

April 19, 2021

The North Mahaska Board of Education met in regular session on April 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the elementary library in New Sharon, Iowa. Those members present: Dirk Wilkin, Arvin DeBoef, and Keith Foster. Also present: Angela Livezey, Amber Goemaat, Ben Gannon, Renee Ferguson, Julie Knoot, Sherrill Stroble, RD Keep, and Sarah McGriff.

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

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

#### DESIGN CONSTRUCTION INTEGRATION GROUP – BEN GANNON

Ben Gannon gave the following update regarding construction work:

Sitework started early this month pouring sidewalks and cleaning things up.

Area A: Finishes have started including plumbing fixtures, lighting, and the subfloor for the wrestling area. The supplier and installer for the subflooring in the wrestling room could not provide the plywood that was originally planned. It was replaced by 2x4s instead due to the high demand of lumber at this time. This change did not affect the cost of the project. Tile has been installed in all of the bathrooms. The C and D locker rooms have been demoed and A and B will be demoed after school dismisses for the summer.

Area B: The space is watertight and drywalled. The space will be finished this summer after the rated doors and windows are approved for the budget. The walkway is available for use currently.

Area C: The classrooms have been finished. This space will be used as a storage area for the time being until demo can begin when school dismisses for the summer. The schedule is currently being set by the contractors for the final summer work.

Mr. Gannon will give a tour of the new spaces at the next board meeting.

#### JULIE KNOOT, PK-12 NURSE - ANNUAL UPDATE

Julie Knoot presented the board with the nurse's annual update. She also shared the events that happened this past week for Wellness Week, planned by the wellness committee. The themed days were Motivation Monday (video from Kinetic Edge on ways to calm down), Tip Tuesday (mental health strategies), Water Wednesday (water for all students and infused water for staff), Try it Thursday (yoga), and Fit Friday (walking the track). Mrs. Knoot also shared her job description and walked through her various duties and how she approached them this year with various COVID-19 restrictions in place.

Mr. Wilkin asked if Mrs. Knoot sees more elementary or jr/sr high school students. She responded that it depends on the day. She sees a fair share of both and keeps note of those students who may have an ongoing concern and reaches out to their parents as follow-up.

Mrs. Knoot also shared the COVID guidelines that she followed this year regarding when and why a student may be/have been sent home for quarantine. Overall, 29 students and 12 staff members had COVID-19 at NM this year. Currently, there are no cases in the district or anyone in quarantine.

#### OLD BUSINESS

No old business at this time.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### APPROVE GRADUATING SENIOR CLASS

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Foster to approve the 2021 graduating senior class. Motion carried.

##### APPROVE INDEPENDENT CONTRACT WITH R.D. KEEP

A motion was made by Foster and seconded by DeBoef to approve an independent contract for 2021-2022 with R.D. Keep for district communications. Motion carried.

##### INFORMATION REGARDING PARTIALLY SELF-FUNDED INSURANCE

Ms. McGriff reviewed the FY22 partially self-funded insurance amounts and insurance premiums.

##### ANNUAL REVIEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Mrs. Livezey reviewed the emergency response plan with the board and shared guidance for drills from I Love U Guys Foundation.

##### APPROVAL OF AUTHORIZATION TO PAY PARAEducATORS FOR SUB PREP TIME

A motion was made by Foster and seconded by DeBoef to approve paying substitute-authorized paraeducators the sub-prep time rate of \$15/hour on top of their regular hourly rate when they substitute for a teacher for under two hours of the day. Motion carried.

##### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

###### OMAHA ZOO TRIP

This will not be happening this year due to COVID-19 restrictions and suggestions from the public health department.

###### SPANISH TRIP

The company postponed the Spanish trip until the summer of 2022. Students who decide they do not want to go can get all but their \$350 deposit back. Vouchers will also be offered for this deposit, if a student wanted to book another trip through the company. There were no seniors who were signed up for the trip.

## CREDIT RECOVERY & ALTERNATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Mrs. Goemaat shared that through Edgenuity the district has a credit recovery opportunity for students who have lost credits for courses. According to current board policy, students can only use eight credits from the credit recovery option towards graduation. Mrs. Goemaat shared programs that other schools use to assist students in credit recovery and asked the board to consider an alternative program at North Mahaska. There are currently 18 students who qualify for a credit recovery program. Mr. Wilkin asked that Mrs. Goemaat bring a proposal for the alternative program to the next meeting for review.

Mr. DeBoef asked if there is a chance students could see an alternative program as a shortcut. Mrs. Goemaat explained that this would be a case by case basis as a partnership between the school, student, and parents after all prior options have been exhausted and the program would have a definitive handbook with guidelines.

## SCHOLARSHIPS - BOARD REPRESENTATIVE FOR SELECTION

Mrs. Goemaat asked for two board members to serve on a selection committee for the Alice Hudson Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship uses the same criteria as the Katherine Lowry Scholarship. Mrs. Goemaat also shared information with the board regarding the Dollars for Scholars program. North Mahaska is not currently a member of the Dollars for Scholars program as this is typically a more community run program and would require a separate board which has yet to be established.

Mr. DeBoef and Mr. Foster volunteered to be members of the Alice Hudson and Katherine Lowry scholarship committees.

## WELLNESS WEEK FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

This was covered during Mrs. Knoot's school nurse report.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SIAC

Mrs. Livezey provided an overview of the recent SIAC meetings. Specifically, SIAC members expressed that they were impressed with the social emotional learning and CTE work that has been done in the district.

## TEACHER SALARY DATA

Mrs. Livezey shared updated salary data comparing NM's salary schedule to other districts as data shared at the last meeting did not include the TSS amounts from this past year.

## NATURAL GAS BILL - SIGNIFICANT INCREASE

The natural gas bill increased six-fold due to the drastically cold weather and outage situation in Texas in February.

## OPAA REPORT

OPAA provided the board with a written update of the nutrition program. Positives include the weekly staff lunches, strawberries returning for daily lunches, and the start of a plan for summer meals.

#### ESSER III FUNDS

The district is working on a plan for the latest round of ESSER funds in the amount of \$442K, which currently must be spent by 2023. Discussions include custodial cleaning, improvement of the camera system for contact tracing, a water fountain station, increased controls for air quality, and staffing for closing the learning gap due to COVID.

#### COMMENTS

Mrs. Livezey noted that public health suggests masks continue to be worn through the end of the year. The board collectively agreed.

Mrs. Goemaat noted that prom went very well and there were no notable situations or problems.

#### THANK YOU

John Livezey for his help with moving landscaping from in front of the high school  
Mark Watts & Family for their help with the track meet.  
NM FFA for their work on the farm and home show and the farmer's breakfast this year.  
The Wellness Committee for their work on Wellness Week.

#### ADJOURN

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Foster to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. Motion carried.

Sarah McGriff  
Board Secretary

Dirk Wilkin  
Board President