

September 21, 2020

The North Mahaska Board of Education met in regular session on September 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the elementary library New Sharon, Iowa. Those members present: Keith Foster, Arvin DeBoef, Margaret Ratcliff, and Michelle Sampson. Also present: Angela Livezey, Amber Goemaat, Jess Jones, Jamie Nelson, Renee Ferguson, Jennifer Swanson, Sarah McGriff.

Arvin DeBoef called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Keith Foster and seconded by Margaret Ratliff to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Foster 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.

Area A – Fitness/Wrestling Addition

- Plumbing & Electrical Underground is complete
- Floor slab was placed last week
- Block walls are scheduled to start this week
- In-wall Plumbing & Electrical will take place as needed with block walls

Area B – Connector Link

- Primary Electrical Service Route has been defined.
- Electrical Underground work needed prior to footing is to take place today.
- Footing work for the link is scheduled to start this week.

Area C – Elementary Addition

- Masonry block walls are complete
- Air Barrier is being installed
- Roof Trusses are scheduled to be onsite and set this week
- Exterior Brick mock up scheduled for this week, brick to start following approval of mock-up
- Polished concrete mock-up reviewed and approved

Site Work

- Retaining wall work to follow the completion of the Area B Connector Link foundation
- Gas Line utility has been connected to the high school

- Elementary gas line utility will be connected following foundation work and back fill of the Area B connector link prior to October 12
- Power utility route has been defined, Van Maanen and DCI Group will be coordinating this work with the school

MEP Replacement work

- Elementary Boiler Replacement will be taking place between now and the first week of October

OLD BUSINESS

No old business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF STAFF

MISSY THOMPSON - PARAEDUCATOR

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Foster to approve a letter of assignment for Missy Thompson as paraeducator. Motion carried.

LINDSAY HOUSER - PARAEDUCATOR

A motion was made by Foster and seconded by Ratliff to approve a letter of assignment for Lindsay Houser as paraeducator. Motion carried.

RYAN GROOM - TOWN ROUTE BUS DRIVER

Keith Foster asked why an additional bus driver was needed. Angela Livezey explained that an additional driver was needed on the town route to ensure that all employees and students felt safe on the bus and were able to social distance as best as possible. Ratliff asked if this would interfere with Groom's teaching schedule. Mrs. Livezey answered that it would interfere with his morning hours by roughly 15 minutes which he would have to make up at other times in the week. Foster asked if this could overwhelm Groom. Mrs. Livezey responded that Groom would prefer to not drive, but extensive efforts to find an additional driver have failed so far and this is currently the only option. Amber Goemaat mentioned that she has reached out to previous bus drivers who declined as well as all surrounding school districts, who also had no additional drivers. Ratliff asked why additional pay is needed and if this could be under additional duties assigned since he will be driving on some of his teaching contract time. Goemaat noted that coaches get a stipend in addition to their teaching contract and often coach during their teaching hours, and there are additional licenses and certifications needed to perform the duties of bus driver. Ratliff asked when wrestling practice would be to which Goemaat responded that wrestling practice is normally in the morning before the bus route, and a bus sub would have to be found if there were a wrestling conflict, during which time Groom would not be paid. Michelle Sampson asked if this is a long-term or short-term fix. Mrs. Livezey answered that this is a need due to COVID concerns, a situation of which the duration is unknown, however, a shorter-term contract could be drawn up. Foster asked why the routes are being changed, to which Goemaat responded that in order to make social distancing possible and to accommodate one of the bus drivers' concerns related to health, an additional bus needed

to be added in order to keep the bus route altogether. Renee Ferguson spoke from the Association's standpoint to state that they would have no problem with Groom being paid additionally for these responsibilities because teachers do not want the responsibility of driving a bus. Sampson suggested a quarterly or semester-length contract instead of year-long. A motion was made by Sampson and seconded by Foster to approve Ryan Groom as a town route bus driver for the first semester at a rate of \$25 per hour. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF RENEWAL OF CONTRACT WITH STREET SMARTS FOR DRIVER'S EDUCATION

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by DeBoef to renew the contract with Street Smarts. Motion carried.

REVIEW OF CLASSROOM SPACE AND SIZE - BOARD POLICY 606.1

Mrs. Livezey distributed the 2020 enrollment for the elementary with online students noted as well. Kindergarten is the largest class. There is currently room for four more preschool students. Mrs. Goemaat gave details on the high school, presenting that 7-12 enrollment is currently at 283, including 5 welding students and 6-10 dual enrolled students. Eighth grade is the largest class at 60 students. Due to struggles last year with the class in only two sections, the eighth grade class has been divided into three sections for their core courses. New electives are also being offered this year including Information Resources, Broadcast Journalism, and Computer Science.

