

ISD #738
Work Session Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2019

Present: Ed Feia, Dale Streit, Pat Meier, Ben Christensen, Evelyn Martini, Mike Higgins, Secondary Principal Angela Safran and Superintendent arrived at 6:45 PM.

Absent: Russ Wolter

Meeting called to order in the High School Board Room at 5:58 p.m. by Chair Christensen.

Deputy Schultz shared information on Vaping, Jeweling, ECIGS, Marijuana wax and issues related to all of these. The Board would like to review other local District protocols and policies relating to nicotine possession and use at school. Ms. Safran and Deputy Schultz will research and present at the Feb. 20th Board meeting. Implementing a Zero Tolerance Policy was discussed. Deputy Schultz also reported that he has been getting into classrooms and creating a good rapport with the students.

Recap on MSBA Convention:

Meier attended the Bargaining Basics and learned about a statute that pertains to seniority verses education credits for teachers. This was passed in 2017 and is an option in statute.

Feia, Martini and Christensen attended a round table on School Counselors and found out the demand is increasing tremendously.

Streit attended a seminar on Blowing the Whistle on Coaches he found the session interesting, they recommend simply not renewing coaching contracts if there are concerns, however their solutions didn't address the Coaching shortages in schools our size.

Meier reported on First Amendment Rights session he attended which laid out a lot of gray areas. The one constant is if the action is disruptive it is not acceptable.

Board Committee Reports:

Christensen reported on the 1/9/2019 ECFE Advisory Committee meeting. They discussed Preschool Screening, School Readiness forms, conditions, priority rankings, 4's handbook, motor room update, building project update, new ECFE playground, and spring field trips.

Superintendent Swenson reported on the 1/15/2019 Stearns County Collaborative Committee meeting. Collaborative money is used to cover the cost of a Counselor through Catholic Charities, this has been a revolving door and he would like to pursue a more consistent option.

Christensen reported on the 1/15/2019 Community Education Advisory Council meeting. They reviewed participant numbers, winter classes, and ideas for spring classes. Streit talked about a possible parent informational session for social media and gaming education. Angela thought Jill Schmitt might be a good resource.

Superintendent Swenson updated the board on the POC meeting held 1/24/2019. He is looking at setting a night for a community meeting to share some designs and options. He is assembling a design committee of community members to make recommendations to the Board. Cost estimates will be coming and parking lot plans. Roof details are being finalized. There will be another POC meeting Feb. 7th with revised drawings and updated plans.

Discussion on School Make-Up days took place. The recommendation is to forgive one student day and make up the second student day on February 18th following the snow make-up schedule on the school calendar. Teachers will make up the second snow day on a day yet to be determined.

Review of Superintendent Goals

Goal 1 - More involved at the state level. Superintendent Swenson is taking more leadership roles when at the state legislature. He spent the day at the Capital today (2/6/19).

Goal 2 - Book Study. Superintendent Swenson is working to develop the Book Study group.

Goal 3 - Apprentice Program. Superintendent Swenson is working with Secondary Principal Safran to implement the Apprentice Program starting with a few students for the next school year.

Review of Board Goals

Goal 1 - Grow Fund Balance to 10%. The fiscal year 2018 audit showed a 12% fund balance. The Board will work to maintain the fund balance moving forward. The Board will look at revising this goal for the next school year.

Goal 2 - To pass the Referendum. The Board will now oversee the referendum building and remodeling projects. The Project Oversight Committee will meet every two weeks working to stay on schedule to have all projects completed by the fall of 2020.

Committee assignments were discussed and will be approved at the Feb. 20th School Board meeting.

The next work session will be Wednesday, March 6th 2019 at 6:00 PM in the Boardroom

Mr. Christensen entertained a motion to adjourn at 7:37 PM. Motion by Higgins, second by Meier. Motion carried. All In Favor.

Respectfully Submitted by
Clerk, Dale Streit