

March 15, 2021

The North Mahaska Board of Education met in regular session on March 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the elementary library in New Sharon, Iowa. Those members present: Arvin DeBoef, Michelle Sampson, and Margaret Ratcliff. Also present: Angela Livezey, Amber Goemaat, Ben Gannon, Renee Ferguson, Dennis Gourley, and Sarah McGriff.

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

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PUBLISHED FY2022 SCHOOL BUDGET

No public comment was made. Public hearing was closed at 6:01pm.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PUBLISHED BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR FY2021 BUDGET

No public comment was made. Public hearing was closed at 6:01pm.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR

No public comment was made. Public hearing was closed at 6:01pm.

A motion was made by Sampson and seconded by Ratcliff to approve the agenda with the addition of approval of the FFA overnight trip. Motion carried.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

There was no written communication.

Renee Ferguson commented in public forum that OPAA! has been a great addition to the North Mahaska hot lunch program. She mentioned that her students are eating lots of vegetables because of the addition of the salad bar and they enjoy the meals as well.

DESIGN CONSTRUCTION INTEGRATION GROUP – BEN GANNON

Ben Gannon gave the following update regarding construction work:

Area A - Wrestling Room and Fitness area are painted and lights are being hung. Concrete benches have been poured in the locker rooms and the floors and walls are now being tiled in the showers. Demo has begun in some of the current locker rooms.

Area B - They are hanging drywall now. The doors are awaiting some hardware, but they are using a temporary closure and temporary heat. A change was made to align with the fire code for the doors and rated glass in the area.

Area C - This area will be ready to utilize on April 1 and sitework will begin by Bi-State to start cleaning up the dirt work and sidewalks.

PRESENTATION ON IPERS CAFETERIA PLAN - DENNIS GOURLEY

Dennis Gourley presented the cafeteria plan options to the board - one that is IPERS eligible and one that is not. If the former option is chosen, it would serve as a benefit to those employees who currently receive health insurance provided by the district, but it would also cost the district an additional \$24,000 per year in IPERS costs. He informed the board of their duty to decide how North Mahaska will treat the cafeteria plan in order to be consistent as well as what the minimum insurance plan required is for administrators.

Margaret Ratliff asked if this decision would affect things retroactively. Mr. Gourley informed the board that it would not. This change would go into effect for contracts going forward beginning with the 2021-2022 contracts.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE ADDING A SECTION OF FIRST GRADE FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Mrs. Livezey presented the plan to add a section of first grade for the next school year. There are 51 students currently enrolled and open enrollment numbers will not be known until September 1. The funds from ESSER II are over \$197K. In an effort to utilize the funds in the best interest of our students, the district is proposing adding a third section of first grade in order to make the class sizes smaller as well as adding a literacy interventionist for grades 4-8. In addition, there will be a third round of ESSER funds that could be up to 2.5x the amount of ESSER II that can be utilized, at which time additional recommendations will be made to utilize the funds for student support and achievement during the difficulties presented by COVID.

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Sampson to approve adding a section of first grade for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried.

APPROVE ADDING A 4-8 READING INTERVENTIONIST

This was addressed by Mrs. Livezey in the prior agenda item. The individual in this position would have a reading endorsement as well.

A motion was made by Sampson and seconded by Ratliff to approve adding a 4-8 grade reading interventionist. Motion carried.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

An overview of the FY22 certified budget was presented by Sarah McGriff. Mrs. Livezey also gave an overview of the financial health of the district and presented the key financial indicators from the Iowa Association of School Boards.

APPROVE MANAGEMENT LEVY RATE

A motion was made by Sampson and seconded by Ratliff to approve the management levy of \$0.80959 for fiscal year 2022. Motion carried.

APPROVE PPEL LEVY RATE

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Sampson to approve the PPEL levy of \$0.33 for fiscal year 2022. Motion carried.

APPROVE BUDGET FOR FY 2022

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Sampson to approve the certified budget for fiscal year 2022. Motion carried.

APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR FY 2021

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Sampson to approve the budget amendment for fiscal year 2021. Motion carried.

APPROVE 2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR

A motion was made by Sampson and seconded by Ratliff to approve the school calendar for 2021-2022. Motion carried.

APPROVE DECISION TO ENTER IPERS ELIGIBLE CAFETERIA PLAN

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Sampson to enter into an IPERS eligible cafeteria plan beginning with the FY22 contracts. Motion carried.

APPROVE ADMINISTRATOR REQUIRED MINIMUM HEALTH PLAN

A motion was made by Sampson and seconded by Ratliff to require a minimum single health plan for all administrators. Motion carried.