APPROVE SPECIAL EDUCATION DEFICIT AND ALLOWABLE GROWTH

Mrs. Livezey explained that the special education deficit for FY20 was \$258,422.19. She noted that some of this deficit can be attributed to tuitioned out students. There was also a decrease in weighting from AEA and the district hired an additional SPED teacher ½ time last year. A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Sampson to approve the deficit of \$258,422.19. A motion was made by Foster and seconded by Sampson to approve the allowable growth for the special education deficit in the amount of \$258,422.19.

APPROVE TRANSFER OF 50% OF LAND LAB REVENUE TO GENERAL FUND

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Foster to approve the transfer of \$4,485.81 from the land lab account to the general fund. Motion carried.

APPROVE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Mrs. Livezey presented the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan that was submitted on September 15. She noted a challenge in completing the report included using winter data due to COVID interrupting the spring data, and having to complete the report prior to screening data being complete. She presented data from the current school year, explaining that there is significant change between pre-COVID winter data and current data. Some elementary classes are only at 35-50% proficiency at the start of this year, where in typical years, classes would be around 80% proficiency at the start of the year. The long range goal is that by 2024, 85% of students in grades K-3 will be above benchmark. Mrs. Livezey reviewed all areas of the plan including collecting and analyzing data, goal setting, professional development and

researched-based actions to accomplish long-range goals, and online learning offerings. A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Foster to approve the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan.

REVIEW OF DISTRICT'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Mrs. Livezey reviewed the two focus areas of the district's professional development plan which are increasing reading achievement as well as increasing math achievement. She also noted that the teachers' professional development plans align with the district's professional development plan. She briefly reviewed the layout of the teachers' individual professional development plans.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

ONLINE INSTRUCTION UPDATE

Mrs. Livezey said that there are currently nine elementary students who are studying online. Upon initial online instruction of these students, issues occurred with quality of videos that were uploaded for the online students as well as difficulty managing one student at home and the rest of the students in the classroom. After consideration, the decision was made to use an online curriculum in the elementary for those students who are at home. Mrs. Goemaat informed the board that there is one high school student studying online for medical reasons, and an online program was built using Edgenuity for that student's curriculum. There were a couple of courses that could not be built in the Edgenuity program, but the teachers were able to use other means to create curriculum for these courses.

HOMEcoming ACTIVITIES

All activities where groups gather will be held outside. Student council is being creative with activities and embracing the changes. For the homecoming parade, the students are working to get enough trailers so that they can social distance and have the teams ride on floats. There will be no homecoming dance. The theme of homecoming is Music Genres. Mrs. Livezey also noted that the PACT walkathon is being postponed until spring.

GOOGLE CLASSROOMS - MODELING INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

Mrs. Livezey explained that Mrs. Goemaat was given an idea by a fellow principal to create a Google Classroom for staff to share documents and information in. There is one for both the elementary and secondary staff. Both principals presented their Google Classrooms.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Mrs. Goemaat explained that students are riding different buses than expected creating confusion as well as difficulty with COVID contact tracing. She used Montezuma Schools' practices as an example for a solution. They assign one bus per student and if there is an exception, those arrangements must be made by the parents. Mrs. Livezey added that for safety purposes, efficiency, and the ability to assign seats to students, she would recommend that students not utilize multiple drop off points, with the exception of accommodations for households with custody agreements and in the case of emergencies. Foster asked if this is a problem specifically due to COVID or if it has always been a problem. Mrs. Livezey answered that this has always been an issue but it is especially prevalent this year and being compounded due to COVID precautions.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

LMC MEETING UPDATE

Mrs. Livezey reviewed the topics of the Labor Management Committee meeting which included the start of school, online instruction, and lunch procedures. The association met today to discuss cleaning every day ensuring that this is being done regularly. Mrs. Livezey said that Kiah is using the electrostatic gun to disinfect each classroom every morning, which takes him about three hours.

