

Minutes for ISD #738 Holdingford Public School
April 9, 2025 School Board Work Session

Chair Opatz 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.

Members present: Evelyn Martini, Ben Christensen, Nicole Burg, Lori Opatz, Ed Feia, and Pat Meier. Absent: Rob Knettel

Also attending was Superintendent Chris Swenson, Elementary Sub Principal Tim Wege, Business Manager Garrity Gerber and Administrative Assistant Linda Zapzalka. Secondary Principal Tom Cooper, arrived at 6:35 PM.

Mr. Gerber presented an updated budget for next school year based on what we know right now. He explained that with the projected unassigned deficit some alterations have to be made. An itemized list of changes were reviewed including an increase in participation fees and gate fees to increase revenue and proposed cuts in custodial supplies, extra/co-curricular supplies, eliminate the SRO position, reduction in district office time, eliminate LMC para position, reducing one elementary teacher position, and reducing one secondary SPED teacher position.

Mr. Swenson explained that with the resignations and shifting of some staff members we are looking at Kindergarten being reduced to three sections due to the lower number of students enrolled.

Mr. Gerber then explained his timeline for budget adoption and informed the Board that he presented to staff to keep them informed through the budgeting process.

Next Mr. Swenson presented and explained the new onboarding and offboarding processes that have been implemented falling in line with one of his goals for this school year. A discussion ensued on the exit interview process which is part of the offboarding of employees.

Board Chair Opatz spoke briefly on the annual superintendent evaluation process.

The meeting continued with Mr. Swenson reviewing the policy revisions recommended by MSBA on policies 512 School-Sponsored Student Publications and Activities, 513 Student Promotion, Retention, and Program Design, 515 Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records, 516 Student Medication And Telehealth, 521 Student Disability Nondiscrimination, 532 Use of Peace Officers & Crisis Teams To Remove Students With IEPs From School Grounds, 535 Service Animals in Schools.

Next Board meeting is Tuesday April 15th.

The agenda was completed at 6:45 PM with a motion to adjourn by Christensen and a second by Feia. Motion carried. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by
Pat Meier, Clerk