

BOE Meeting Highlights

Board of Education Meeting January 10, 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 January 10. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 6:30PM in the Jeffers media center.

Public Comments

- Jim Kurtti, the director of the Finnish American Heritage Center at Finlandia University presented about opportunities Jeffers students will be taking part in. A newspaper in Finland had reported that the most Finnish place in America is in Stanton. Adams Township has a good relationship working with the Heritage Center with projects such as 'Hei Suomi'. The Heritage Center recently received a \$300,000 grant to support ethnic identity through tradition and crafting folk pieces. Jeffers students will be participating in two large projects. They will be crafting a traditional Finnish boat with an instructor from Minnesota over the course of six weeks. This will begin in March. Another project that is getting the details worked on is building a traditional sauna building.
- Jen Laitala, parent, addressed the board about her daughter quitting basketball. She has heard there were rumors as there were problems with the coaching staff and she said this was not the case and she welcomed anyone who had questions to talk to her.
- Christina Verran, parent, addressed the Board regarding an ongoing issue her elementary daughter has with another girl in the class. She feels like the issues are escalating and causing problems for her daughter in other areas such as at home. She would like to sit down with Principal Harris, Superintendent Keteri and members of the Board to make a clear plan on what will be done.

Selection of Officers

- President
 - The only nominee was Steve Nicholas. He was voted as President unanimously.
- Vice President

- The only nominee was Darren Niemi. He was voted as Vice President unanimously.
- Treasurer
 - The only nominee was Justin Marier. He was voted as Treasurer unanimously.
- Secretary
 - The only nominee was Kristin Archambeau. She was voted as Secretary unanimously.

Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- There are NEOLA policy updates. They are all legal updates to follow with Michigan law including updates to criminal background checks, absence policy, and district email accounts.
- There are two new hires to be approved. Kelsa Dykehouse is recommended to fill the empty art position from Natalie Peterson leaving for a different opportunity. They interviewed three people and feel she was a great candidate. Emily Johnson is recommended for the new culinary position. She was a great fit for the part time position. The Foundation is excited for the opportunity for students. Donors will be covering anything the new culinary program needs.
- There is the empty administrative aide position still that he would like to be filled. It will be posted internally. It will be posted publicly by next month if it's not filled.
- The floor scrubbers at Jeffers and South Range are in need of replacement. They are over 20 years old and not cleaning well. Parts have been replaced over the years but it's time for new machines. The district can lease 2 machines for \$6,000 a year over 3 years. Different vendors were looked at and this was a great deal with Delco and also has services for it close by.
- The hockey team recently shoveled roofs. After doing so, some structural issues were found with the old gym. There are some twisting girders. The insurance company was called and it was looked at. There isn't a possibility of it caving in but it does need to be shored up.
- There was a valve leak in the fire system that needs to be fixed at a cost of around \$4,000.
- Bay Electric was looking at the air valves for the heating system. SRE could be put to electric valves to better control heat. It is an investment of \$2,400. JHS also has problems with controlling heat with their thermostats and heat pump.
- Traverse Engineering and UPEA will be putting together proposals for all infrastructure needs including the roofs, windows, and pool. There was discussion about what to have them include in the proposal. They will put together a proposal for everything and the Board can decide what items to

pursue.

South Range Elementary Principal Report-Kim Harris

- As an example of the SRE building needing infrastructure work, the roof was leaking that day with the recent warm up.
- She recommends the new art teacher, Kelsa Dykehouse. She was able to come to the schools this past week.
- She is happy to have Mrs. Mialy Geborkoff, second grade teacher, back from maternity leave. She acknowledged Mr. Josh Normand who was the long term substitute in second grade and is currently subbing in the art position. He has been a big help.
- Next Friday will be the end of the semester and a half day.
- The following Friday will be a half day inservice day for teachers.

Jeffers Principal and Athletic Director Report-Steve Lishinski

- The winter concert went well. Mrs. Raffaelli did a good job bringing it together during the busy holiday season.
- The High School Bowl team's competition will air on January 27th at 8PM and January 29th at noon.
- The semester ends on the 19th. Exams will be next week.
- The 26th will have a teacher inservice.
- He is happy to recommend the two new teachers. He was impressed by Kelsa Dykehouse and the high recommendations she had. Emily Johnson will be an amazing fit for the culinary program.
- On the 24th he will have an athletic conference meeting where he will be getting permission for Jeffers to start their own volleyball program. A projected cost is being worked on.

Action Items

- The Board discussed several action items.

Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary