

May 17, 2021

The North Mahaska Board of Education met in regular session on May 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the elementary library in New Sharon, Iowa. Those members present: Dirk Wilkin, Arvin DeBoef, Michelle Sampson, Margaret Ratcliff, and Keith Foster. Also present: Angela Livezey, Amber Goemaat, Ben Gannon, Sherrill Strobel, Roger Gay, Miranda Johnson, Lindsay Thoreson, Angela Radcliffe, and Sarah McGriff.

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

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

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

PUBLIC FORUM

There was no one present for the public forum.

COMMUNICATIONS

There was no written communication.

DESIGN CONSTRUCTION INTEGRATION GROUP – BEN GANNON

Ben Gannon gave the following update regarding the construction project:

Sitework - everything is cleaned up for the most part and dirt work is finishing up. There is one entrance to the fitness center that needs completed concrete work. This will be done at the end of the summer. Seeding will happen once school is dismissed.

Area A - Completing the flooring has started. Final finishes are waiting on permanent power to be run to the area.

Area B - This area has been on hold while pricing comparisons were happening. That has now been completed and the fire rating doors and glass have now been ordered.

Area C - There are a couple of mechanical pieces of equipment that need added to the space. Renovations to Area C will begin on June 1. There are still options for what the flooring of the kindergarten room will look like. That is still to be determined.

Material update - Everything has been procured for the site and should not be a concern.

UPDATE FROM CTE AREA - AG EDUCATION - MIRANDA JOHNSON

Miranda Johnson provided an update on Ag Education at North Mahaska, focusing on the 21st Century skills that are focused on in the classroom in addition to agricultural topics. These skills include communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE PARTIAL TRANSFER OF KATHERINE LOWRY FUNDS TO GENERAL FUND FOR LOWRY FITNESS CENTER

A motion was made by Ratcliff and seconded by Sampson to approve the partial transfer of funds from the Katherine Lowry Scholarship Fund to the General Fund for the Lowry Fitness Center contingent upon finding the documents or receiving from the trust officer. Motion carried.

APPROVE NAMING THE FITNESS CENTER LOWRY FITNESS CENTER

A motion was made by Ratcliff and seconded by Sampson to approve naming of the Katherine Lowry Fitness Center contingent upon finding the documents or receiving from the trust officer. Motion carried.

APPROVE QUOTE FOR FITNESS CENTER EQUIPMENT

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Foster to approve a quote from PowerLift for the fitness center equipment contingent upon finding the documents or receiving from the trust officer and securing of the funding. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AUDIT BID (3 YEAR BID)

A motion was made by Ratcliff and seconded by Sampson to approve a three year audit bid with VanMaanen, Sietstra, Meyer, Nikkel CPAs. Motion carried.

PROPOSAL FOR ALTERNATE STUDENT PROGRAMMING

Mrs. Goemaat shared a proposed handbook for North Mahaska Alternative Student Programming (N-MAP). This program targets those students who are contemplating dropping out of school, have fallen behind on credits, have an attendance problem, or have experienced life traumas which have greatly affected their ability to perform in the traditional school setting in order to help them earn their degree and succeed.

Mr. Wilkin asked when students qualify for this program. Mrs. Goemaat explained that by the end of sophomore year, it is usually possible to determine if a student should be considered for N-MAP. It could be determined by the end of freshman year, at the earliest.

Mr. DeBoef asked how many students may be involved in this program. Mr. Gay offered that there may be up to 10-12 students qualified for N-MAP across the four grade levels. Mrs. Goemaat clarified that “qualified” means they meet initial markets, but that there will always be extensive conversations with parents, teachers, and the students themselves before this decision is made. Once a student moves to N-MAP, they must remain in the program through graduation.

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Sampson to approve the North Mahaska Alternative Student Programming proposal. Motion carried.

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 604.10 - FIRST READING

In line with the proposed N-MAP proposal, the board reviewed board policy 604.10. Mrs. Livezey suggested removing the maximum allowable online course credits of 8 hours as well as removing the stipulation that credit from an online or virtual course can only be earned if it is not offered at the high school.

A motion was made by and seconded by to approve the first reading recommended changes to board policy 604.10. Motion carried.

