

Minutes for March 4, 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 6:00 PM in the Board Room.

Members present: Evelyn Martini, Ben Christensen, Elissa Ebnet, Pat Meier, Lori Opatz, and Rob Knettel.

Member absent: Ed Feia

Also attending was Superintendent Chris Swenson, and Business Manager Beth Heinze. Sec Principal Angela Safran and Shauna Seaman Business Teacher arrived at 6:20 PM.

Building Update: Mr. Swenson reported the shell is up for the Elementary classroom addition and the roof is being finished. Plumbing will start going in next week. The footings are done and some steel is up on the High School commons/front entrance addition. He will be meeting with the Principals to finalize the new classroom assignments. Mr. Swenson informed the Board that with the construction the City Parade will have to form at Elem. end. He updated the board on the Head Custodial position, which is posted, this person requires a 1st Class Boilers License. The deadline to receive applicants is Monday March 9th. Mr. Swenson has spoken with retired custodian Bob Dombrowski who has agreed to help during the lapse of a Head Custodian and with the transition. He explained the history of how and why the Building and Grounds Supervisor changed to a Head Custodian and then the supervising duties fell onto him.

AD Jason Bruns joined the meeting to report on two-sport athlete participation. He gave the board some background on two sport athletes, this mainly happens in the spring with baseball, softball and track. It has been happening for many years but some coaches would like the athletes to pick a sport and not be in two sports at the same time. Mr. Bruns is going to put together a contract for athletes who want to be in two sports during the same season, he will meet with them and their parents so that everyone is aware of the rules going into the arrangement. The Board agreed that there will be some struggles with missing practices but this can be worked out to encourage participation rather than denying the opportunities.

Mr. Bruns also presented forming a Cross Country Co-op with Upsala. This would benefit both schools to reach the required number of athletes for a Girls and Boys full squad.

Shauna Seaman presented a proposal to start a DECA (Business and Marketing) Organization for students. She would be the Advisor and would like to start it for the 2020-2021 school year. The organization does provide many opportunities for students interested in the Business field to compete and advance to regional and state competitions. This is another avenue to prepare students for life after high school. She shared a video clip showing insights of the organization. This would add an advisorship position to the Master Agreement. With Board approval the District will work with Education Holdingford to place the advisorship on the schedule.

Lance Feia presented the proposal for the audio expansion for the Theater. He reported the Audio upgrades are complete in the High School Gym & Pool. The Theatre will get an extension of the same Digital Sound Processing System. FAN Club is also contributing to the theater project. Lights are not a

part of this project. The Board requested a tour after the project is complete.

Board Committee Reports:

Lori Opatz summarized the Continuing Ed. Meeting that she attended on 2/19/2020.

Ms. Latterell and Ms. Dorniden chair the committee they oversee and monitor to make sure teachers are getting the continuing ed. credits that are required

Lori Opatz gave an overview of the Stearns County Family Services Collaborative meeting that she attended on 2/26/2020. A number of schools are part of the collaborative. It provides grant money to cover Mental Health needs in the member schools. It has provided funding for a Chemical Dependency Counselor that would come out and meet with kids. Currently that position is not filled.

The Board viewed the Movie, Most Likely to Succeed at a previous work session. Mr. Swenson asked the board members to brainstorm and write down things from the movie that they agreed with, things they disagreed with and questions they have.

Things the Board members agreed with were the joys the students receive from seeing project outcomes, teamwork, students will likely remember what they are learning for years to come unlike memorizing for a test, networking, collaboration, co-teaching, teaching to students interests, spending more time in subjects they enjoy and may use in life, and the joy the students get from their accomplishments.

Things the Board members disagreed with were the probability that the movie was staged, hard to believe it could run that smoothly and that all students are completely engaged, the lack of structure, unorganized, and a big change from traditional teaching.

The questions the Board members perceive are how do you grade? college acceptance? make-up of the day? How are standards covered in the project? How do you get staff on board? How do you measure success? How will state react? Funding? Structure? Could you implement bits and pieces?

Ms. Safran shared her concerns about the current models of teaching. She feels students are lacking in communication skills, collaboration, creativity, problem solving, and critical thinking. Mr. Swenson agrees that the six C's of Education (Communication, Character, Citizenship, Collaboration, Creativity & Critical Thinking) are skills that students need to learn to be successful in life and outcome based education is something we can do more of. The first step for the District will be to develop the Portrait of a Graduate this will capture the desired competencies to develop all students to become life-long learners and contributors in the community, nation and world.

Lastly Mr. Swenson updated the Board on what the school is doing to prepare for the upcoming health event (coronavirus). The school has participated in a statewide conference call last week and will continue to participate in all pertinent meetings and implement all recommendations from the MDH and MDE and Center for Disease Control.

The agenda was completed at 7:51 PM with a motion to adjourn by Martini, second by Opatz. Motion carried. AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by
Evelyn Martini, Clerk