

BOE Meeting Highlights

Virtual Board of Education Meeting June 11, 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.

Budget Meeting

- The 2019-2020 Final Budget and the 2020-2021 Budgets were presented. The 2020-21 budget was prepared assuming a \$700 per pupil cut with four positions eliminated. Fund equity would go from about \$300,000 this year to around \$15,000 at the end of next year. There will have to be more decisions about cuts to be made. The situation the district is in, like all other districts now, is not a result of the districts decisions or mismanagement but from Covid which is frustrating.

Regular Meeting

Public Participation

- Laura Larson, 3rd grade teacher and parent, thanked Mr. Lishinski, Mrs. Lishinski, and Mr. Keteri for all their work on Class Day and Graduation. Her first son was graduating and it ended up being a positive experience. The Class Day video was a fun thing for the kids to watch and Graduation went well and had a great sound system.

Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- He has heard from several parents in the community about how the start of next year is on their minds already. Many stated they do not want to see their children going to school with face masks or 6 feet social distancing or virtual learning. The teaching staff did a great job of virtual learning this past quarter but it can't replace in school learning for long stretches of time and he doesn't want the district to go there if they don't have to. There is going to be a State Committee meeting about what schools will do. The Board will probably have to make a decision next month based on what the state recommends and mandates. Mandates are tied to school funding. If there are mandates about masks, distancing, or virtual learning, the district will survey parents. Whatever the Board decides is the policy that the schools enforce.
- Looking at next year's budget, there is a recommendation of layoff notices to seven employees to save \$100,000. It is a hard decision to make as the district already runs on a small staff. Jeffers is a Class C school because of an increasing student population. The

teaching staff can't be cut farther as there are already some larger class sizes. The district has attracted more students by offering art, music, culinary, trades, and technology so while those extra things could be cut, the district wouldn't want to. Cuts have to be made where they can. If the budget gets better, there will be call backs for some positions based on recommendations of the principals.

Principal's Report-Kim Harris, South Range Elementary

- The last packet pick up was on Wednesday and was attended by the staff to wave goodbye to students and was a nice way to have closure for the year.
- Participation and effort in virtual learning was good. A big thanks goes to the staff for their effort. She estimates the upper el participation was around 90% and the lower el was similar.
- The Kindergarten registration number is in the mid-20s which is usual, but still let anyone with an upcoming student know.
- She has been talking with Miss Nordstrom, Title I teacher, about summer school being possible at the end of July. They are still working on a plan.
- The 6th graders did a lot of fundraising for Camp Nesbit that they didn't get to go to. She and Ms. Lehto, 6th grade teacher, have been looking at doing a fun day at the Tech Rope course with them sometime this summer or something similar.

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

- Virtual learning went as well as possible. It is a testament to the phenomenal teaching staff.
- Virtual Class Day and Commencement went well. Thanks to the Adams Township Fire Department for helping with traffic flow. This was a great group of seniors which helped this year with what it was be a great year. The seniors really influence the culture in the building.
- Various teachers will be participating in professional development this summer. Mr. Palosaari and Mrs. Pera will be facilitating virtual professional development for local teachers. Mrs. Pera's research was published in the Michigan Science Teachers newsletter.
- Mr. Koeler, resource room teacher, has resigned to move to Wisconsin. He did a phenomenal job.
- The MHSAA opened up buildings to groups of up to 50. JHS opened the weight room. The gym floors still need to dry before being used.

Action Items

- The Board discussed several action items.

Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary