

December 21, 2020

The North Mahaska Board of Education met in regular session on December 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the elementary library New Sharon, Iowa. Those members present: Dirk Wilkin, Keith Foster, Arvin DeBoef, Margaret Ratcliff, and Michelle Sampson. Also present: Angela Livezey, Randal Keep, Tim Veiseth, Renee Ferguson, Lindsay Thoreson, and Sarah McGriff.

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

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Foster to approve the agenda with the postponement of the approval of RSAI Membership until January. Motion carried.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

There was no written communication or public forum.

DESIGN CONSTRUCTION INTEGRATION GROUP – UPDATE

Ben Gannon gave the following update regarding construction work:

Area A - Wrestling Room - Currently working on roofing. They had to put a topping slab over areas with a precast deck. Hoping to get started on the other part of the roof late next week. They are also beginning insulation for the metal panel area to tie the roof in. The storefront/curtain walls should arrive this week and be installed. Once that is installed, heating will be installed around the first of the year.

Area B - Connector - Metal panels will be installed after Area A is taken care of. The storefront for this area will also follow Area A. They are currently working on electrical rough in.

Area C - Elementary Addition - Finishing pulling in wire. The windows have been installed. The roofing has arrived and will be set after Area A and B. Exterior siding will be a raw siding material that will be painted to match the existing school. Painting will not be done until the spring. Sealed concrete flooring is complete. The cabinets will be installed in a week or two. They are currently installing bathroom fixtures as well.

Arvin DeBoef asked what the flooring will be in the connector. Mr. Gannon explained that it was supposed to be sealed concrete but due to tying it into the current flooring, permanent carpet squares will be installed instead. These are more cost effective and easy to both install and maintain.

UPDATE FROM DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS - RD KEEP

RD Keep presented to the board on District Communications work that has been done since July 2020. He explained that policies, procedures, and templates have been created, as well as a media and contact list. During August, Mr. Keep worked to release the first Warhawk Megaphone, which is now released every

two weeks on a Thursday. Mr. Keep also presented the board with the new photo depository through Smugmug. All photos taken by Mr. Keep and yearbook staff will now be uploaded to Smugmug and are available for purchase by the public. He also presented a rough draft of policies and procedures for access to the Smugmug site, which are still being reviewed. Mrs. Livezey suggested adding to the policies and procedures that no students should have access to the login information for the account. She also recommended that the revenue stream benefit athletics for the time being, as that account is being depleted due to event attendance restrictions.

Mr. Wilkin asked who would be uploading to the site. Mr. Keep suggested that himself, yearbook staff, and The Warhawk manager would be in charge of uploading, but anyone who wanted to submit photos could send them to Mr. Keep to be uploaded.

Renee Ferguson asked what the policy would be for elementary students who aren't to have their photo taken and shared. Mrs. Livezey said that this would be added to the list for items to add to the policies and procedures, as parents give certain permissions in district communications that we would need to follow.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business at this time.

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Foster to adjourn the regular meeting. Mr. Wilkin adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

ANNUAL SCHOOL BOARD AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Sarah McGriff, board secretary, acted as the president pro temporary chairman until a Board President was elected. Ms. McGriff called the new board meeting to order at 7:01p.m.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT

Ms. McGriff asked for nominations for board president. Mr. DeBoef nominated Dirk Wilkin for board president. A motion was made by Foster and seconded by DeBoef for nominations to cease. Motion carried. A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Foster to approve Dirk Wilkin as board president. Motion carried.

Mr. Wilkin resumed his role as acting board president for the board meeting.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Foster to nominate Arvin DeBoef as vice president. Motion carried. A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Sampson to cease nominations. Motion carried. A motion was made by Sampson and seconded by Foster to approve Arvin DeBoef as vice president. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Foster for all members to remain in their committee assignments as listed. Motion carried.

Committee Assignments:

IASB Delegate and Legislative Network - Dirk Wilkin

County Conference Committee - Margaret Ratcliff

Negotiations Team Member - Keith Foster and Michelle Sampson

School Improvement Advisory Committee Member - Dirk Wilkin

Labor Management Committee Member - Margaret Ratcliff

North Mahaska Education Foundation Representative -Arvin DeBoef

Day Care / Preschool Committee - Arvin DeBoef and Michelle Sampson

FFA Advisory Committee - Keith Foster

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE STAFF CONTRACT / LETTER OF AGREEMENT

RYAN GROOM - BUS DRIVER FOR 2ND SEMESTER

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Sampson to approve Ryan Groom as town bus driver for the second semester. Motion carried.

DELAYNA SNEED - SR. HIGH BASKETBALL CHEER COACH

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Foster to approve Delayna Sneed as the senior high school basketball cheer coach. Motion carried.

