

Minutes for May 1, 2024  
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 6:00 PM in the High School meeting room.

Members present: Evelyn Martini, Nicole Burg, Lori Opatz, Rob Knettel and Pat Meier.

Absent: Ed Feia & Elissa Ebnet.

Also attending was Superintendent Chris Swenson, Business Manager Garrity Gerber, Secondary Principal Kevin Beehler, and Elementary Principal Jim Stang.

Mr. Beehler presented the proposal to move to a Personal Electronic Device-Free Plan During the School Day for grades 7-12. He shared a sample notification letter to parents and a draft of the Cell Phone Policy. Mr. Beehler explained the reasons for the changes and the impact cell phones have on students in the classroom. The consensus of the Board is to move forward with the plan to have no personal electronic devices during class time.

Mr. Gerber presented three budget options A, B and C with two variations in B and C for the 2024-2025 school year. Option A is doing everything on the wish list. Leaving a very tight budget for unforeseen expenses while keeping the fund balance within the policy limit. Option B is a pared down version of option A that preserves a healthy capital budget for unforeseen expenses while keeping the fund balance within the policy limit.

Option C falls in between option A and B adding back in some classroom furniture replacement and still conserving a nice cushion for unforeseen expenses while keeping the fund balance within the policy limit.

Superintendent Swenson favors option C.1 which allows for a larger operation capital fund balance for unexpected expenses. The consensus of the Board is option C.1 as well. The final projected budget will be approved at an upcoming Board meeting.

The Food Service Freezer Project was canceled last summer due to the estimated cost being over budget. The need for the freezer storage space still exists. Mr. Gerber presented a revised freezer project plan that consists of a one piece exterior freezer unit that will sit on a concrete slab in place of the existing Food Service shed. The majority of the expense will be covered by Food Service fund balance dollars and it will provide 30% more freezer space. Mr. Gerber explained Food Service Director Jan Notch has a few more modifications to relocate some existing equipment to increase storage and help the Food Service area run more efficiently. The consensus of the Board is to move forward with this Freezer project.

Mr. Gerber also updated the Board on the Greenhouse project. He has run into some obstacles and is communicating with the FFA Alumni and Mr. Roberts to find solutions. He anticipates the new greenhouse will happen with some changes to meet the building codes.

The agenda was completed at 7:04 PM with a motion to adjourn by Martini, and a second by Knettel. Motion carried. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Pat Meier, Clerk