

Minutes for April 7, 2021
School Board Work Session
Holdingford Public School

Chair Christensen called the Work Session of the School Board of Independent School District #738 to order at 6:00 PM in the High School meeting room using social distancing.

Members present: Evelyn Martini, Elissa Ebnet, Ben Christensen, Lori Opatz, Robert Knettel, and Pat Meier. Member absent: None.

Also attending was Superintendent Chris Swenson, Business Manager Beth Heinze, Secondary Principal Angela Safran, Elementary Principal Jim Stang, Luke Selken with ICS, Adm. Assistant Linda Zapzalka, Russ Wolter and Gavin Moen.

Student Gavin Moen presented Holdingford Hat Clause By Students for Students. He informed the Board of the Petition, which included 251 student signatures. Mr. Moen explained the pros and cons and a sample policy from a nearby school. He then entertained questions from the Board. Ms. Safran reported she has surveyed the staff and the majority is not in favor of changing the hat policy. She also reported area schools are about 50- 50 on allowing or not allowing hats. The Administration and Board thanked Mr. Moen for doing a great job presenting.

Mr. Selken summarized the Main Track Renovation Bid. The Bid from Duininck, Inc came in at \$670,878, which is below the budgeted amount. That allows Alternate No. 1 to replace high jump area at \$87,606 to be included. The Board gave the verbal approval to move forward with Base Bid & Alternate #1. Mr. Selken then updated the Board on the Science Lab Project. The project is more in depth than originally thought therefore the timeline for design, state approval, bid and project work is going to take longer than anticipated making it difficult to get favorable bids, materials here and the work done for the start of school in the fall. Mr. Selken recommends starting the design and getting bids out fall/winter of 2022 when contractors are looking for work and having the project completed during summer 2022. The consensus of the Board is to put the project on hold. They agree the Science Lab is a high priority item and want to make sure it is done correctly. The Board requested the funds for this project be set-aside solely for the Science Lab.

Mr. Swenson reported on other projects to be completed this summer. Those items include three classroom ceilings, grass seeding, some sidewalks, some tuck-point work, and door replacements. He added that the high school gymnasium work will be put on hold until the floor is replaced.

Ms. Heinze summarized the Long Term Facility Maintenance Plan Budget for FY21 and the FY22 projected budget, which includes the Track Renovation Project. Mr. Swenson added the Transformer replacement is a high priority item. The plan is to partner with Xcel Energy on this project with an estimated cost to the District of \$150,000.

Mr. Swenson updated the Board on COVID numbers. The District prior to Spring break had some cases and several students in quarantine. Most students are now back in school. He answered questions on contact tracing, seating charts, and quarantine guidelines. Mr. Stang added that we are trying to do what works best to get through the school year. The administration agrees that there is frustration for parents, staff and students getting through this pandemic.

Discussion ensued on budget assumptions for the next school year which will include: Four sections for sixth grade, revised media center staffing, curriculum needs, second grade classroom furniture, 2-3 secondary classroom furniture replacements, and maintain the four specialist rotation in the elementary.

Conversation ensued on distance/online/in-person learning options

Mr. Christensen reminded the Board the April 21st School Board meeting will be at 7:00 PM due to the Senior Scholarship Awards Ceremony.

The agenda was completed at 7:40 PM with a motion to adjourn by Knettel, second by Opatz. Motion carried. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by
Patrick Meier, Clerk