

Minutes for February 5, 2020 School Board Work Session Holdingford Public School

Chair Ben Christensen called the Work Session of the School Board of Independent School District #738 to order at 6:05 PM in the Board Room.

Members present: Evelyn Martini, Ed Feia, Ben Christensen, Elissa Ebnet, Pat Meier, Lori Opatz, and Rob Knettel
Member absent: None

Also attending was Superintendent Chris Swenson.

MSBA Conference Recap: Each member that attended reported on their experiences, summarized the sessions they attended and shared the learned information. Some of the highlights included The Poverty Simulation Experience, The Bertha-Hewitt Entrepreneur Program, 20th Century Administrators, Portrait of a Graduate Showcase, Policies, eLearning, and Featured Speaker Alan November's message Talk Less, Listen More: Technology and the Future of Education.

Building Update: Mr. Swenson reported on building progress and informed the Board that the existing cobble stone is a double layer in the front entrance area and due to the review and comment taking longer than anticipated, and now dealing with frozen ground progress is slowing down. They also discussed Track reconstruction. A soil test will be done to help determine the needs. They will be working on collecting data to come up with a plan to get it redone. Facility meeting will be scheduled early spring to determine wants & needs.

Board Committee Reports: Christensen reported on Com. Ed. participation, spring classes, the Husker clothing fundraiser raised funds to purchase equipment for tumbling classes and Com. Ed. Summer Rec. funding was decreased by \$1000 from the city of Holdingford with no notice given to Com. Ed. Mr. Swenson added that there was a question on preschool screening waiting list and a screening date has been added.

Flexible Learning Days: Mr. Swenson reported staff surveys supported the use of flexible learning days. There will be a notice sent to parents in fall making them aware of this and staff will be allotted time during fall in-service to create plans for the 2020-2021 school year. Districts can use up to 5 flexible days to replace snow days.

Leave of Absence request discussion, a veteran teacher has requested a three-year leave and this will likely be approved at the Feb. Board meeting. A newer teacher has requested a one-year leave. The Board will go with what legal counsel's interpretation of the statute is.

Superintendent Mid Year Review: Mr. Swenson updated the Board on the progress of his goals.

1. Flexible Learning Days – Mr. Swenson has done a survey and the plan is to move forward with the planning process to introduce for next school year.

2. Portrait of a Graduate – Mr. Swenson has looked into using MREA to have trainers trained at an estimated cost of \$3000 for the team of trainers then they bring the information back to use with district groups to create the District Portrait of a Graduate. The other option would be for Mr. Swenson

and the Board to facilitate the process.

3. Book Club - The book is “Deep Learning” Administrators are taking part and a few other staff members. The book is a lot of philosophical learning methods.

Board Goal Review

1. Visibility – The Board members attend District events wearing shirts that identify them as Board members. The new members are asked to get the shirts to match the veteran members.

2. Training encourage continued training – All the new Board members attended the MSBA conference taking in Phase I & II trainings and the majority of the Board attended two days of MSBA seminars and workshops. They encourage continuous training for the entire Board.

3. Maintain Fund Balance – Now that the District has established a comfortable fund balance the Board would like to start setting aside project reserves in addition to the ten-year plan during budget development. This year \$25,000 for desks and \$25,000 for lockers has been reserved.

4. Portrait of a Graduate – The Board has made the decision to utilize MREA to develop a Portrait of a Graduate for the District.

Movie, Most Likely to Succeed Discussion Tabled until March work session

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING MEETINGS

POC meeting Feb. 12th 8 AM boardroom

Meet & Confer Feb. 19th 3:15 PM board room

Regular Board Meeting Feb. 19th 6 PM LMC

Stearns Co Joint Powers Collaborative meeting Feb. 26 2 PM

Work Session March 4th 6 PM boardroom

The agenda was completed at 8:00 PM with a motion to adjourn by Feia, second by Martini.

Motion carried. AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by
Evelyn Martini, Clerk