

# BOE Meeting Highlights

## Board of Education Meeting April 12, 2017

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.

Here are some highlights from the meeting held on April 12. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. in the Jeffers Media Center.

### Public Participation

- There were no public comments.

### Curriculum Committee Report-Eric Mattila

- The administration wanted the committee and Board to consider moving the 6<sup>th</sup> graders to Jeffers next year. SRE would be K-5 and JHS 6-12. The 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders would be separated as much as possible within the building to have more of a middle school curriculum and program. At the time, the committee suggests that the Board allows the idea to move forward with planning and communication with parents. There would be an open meeting for parents to voice questions and/or concerns. The driving force behind the idea is that the grade school is running out of space and time. The upper el class sizes are big enough they need to be split for core classes and this is cutting instructional time and it is hard to find equipped classrooms. It would allow for music and art to remain a K-12 program and also for middle schoolers to have student support time. Board members asked questions about bussing, which would remain the same. Board members would like the 6<sup>th</sup> grade experience to be as good or better at JHS than at SRE for making such a transition. The Board allowed the idea to be fully explored.

### Athletic Committee Report-Eric Mattila

- The athletic committee discussed reviving a Sports Booster Club. Fundraising isn't something the Board should be running, but a club.
- A checklist will be made for new coaches to sign with the rules and requirements that the district has so there isn't room for confusion.
- The aim of Junior High sports were discussed. They want it to be more on exposure than winning. Junior High should be a time for athletes to learn the game and develop rather than focusing on their winning record.

### Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- There are several staff members up for probationary status and tenure.
- Members from the ISD will be coming to speak to the Board about an area wide millage for CTE.
- The Junior High realignment was already discussed. For it to work they would need a new social studies teacher at JHS and a new part time teacher at SRE.

- The Area Wide School Boards Awards Dinner will be next Wednesday. Katri Rajala will be recognized as the Adams Township outstanding student, Diane Keranen as the Adams Township outstanding staff member and Ron and Sue Antila as community members.
- The seniors chose Mr. Ken Kangas, former teacher, as their commencement speaker.
- He would like the infrastructure committee to meet soon to budget for the next meeting. There are needs that will need to be met soon. The plow truck has maybe 1 more year. Floor scrubbers are needing to be replaced as well as lockers.
- A rundown of athletic expenditures will be ready next month.
- The budget is doing very well with 6% to the good. It is very exciting to be doing so well.
- He is still working out details with Bay Electric in regards to a control system for Jeffers.
- The Foundation will be meeting in two weeks. They have raised \$130,000 for the culinary program. It will be housed in the other half of the post office building. The greenhouse also received a \$12,000 donation to enhance it for a year round program. Mr. Sam Kilpela is very excited.
- Jon Kilpela's status was asked about. He was on a year sabbatical. Mr. Keteri does not expect him to be coming back.

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

- Kindergarten registration was today. There were 22 students who signed up. With the few retentions and the students that usually sign up over summer, it will need to be split into two classes.
- Nikki Lisihinski, third grade teacher, did a phenomenal job making a video highlighting everything that SRE does. She made it for the Area Wide School Boards Meeting held at Jeffers this year. It was much appreciated and she did a fantastic job. Mrs. Harris had it playing during Kindergarten registration for parents to see.
- MSTEP testing is coming up. 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be starting at the end of April and it will continue through May.
- People from the Health Department will be coming in to do a life skills class with 6<sup>th</sup> graders.
- The school is currently doing a book drive. Anyone can drop off books at the school. Before summer, students will be able to pick out books to read over break to beat the 'Summer Slide'.
- Teachers up for probationary status and tenure are Joann Feeley and Laura Larson for 4<sup>th</sup> year probationary status, Jessica Schuett for 3<sup>rd</sup> year probationary status, Jennifer Castellano for 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and Kellie Pitrone for tenure.

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

- Ms. Lucchesi, cosmetology teacher, recently visited the NMU cosmetology program to see how they could help.

- Mrs. Pera, math teacher, recently celebrated Pi Day with her 7<sup>th</sup> graders. MIStar is continuing. Mr. Lishinski recently watched a lesson they did involving generators and pendulums.
- Mr. Palosaari, science teacher, recently attended the Michigan Science Teacher Conference in Novi. He taught one of the breakout sessions which is always outstanding to have one of our teachers teaching other teachers. He will be taking students to the Lake Superior Youth Symposium held in Ashland, WI. This is funded by grants.
- Teachers up for probationary status and tenure are Morgan Raether and Chuck Palosaari for 4<sup>th</sup> year probationary status, Madeline Larson and Sam Kilpela for 3<sup>rd</sup> year probationary status, Rachel Torp for 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and Heather Brinegar for tenure.
- Testing is underway. Jeffers has SAT, ACT, Work Keys, PSAT, and MSTEP.
- As far as athletics, spring sports are underway. Jess Schuett is recommended as the junior high and high school track coach. Tyler Bailey is recommended as the golf coach.

**Action Items**

- The Board discussed several action items.

*Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary*