

Minutes for February 5, 2025
School Board Work Session
Holdingford Public School

Chair Opatz called the Work Session of the School Board of Independent School District #738 to order at 5:00 PM in the High School meeting room.

Members present: Evelyn Martini, Ben Christensen, Nicole Burg, Lori Opatz, Ed Feia, Rob Knettel and Pat Meier. Absent: None.

Also attending was Superintendent Chris Swenson, Secondary Principal Tom Cooper, Business Manager Garrity Gerber and Administrative Assistant Linda Zapzalka.

Present via Zoom: MSBA Director of Strategic Planning & Board Leadership Gail Gilman. Tom Cooper and Garrity Gerber were excused at 5:45 PM.

Ms. Gilman led the group through a review of the Strategic Plan process. She presented the DRAFT Plan. The group was in consensus that the Core Values, the Belief Statements and the Vision as presented represent the Stakeholder Committee, Board and Administrators guidance and direction.

Three Mission Statement options were presented. Discussion took place and the consensus of the group is option 3. *“Our mission is to provide a safe and respectful environment that inspires learning, nurtures potential, and builds strong character for future success”*.

Ms. Gilman went through each of the Strategic Plan Focus Areas: Student Achievement / Student Support, Staff Support, Community Engagement, and Finance / Facilities. There are a total of ten Goals, five under Student Achievement / Student Support, two under Staff Support, one under Community Engagement and two under Finance / Facilities. Under each Goal there are multiple Objectives to accomplish the Goal.

Mr. Swenson explained how the objectives fit with the District Mission and meet the Focus Areas that the stakeholder group conveyed throughout the planning meetings.

Ms. Gilman recommended an annual review of the Strategic Plan to determine what has been accomplished, being aware of the dates and making adjustments if necessary. The Board will adopt the Strategic Plan at the February 19, 2025 Regular Board meeting.

The meeting continued with Ms. Gilman walked the Board through the Stages of Board Development. She presented the Board Governance Model, the Standards of Board Leadership and the summary of the Board Self-Evaluation. Ms. Gilman pointed out the areas that the Board is doing great on and the areas that need improvement. She recommends they complete a self evaluation annually or at least every two years and added that MSBA has a Board Handbook that is a great resource tool.

Mr. Gilman congratulated the Board and said they should be very proud of the fabulous job they are already doing governing the District! She said they were great to work with and wished them well leading the District with the new Strategic Plan in place that was created in cooperation with the Community Stakeholders group.

Board Chair Opatz complimented and thanked Ms. Gilman for her Leadership through the Strategic Planning process and Ms. Gilman signed off.

A brief discussion took place on current Superintendent goals and Superintendent Evaluation process moving forward and topics for future Board Work Sessions.

-March Work Session topic will be Budget Scenarios

-April Work Session topic will be On Boarding and Off Board Procedures

-June Work Session topic will be Superintendent Evaluation

Meeting Adjourn at 7:25 PM.