

Minutes for May 5, 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 Knett, and Pat Meier. Member absent: Russ Wolter. Mr. Wolter arrived at 6:05 PM.

Also attending was Superintendent Chris Swenson, Business Manager Beth Heinze, Secondary Principal Angela Safran, Elementary Principal Jim Stang, Activities Director Jason Bruns, and Adm. Assistant Linda Zapzalka.

Follow-up discussion on the Student Hat Proposal took place. Mr. Bruns inquired on the reason for the no hat policy. Ms. Safran reiterated that the majority of the teachers are not in favor of allowing hats, they feel it is a respect issue. Pros and cons were discussed. Each board member and administrator gave their input the consensus of the Board was to give it a try in the fall allowing students to wear hats with the emphasis that individual teachers can choose to not allow hats in their classroom. The Board requested a draft of the language revision for the Student Handbook update. Ms. Safran and Mr. Bruns will come up with a draft for the May Board meeting.

Mr. Swenson reported the track renovation project, rain gutters and cement apron for the bus barn, sidewalks, tuck-pointing, grass seeding, and potholes are all projects being done this summer. Mr. Swenson also has ICS taking a look at upgrading the High School ventilation systems to determine and estimated cost.

Mr. Swenson updated the Board on COVID numbers. Currently there are a few COVID cases and a few students/staff in quarantine. He also informed the Board that the Governor would be announcing the removal of restrictions plan tomorrow.

Mr. Christensen reported on the Early Childhood Advisory meeting, they will be adding storage, sandbox, and a balance beam to the preschool playground area this summer, and preschool graduation will be held in person using social distancing guidelines. He also gave preliminary preschool enrollment numbers for FY22. Mr. Stang added there will be a preschool parent survey going and work is being done on community outreach events.

Ms. Ebnet reported on the Finance Committee meeting, they reviewed FY21 budget revisions, COVID revenue and expenses, ECFE/ECSE/Com Ed revenue loss due to COVID restrictions, and FY22 budget assumptions. Mr. Christensen added other items discussed were staffing, capital requests, lawn tractor purchase and door replacements.

Ms. Opatz inquired on applications for current open teaching positions. Mr. Stang said for the Elementary he has a nice pool of candidates. Ms. Safran is hoping to get more applicants before the deadline for Secondary positions.

Ms. Opatz reported on the Continuing Ed. Committee meeting, with the current Advisors retiring, they have a new team in place for next year and leading them will be Amanda McDonough. They also reviewed the criteria for earning credits.

Mr. Knett requested to review Policy 808 COVID-19 Face Covering Policy. Conversation ensued on the face covering policy and it was decided to have it an agenda item for the June Work Session.

Ms. Opatz asked about Graduation plans. Ms. Safran explained the current plan is to hold Graduation June 4th outside with 4 guests per graduate unless bad weather then it will be moved inside allowing only 2 guests. She added with things being as fluent as they are, plans could change but the date will remain June

4, 2021. Mr. Knette asked about Sixth Grade Graduation, Mr. Stang reported it would be held in person outside with families on June 2nd at 9:00 AM unless something unforeseen occurs.

The agenda was completed at 7:27 PM with a motion to adjourn by Wolter, second by Opatz. Motion carried. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by
Patrick Meier, Clerk