LINDSEY HOUSER PARAEDUCATOR PAY RATE

A motion was made by Foster and seconded by Sampson to approve a \$2 pay raise for Lindsey Houser since she has completed her certification. Motion carried.

RESIGNATION

ANN STOUT -PARAEDUCATOR

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by DeBoef to approve Ann Stout's resignation. Motion carried.

COURTNEY SCHOCK - PARAEDUCATOR

A motion was made by Sampson and approved by Foster to approve Courtney Schocks's resignation. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AT-RISK ALLOWABLE GROWTH APPLICATION

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Sampson to approve funding allowance for at risk allowable growth. Motion carried.

2ND READING OF BOARD POLICY

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Ratliff to approve the Title IX board policy. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ½ DAY PAY RATE & BACKPAY

A motion was made by Foster and seconded by Sampson to approve the substitute teacher ½ day pay rate at \$70 up to 4 hours and \$120 over 4 hours as well as back-pay for August through November during which substitutes were paid a full day rate after 6 hours. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF TEACHER SUBSTITUTE PAY RATE WHEN SUBBING AS A PARAEDUCATOR

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Sampson to approve teacher substitute pay for certified teachers who substitute for a paraeducator. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF RSAI MEMBERSHIP - RURAL SCHOOL ADVOCATES OF IOWA

Tabled until January 2021.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

CHANGES TO SENIOR YEAR PLUS REQUIREMENTS

Tabled until January 2021.

ELEMENTARY, JR. HIGH & SENIOR CONCERTS

Mrs. Livezey gave an update that the elementary and junior high concerts were live streamed throughout the day. It would have been preferred to live stream in the evening, but it didn't work logistically to bring the students back after school dismissed. Due to copyright laws, the concerts could not be recorded and then sent out to all parents, but instead were shared with students via email who can then show their parents from a district email address. The high school concerts were able to be held in person and went well.

UPDATE ON LIVE STREAM OF EVENTS

The live stream events are going well, but the district is losing about \$300 per event. Due to this, the district would like to look into how to collect voluntary donations during the live stream events. RD Keep added that Colfax-Mingo has a donation feature on their live streams. Mrs. Livezey said that she would reach out to them to learn more about this option.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

TRAFFIC FLOW UPDATE

The one way road on the north side of the school was approved. Signage should be in between the 11th and the 18th of January, at which point communication will be sent out to parents.

Mr. Wilkin asked if there was anything that could be done ahead of time to assist with this transition, such as a video or letter. Mrs. Livezey agreed with these suggestions and noted that the district has also purchased an app to help with the pickup and drop off process. There is also a graphic of the traffic flow that the district will share with parents to help with the transition.

COVID UPDATE

An email was sent out last week district wide. Mrs. Livezey updated that nine staff members have tested positive for COVID-19 and the winter break was suggested to begin early to help slow the spread. Currently, one third of the staff has signed up to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, while others are waiting to receive more literature related to the vaccine.

COMMENTS

Mrs. Livezey noted that certified enrollment is down by 6,000 students statewide. Because of this, it looks favorable for increased SSA next year.

Mr. DeBoef commented that the two days that were cancelled before winter break due to COVID-19 do put pressure on the teachers. The district needs to be aware of this pressure, in order to ensure teachers have the ability to provide the required education for students.

Mr. Foster asked if the live stream could be continued after the pandemic is over. Mrs. Livezey said that this would be a possibility.

Mrs. Ratliff asked if Mrs. Livezey could explain further what happens when a teacher has a child at home who is ill or quarantined due to COVID-19. Mrs. Livezey explained that the district is following the FFCRA guidance until December 31, 2020 when this guidance is set to expire. These guidelines provide certain leave amounts based on the leave reason related to COVID-19. Should additional guidance be set forth after the end of the year, the district will follow accordingly.

Mrs. Sampson was asked if sports teams will be allowed to have practices during break. Mrs. Livezey answered that they would not be able to this week, but next week will depend on current cases and decisions by Mrs. Goemaat and Mr. Groom.

Mr. Wilkin received an email from a community member encouraging the school to continue to challenge itself with COVID-19 restrictions and regulations in order to stop the spread. He encouraged the board to continue to consider district practices and learn from other districts. Mrs. Livezey noted the diligence of the custodial staff with cleaning and sanitizing the building each day and classrooms whenever a student has to go home due to illness.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Neumann Monson for donating to Habitat for Humanity on behalf of North Mahaska.

Thank you to Mahaska Health Partnership for donating to North Mahaska to help families with food insecurity in the district.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Samspon and seconded by DeBoef to adjourn the meeting at 7:57p.m. Motion carried.

Sarah McGriff
Board Secretary

Dirk Wilkin
Board President