

August 17, 2020

The North Mahaska Board of Education met in regular session on August 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the elementary library New Sharon, Iowa. Those members present: Dirk Wilkin, Arvin DeBoef, Margaret Ratcliff, and Michelle Sampson. Also present: Angela Livezey, Amber Goemaat, Renee Ferguson, Jamie Nelson, Rachel Martin, Jess Jones, Jennifer Swanson, Sarah McGriff.

Dirk Wilkin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by DeBoef to approve the agenda with the addition of appointing Sarah McGriff as School Board Secretary and School Business Official and the addition of designating a policy regarding extracurricular activities for remote/online learners. Motion carried.

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Sampson to appoint Sarah McGriff as School Board Secretary and School Business Official. Motion carried. Dirk Wilkin administered the oath of office to McGriff.

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Ratliff to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

There was no written communication or public forum.

DESIGN CONSTRUCTION INTEGRATION GROUP – UPDATE

A written update was submitted by DCI.

Fitness/Wrestling Addition:

Footings and foundation walls are complete. They continue work on the electrical underground, masonry and foundations wall in preparation of slab pour, and installing rock subbase for slab pour. The slab is to be placed in three pours in September.

Connector Link:

Excavation work is complete. They are resolving modifications to footing/foundations and power conduit based on existing underground utilities.

Elementary addition:

Concrete footings/foundation and building slab have been completed. Masonry block walls are being installed along with MEP in wall rough-in as required.

Site work:

Retaining wall work is scheduled for mid-September. They will be coordinating the work with the New Sharon Childcare and Preschool to best minimize disruptions. The gas line utility has been rerouted but needs final connections. Also, power utility is still being worked on. The reroute plan for that has changed a few times due to requirements by Mid-American and the overall best interest of the project.

Michelle Sampson asked about releasing students on a staggered schedule to help with the traffic flow. Mrs. Livezey noted that this could be problematic with student's hourly instructional requirements. Because morning hall duty is not necessary, increased staff presence will be used at the end of day in the parking lot.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE RESIGNATION

ROSS TERPSTRA

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Sampson to accept the resignation of Ross Terpstra as the Jr. High Baseball Coach effective August 17, 2020. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF STAFF

APPROVE PAY FOR LINDY WRIGHT - ADDITIONAL EDUCATION COMPLETED

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Ratliff to approve a \$2/hour raise for Lindy Wright as para educator. Motion carried.

APPROVE PAY FOR TANYA ADKINS - PARA CERTIFICATION

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Sampson to approve a raise for Tanya Adkins from \$12.91/hr to \$14.68/hr as para educator. Motion carried.

APPROVE PAY FOR WHITNEY BUNN - PARA CERTIFICATION

A motion was made by Sampson and seconded by DeBoef to approve a \$2/hr raise for Whitney Bunn from as para educator. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF STIPEND FOR IDENTIFIED SUPPORT STAFF FOR WORK DURING CLOSURE

Tabled.

APPROVE SENIOR YEAR PLUS PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Sampson to approve the proposed senior year plus proficiency requirements. Motion carried.

APPROVE CONTRACT OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES WITH IHCC

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Ratliff to approve the contract of educational services with IHCC. Motion carried.

APPROVE BOARD POLICIES AS RECOMMENDED BY IASB FOR COVID-19 – 2nd Reading of Board Policies

409.1 – EMPLOYEE VACATION-HOLIDAYS

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Ratliff to approve the 409.1 Board Policy. Motion carried.

409.2 – EMPLOYEE LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A motion was made by Ratcliff and seconded by Sampson to approve the 409.2 Board Policy. Motion carried

409.2E1 – EMERGENCY PAID SICK LEAVE REQUEST FORM

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by DeBoef to approve the 409.2E1 Board Policy. Motion carried.

409.2E2 – EXPANDED FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REQUEST FORM

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Sampson to approve the 409.2E2 Board Policy. Motion carried.

409.3 – FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

A motion was made by Sampson and seconded by Ratliff to approve the 409.3 Board Policy. Motion carried.

409.3E1 – FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by DeBoef to approve the 409.3E1 Board Policy. Motion carried.

409.3E2 – FAMILY AND MEDICAL REQUEST FORM

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Ratliff to approve the 409.3E2 Board Policy. Motion carried.

409.3R1 – FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REGULATION

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Sampson to approve the 409.3R1 Board Policy. Motion carried.

409.3R2 – FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE DEFINITIONS

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Sampson to approve the 409.3R2 Board Policy. Motion carried.

414 – CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE PROFESSIONAL PURPOSE LEAVE

A motion was made by Sampson and seconded by DeBoef to approve the 414 Board Policy. Motion carried.

501.9 – STUDENT ABSENCES – EXCUSED

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Ratliff to approve the 501.9 Board Policy. Motion carried.

501.9E1 – REQUEST FOR REMOTE LEARNING FORM

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Sampson to approve 501.9E1 Board Policy. Motion carried.

601.2 – SCHOOL DAY

A motion was made by Sampson and seconded by DeBoef to approve the 601.2 Board Policy. Motion carried.