HYBRID PLAN REVIEW

Mrs. Livezey gave a reminder that the plan is for the district to move to hybrid learning if the Mahaska County COVID positivity rate is between 15-20% on average over the past 14 days and the school absentee rate is 10% or greater. Currently, the absentee rate is staying low, and the positivity rate fluctuates around 10%. Information regarding the hybrid plan has been communicated to parents, with the plan that 50% of students would be in school daily. Students who would be off site are still able to come pick up their meals to-go. Originally, the plan was presented to move students offsite to study, but this has been changed for ease of operation.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND IASB SURVEY

Mrs. Livezey stated that the board needs to identify four legislative priorities for IASB to focus their advocacy efforts on. DeBoef said that Early Literacy, Tax Base, and Supplemental State Aid are areas that he believes to be important for the school district as well as the state to focus on. He also noted that last year supplemental state aid was of importance to our district. Sampson thought that importance should be placed on Mental Health, especially in-light of COVID and students having been out of school. Ratliff expressed her thought that Unfunded Mandates should be given focus. Mrs. Livezey expressed her support for this suggestion, explaining that the unfunded mandates for school nurse and teacher librarian cost the district over \$50,000 alone. The board agreed that their four areas of suggested advocacy would be Early Literacy, Supplemental State Aid, Mental Health, and Unfunded Mandates. Mrs. Livezey confirmed that she would submit these to IASB.

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM UPDATE

Mrs. Livezey shared that Sharon Appleget has been hired by OPAA as their director who will support North Mahaska. There has been a positive response to the hot lunch as well as an increase in breakfast attendees due to the free meals being provided right now. Foster asked if OPAA is hiring locally and buying food locally to which Mrs. Livezey responded that advertisements for jobs have been posted locally and that they have gone to the local grocery store for a few items, but are mainly using the same providers that the district has used in the past. Ratliff asked how students are being spaced out. Mrs. Livezey noted that it has been a struggle and that both cafeterias could use additional tables that are not currently in the budget. The elementary is utilizing the high school cafeteria for one session before the high school is served in an effort to spread out more. Mrs. Livezey noted that there is also a second chance breakfast offered to secondary students during advisory time. Because of the popularity of the second chance breakfast, grades 7-9 now have been required to eat before school and they can take it to their first period. Grades 10-12 can eat during second chance time.

TRAFFIC FLOW STUDY - EMC

Mrs. Livezey worked with EMC to develop a traffic flow study. EMC came on August 31 to start the report. They recommended dismissing bus students first, however that can potentially cut from instructional time. They also suggested a method to dismiss students in a staggered fashion, but there is not enough contract time for the amount of time this may take. Options are still being reviewed, but staff have been incredibly helpful in assisting with traffic flow and parking lot congestion. Mahaska County has also assisted greatly via the childhood watch program. Most days, officers are present to help provide oversight. Mrs. Livezey noted that she has also spoken to construction managers at the Dollar General site suggesting that a flashing light be put up during peak hours to protect students who may try to cross the street to visit the store before practice or other events.

FACE COVERING MATRIX

Mrs. Livezey asked what the board has heard from the community regarding face coverings. Ratliff expressed that she has heard that masks are an important part of prevention from the community and they appreciate the recommendation that the school has made regarding masks. Mrs. Livezey stressed that the goal is to keep kids in school and believes there is confusion regarding what is meant by face coverings are strongly recommended where social distancing is not possible. Classrooms qualify as a place that social distancing is not possible, so it is strongly recommended that students wear face coverings. In addition, many students have expressed that because it is only recommended, they will not wear a mask. She also noted that additional communication may also be needed regarding when students are required to quarantine due to contact tracing. Sampson suggested limiting ticket sales and requiring masks for both students and attendees. Mrs. Livezey noted that overcrowding has not been as much of an issue as those not wearing masks. She suggested first posting signs that masks are required as well as additional communication regarding mask requirements at all activities and that if a student is in contact with someone who tests positive, they will have to quarantine due to public health requirements. Mrs. Livezey asked if the board was in approval of setting a required mask date farther out than the current 14 days per case. Everyone was in agreement, proposing that masks be required through October 29 both at school and all events for students and patrons.

BOARD COMMENTS/THANK YOU NOTES

Margaret Ratliff thanks Roger Fread for helping with the town route.

Michelle Sampson thanks Ryan Groom for assisting as a bus driver.

Arvin DeBoef thanks John Livezey for fixing the flagpole and cutting down two trees.

Keith Foster thanks Randy Moffit for driving from his home to help with bus routes.

Ratliff noted that the results Mrs. Livezey shared regarding proficiency dropping substantially due to students' time away from school in the spring shows that the board must continue to work hard to keep students in school.

Sampson has heard from students and parents that there is inconsistency in food quality in the elementary compared to the high school. Mrs. Livezey expressed her hope that with the new leadership in OPAA, consistency will be improved.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Sampson and seconded by Ratliff to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Motion carried.

Sarah McGriff
Board Secretary

Dirk Wilkin
Board President