APPROVE CONTINUING SHARING AGREEMENT WITH EBF FOR TRANSPORTATION

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Sampson to approve continuing the sharing agreement with Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont for transportation. Motion carried.

APPROVE CONTINUING SHARING AGREEMENT WITH EBF FOR PLANT OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

A motion was made by Sampson and seconded by Ratliff to approve continuing the sharing agreement with Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont for plant operations and maintenance. Motion carried.

APPROVE CONTINUING SHARING AGREEMENT WITH MONTEZUMA FOR HUMAN RESOURCES

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Sampson to approve continuing the sharing agreement with Montezuma for human resources. Motion carried.

APPROVE CONTINUING SHARING AGREEMENT WITH LS FOR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

A motion was made by Sampson and seconded by Ratliff to approve continuing the sharing agreement with Lynnville-Sully for guidance counselor. Motion carried.

APPROVE CONTINUING SHARING AGREEMENT WITH GPAEA FOR LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER

A motion was made by Sampson and seconded by Ratliff to approve continuing the sharing agreement with GPAEA for licensed social worker. Motion carried.

APPROVE REVISED TLC PLAN FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Sampson to approve the revised TLC plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

APPROVE OVERNIGHT TRIP FOR FFA STATE COMPETITION

Amber Goemaat shared an update from Miranda Johnson various teams will be competing at the state FFA competition and may need to stay overnight depending on the agenda, which has not yet been released. Mrs. Livezey recommended that Mrs. Goemaat be given the authority to make the decision of what nights students are able to stay overnight based on their involvement in events of the day once an agenda is released. There would be 15 boys and 15 girls competing who would be eligible for the trip. Mr. Gay would attend as the male chaperone. Mr. DeBoef asked if the students would be able to attend the National Convention. Mrs. Goemaat informed the board that it is still unknown whether the convention will be held in person or not.

A motion was made by Ratliff and seconded by Sampson to allow Mrs. Goemaat the authority to decide who is eligible to stay overnight on the trip and which days they would be allowed. Motion carried.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Mrs. Livezey explained that parents provided informal feedback at the conferences regarding the teachers' positive attitudes this year, the new pick up system, and the lunch program. There was one complaint about the signs displayed in the school regarding masks and social distancing. The elementary had good participation in parent teacher conferences, but the high school had a lower turnout, which is common with spring conferences. Mrs. Goemaat assured the board that this is something they will continue to work on.

SENIOR CLASS TRIP UPDATE

The senior class will be taking small day trips this year rather than a large class trip. One trip that is planned is to go to Smashpark in Des Moines as well as lunch at Giordano's - a restaurant that the students would have gone to in Chicago should they have had the opportunity to go on a regular trip. Mrs. Goemaat suggested the board keep Smashpark in mind for a future thank-you, as they have been incredibly accommodating on price for the senior class.

PROM UPDATE

Prom will move forward as regularly scheduled with masks required.

KINDERGARTEN PARENT MEETING FOR INCOMING FALL 2021 KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

The kindergarten parent meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 13. May 21 is the last day of school with May 25, 26, and 27 being the dates for the GAP program.

4-YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL PRE-REGISTRATION

Pre-registration will be held April 20 from 5-6pm. Mrs. Livezey did note that there are a large number of parents who are considering transitional kindergarten for their students. This is something that Mrs. Livezey will continue to keep on her radar as planning takes place for the fall.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

INTERNAL TRANSFERS

Mrs. Livezey presented the plan of internal transfers for the 2021-2022 school year. Ashley Schroeder to third grade and Jenna Hibler to 4-8 reading interventionists.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

North Mahaska has 17 students currently open enrolled into the district. Mrs. Livezey went into further detail regarding this during her financial overview.

COMMENTS

Margaret Ratliff expressed her gratitude for the efforts of everyone over the last year to support students during COVID.

Michelle Sampson shared that she had been asked when masks would not be required by the district. The board continues to suggest that students and staff expect to wear masks through the end of the year for the time being.

THANK YOU

The board extends their thanks to the following individuals for their support of the district.

Val & Rusty Lindenman for running the basketball scoreboard.

Wendy Sampson, Ken Broadway, and Kevin Kelderman for keeping the basketball books.

Tara Carrico and Jenna Hibler for their work on the school musical.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Ratcliff and seconded by Sampson to adjourn the meeting at 8:24p.m. Motion carried.

Sarah McGriff
Board Secretary

Dirk Wilkin
Board President