604.11 – APPROPRIATE USE OF ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORMS

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Sampson to approve the 604.11 Board Policy. Motion carried.

907 – DISTRICT OPERATION DURING PUBLIC EMERGENCIES

A motion was made by Sampson and seconded by DeBoef to approve the 907 Board Policy. Motion carried.

907.R1 – DISTRICT OPERATION DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY REGULATION

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by DeBoef to approve the 907.R1 Board Policy. Motion carried.

EXTRACURRICULAR DECISION FOR ONLINE/REMOTE LEARNERS

Livezey cited the FAQ document from the Iowa Department of Education which poses the question as to whether or not 100% online/remote learning students are still eligible for extracurricular activities. The Department of Education states that districts may determine if a request to participate in in-person extracurricular activities is inconsistent with the claim that the student could not attend school in-person. Livezey asked for board consideration and decision on the policy.

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Ratliff to approve a policy stating that students who request online/remote learning for health related reasons due to greater risks from COVID-19 are ineligible for all extracurricular activities. Motion carried.

PRINCIPAL REPORT

OPEN HOUSE

Mrs. Livezey met with the Labor Management Committee. They decided that 1st grade-6th grade parents will meet the teacher in a parent-teacher conference style. Parents can arrange for this meeting with their student's teacher.

Mrs. Goemaat presented the plan for the 7th grade open house and family orientation. The class will be split up into two sessions with only one parent asked to attend. Mrs. Goemaat will give a presentation and then a tour will be given of the Jr High/High School in smaller sessions. A recording of the presentation will be provided for those who choose not to or are unable to attend.

GAP PROGRAM

Kindergarten orientation took place and students were able to move their materials into the space.

WELDING ACADEMY

Six North Mahaska students will participate in Welding Academy. Total number of students in the program is currently unknown.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

LMC MEETING UPDATE

Mrs. Livezey noted that the state has relaxed requirements for TLC allowing for greater flexibility in substitute possibilities.

RETURN TO LEARN PLAN

Mrs. Livezey noted that questions are being taken to Mahaska County Public Health and Mahaska County Emergency Management Committee as the plan continues to be solidified. She noted that the board should continue to direct people with questions to the www.nmwarhawks.org website for the most up to date information. Livezey also noted that online learning has to continue even if the school building is closed or quarantine takes place. If a hybrid plan is enacted, the First Christian Church has approved for grades three and four to work offsite in their facility. Livezey presented data that the rolling average of positive COVID-19 rate in Mahaska County is currently 3.5%, falling within the average to still be allowed to have face-to-face learning.

SHOOTING SPORTS

Mrs. Livezey stated that a qualified sponsor has still not come forward. If one is not identified, shooting sports will not take place.

SENIOR CLASS TRIP FUNDS

The senior class has decided to use their unused senior class trip funds to plant mature trees around campus. MUSCO lighting is also donating a light for the basketball court.

NM VIDEO - UPDATED

Mrs. Livezey presented the updated NM promotional video that is posted on the website. She noted that the video is mostly footage from last year with added clips from students. The vision still remains to transition to a new promotional video by the beginning of next school year, but due to footage restrictions from the COVID-19 closure that was not able to happen this year.

SECRETARY'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Due to transition of the business manager/board secretary

BOARD COMMENTS/THANK YOU NOTES

Margaret Ratliff would like to thank MUSCO Lighting for facilitating a light for the outdoor basketball court.

Dirk Wilkin extended his thanks to MUSCO Lighting for the face shields they made and donated to North Mahaska for teachers.

Arvin DeBoef expressed his thanks to Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood for appropriating funds for the GAP Program.

Michelle Sampson asked what considerations are for band and choir for COVID and if masks would be required on buses. Mrs. Livezey stated that accommodations have been met for a bus driver that came forward with questions regarding health and safety on the buses. She also noted that all band and choir restrictions for the school year are on the North Mahaska website.

Sampson also asked if Powerschool was back up yet. Mrs. Livezey provided an update that Powerschool is not completely functional yet due to storm outages in Cedar Rapids where registration is housed.

Margaret Ratliff asked how NM will keep lower numbers on buses. Having multiple school drop-offs per bus has been discussed, but there is a concern that some students will miss instructional time. In addition, there is the potential for one of the staff members who is certified as a bus driver to run a town route.

Ratliff also noted her appreciation for the North Mahaska Newsletter that went out last week and the effort by the school to communicate with the community.

Dirk Wilkin expressed his recognition of the uncertainty that parents and teachers may be feeling right now due to COVID-19 precautions and stressed the care that North Mahaska is putting into decision making. He thanked parents and teachers for all they have done during this time.

Arvin DeBoef asked if volunteers are allowed to assist with efforts for the school year. Mrs. Livezey noted that while the school is trying to limit the number of volunteers, they would accept a small number for certain situations such as cafeteria staffing to keep social distancing measures in place.

ADJOURN A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Ratliff to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Motion carried.

Sarah McGriff
Board Secretary

Dirk Wilkin
Board President