APPROVE COMPENSATION OF UNUSED PERSONAL DAYS FOR BUS DRIVERS

Mrs. Livezey made a proposal to compensate bus drivers for their unused personal days because of their limited ability to take personal time this year with short staffing and other limitations. This would only be for FY21. A motion was made by Ratcliff and seconded by Foster to approve paying the bus drivers for their unused personal time this year. Motion carried.

APPROVE PRACTICE FOR PAYING BUS DRIVERS FOR DRIVING AN AFTERNOON ACTIVITY ROUTE

Ms. McGriff noted that the current practice for paying a bus driver who misses their afternoon route to drive an activity bus is to deduct from the driver's contract amount by one route and pay only for the hours driven for the activity route. She proposed changing the process and instead pay the driver their whole contract amount but deduct 1.5 hours (the average route time) from the activity hours, as done by most schools she spoke with. A motion was made by Foster and seconded by DeBoef to approve the practice of paying bus drivers who miss an afternoon route to drive an activity bus.

INFORMATION ON GEER II FUNDS GRANT - ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS & STAFF

Mrs. Livezey gave an update that NM will be applying for a GEER II grant to pay for two additional days for the district's licensed social worker for the 2021-2022 school year.

APPROVE QUOTE FOR CAMERA UPGRADE

Mrs. Livezey presented two quotes received for a camera upgrade to be paid for with ESSER II funds. A motion was made by Foster and seconded by DeBoef to approve the quote from ITS for the updated security camera system. Motion carried.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

ELEMENTARY SCREENING DATA

Mrs. Livezey presented the elementary screening data. The district is currently under the 80% benchmark. Current targets for next year's math intervention are 1st, 4th, and 5th grades.

SENIOR AWARDS

Mrs. Goemaat reported that \$161,550 in scholarships were awarded to the Class of 2021.

WALK-A-THON

The Walk-A-Thon is being held this upcoming week. Funds raised by the Walk-A-Thon will be used to pay for future field trips and other classroom events. NM PACT does keep roughly half of the funds and uses those to sponsor various activities for NM throughout the year.

WELDING ACADEMY

Mrs. Goemaat reported that Indian Hills informed North Mahaska that the first year welding academy is being moved from North Mahaska to Oskaloosa next year. Mr. Groom will still teach welding basics in class, and North Mahaska will be able to send students to the welding academy next year in Oskaloosa.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

TEACHER LEADERSHIP PLAN UPDATE

Mrs. Livezey updated that the district is working with the AEA for teacher instructional coaching for 2021-2022 following the resignation of Chris Sampson who had served as the instructional coach.

SUMMER MEETING DATES

Mrs. Livezey proposed the summer meeting dates of June 21, July 12, and August 16, 2021. The board agreed on these dates.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Summer office hours will begin June 1 and continue through July 30. Hours will be 7:30 to 3:30 Monday through Thursday. The elementary office will be closed June 1 through August 9, and potentially longer depending on when the office is turned over after the completion of construction.

SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM

The summer food program will be offered from June 1-August 3. The sign up for June closes on May 18 and the sign up for July is available until June 21 at nmwarhawks.org/summermeals.

COMMENTS

Mr. Wilkin shared that while at a meeting in Oskaloosa, those he met with were incredibly complimentary of the New Sharon community and the school district. He also commented that he enjoyed the graduation ceremony and thought that it went very well.

Mr. DeBoef mentioned a concern from a community member that the FCS position was not going to be filled. Mrs. Livezey explained that the district is actively searching for an FCS teacher for 2021-2022, but does not know if the district will be able to find anyone.

Mr. DeBoef also asked if the district would be hiring a new in-house technology coordinator. Mrs. Livezey reported that the district would only be hiring an in-house technology coordinator if they also could be a math teacher. If that doesn't happen, the district will continue with ITS as their main technology support.

THANK YOU

Paul Hawkins, Montezuma Transportation Director, for driving bus
Bob Breen for driving bus
Alan Robison for driving bus
All Regular Route Drivers - Kathy, Wendy, Michelle, Bill, Ryan, Jeff

ADJOURN

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Foster to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. Motion carried.

Sarah McGriff
Board Secretary

Dirk Wilkin
Board President