.
- The first two days went well. The staff is adjusting to the guidelines and students are doing a good job with the changes and he expects it to get better every day.
- The enrollment is at 268 students compared to 263 last year. There are currently 31 students doing virtual learning, which are counted in the enrollment.
- Ms. Paige Gwyn, art teacher, will be the new National Honor Society adviser.
- Dave Whittaker will be the new Junior High Boys Basketball Coach.

- Volleyball and Cross Country have begun their seasons. Junior High Girls Basketball and Football practice (co-op with Hancock) have started.
- He wanted to note that the district's staff is the best in the area and will do a great job for our kids.

**Action Items**

- The Board discussed several action items.

*Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary*