

BOE Meeting Highlights

Virtual Board of Education Meeting April 8, 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.

Here are some highlights from the virtual meeting held on April 8. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. hopefully in the Jeffers Media Center.

Public Participation

- There were no public comments.

Project Manager's Report-Tim Sepanen

- Project is 99.9% complete. Gundlach pulled out of the site with their trailers. Cleaning has been completed. Locker rooms are complete. When the Stay Home Order is lifted they will be finishing up cleaning and sealing of the parking lot.
- The Fire Marshall came through and passed the building. Houghton County Bureau still has final inspections to do. They cannot until the Stay Home Order is lifted.
- At the next meeting they will have final numbers but as of now it is still under budget.
- He thanked the Board and administrators for everything. They have been very nice to work with. The Board thanked him for all of his work as the project went very smoothly.

Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- Lamers is requesting 80% payment during the shutdown to cover their overhead. Some other schools have agreed, other schools are discussing. If not paid, they could possibly pull out.
- The district is not saving money on food service with the amount of meals provided for free to students and the staff working it but it is a good thing to be doing.
- The district is saving some money on coaching, athletic spring sports costs, and electricity but it isn't a significant amount.
- The gym floors are getting quotes for being redone.
- The budget from the state for next year will be affected from state taxes this year.

- With the school cancellation being in place, the district has to have plans in place for online distance learning. Teachers and support staff have been phenomenal getting this ready. The teachers put a lot of work into helping students. He is extremely confident that the district is providing engagement and will get through the year. The office did a survey about family's availability to technology and the district will help families with what they need. Our district is ahead of many others in terms of being prepared for this. What the teachers got together in a week and a half is amazing. The teachers were providing links and activities before it was mandated. The support staff pulled together to get meals delivered to students right away. He is very impressed with how much the district staff has worked together.
- To keep paying the support staff, they are on a 3 day a week working schedule to maintain social distance. If they work three days, they get paid for 5. They can switch the days they work or take a PTO or sick day and still get paid for the 5. If they do not have either available and will not switch the day worked to another day, they will not be paid the extra 2 days.
- A graduation ceremony will happen when the Order is lifted. Scholarships will be handed out. The seniors were weeks away from being done. They've been working since kindergarten and are ready.
- The starting day for next year is up to districts, they can start before Labor Day. The year would still be the 180 days so he sees no point in starting before Labor Day to finish the year before June.

Principal's Report-Kim Harris, South Range Elementary

- Things are changing so frequently but the staff has a good handle on it. The staff has been phenomenal. Nikki Lishinski is great to have in her technology position to help get teachers and work organized for students. The teachers in grade levels have worked very well with each other.
- The support staff gathered all of the students' belongings and art work for parents to pick up this week and also put up hearts in the window for the students. With their belongings were packets with work for K-3. The staff will decide how often to distribute more packets. Grades 4-6 have online assignments. The school is being sensitive to families without access and is working with them to get them materials.
- Mrs. Larson, 3rd grade, had a student teacher, Natalie Anderson. Mrs. Larson had a Zoom meeting with her class as a farewell party for Mrs. Anderson and it was done very nicely. Mrs. Larson was a great supervising teacher.
- Some teachers are up to be approved for probationary and tenure status, all are highly recommended.

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

- Online distance learning will begin next week. Some districts have done little for this, the district is ahead of the curve and doing a very good job which is a direct result of the staff which has done a phenomenal job. He has shown the district's website to other schools as a model for what to do. Over the next few weeks there are sure to be holes, they will be found and fixed.
- State and national testing are canceled for the year. The SAT will be offered for free in October for this year's junior class.
- He recommends all teachers up for tenure and probationary status.
- The MHSAA canceled the remainder of winter sports and all spring sports. There can be no open gyms until the order is lifted. The building remains closed.
- Jeffers is officially a Class C school for sports. Divisions are determined on a sport-by-sport basis so some may stay the same and some will change.
- He received resignations from Trent Keteri, Varsity Boys Basketball Coach, and John Schutz, Junior High Boys Basketball Coach.

Action Items

The Board discussed several action items.

Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary