

Board of Education  
Howards Grove School District  
High School Library  
December 21, 2020

Board President, Dave Loomis, called the regular monthly meeting of the School District of Howards Grove to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Loomis noted that the meeting was posted as prescribed by law and the news media notified.

Board members present: Mrs. Bramstedt, Mr. Loomis, Mr. Pahl (arrived late), Mrs. Siemers, and Mr. Stoeckigt. Administrators present: Tracy Bandt, Jason Cole, Scott Fritz, Chris Peterson (virtual), Josh Swanson, and Heather Zizis. Advisory Board Members present: Jeff Grunewald (virtual) and Allison Kunze. Also present: Lisa Schultz. Approximately 23 staff and community members viewed the meeting by remote access technology.

Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mrs. Bramstedt, to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried, 4-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mrs. Siemers, to approve the minutes of the November 2, 23, 30, 2020 Special Board Meetings, and the November 16, 2020, Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried, 4-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mr. Stoeckigt, to approve the treasurer's report as presented by Mrs. Siemers, along with the following vouchers payable for the month of November:

#10 - General Fund	}	\$ 829,376.75
#27 - Special Education Fund		
#50 - Food Service Fund		
#30 - Debt Service Fund		\$ 0.00

Motion carried, 4-0.

There were no amendments to the 2020-2021 adopted budget this month. Josh Swanson presented the Board with a three-year budget analysis/comparison, indicating the district is right where it should be at this time in the fiscal year.

The Board acknowledged and extended their gratitude and appreciation to the following individuals and/or organizations for their support of the school district and the students through their generosity of the following donations:

Scott Schisel donated \$100 to the high school Tech Ed Department.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

The Board acknowledged a note of thanks received from Tom Heier.

#### ADVISORY MEMBER REPORTS:

Jeff Grunewald asked about the return to school date related to COVID, and the Wednesday schedule at Northview. An update will be provided in Action Item 1.

ACTION ITEM:

1. Motion by Mrs. Siemers, to continue with the hybrid model at the Middle School and High school, and continue with the four-day schedule at Northview, having Wednesday, January 6, 13, and 27 as "flex" days. Students will be in session on January 20. The Board will discuss at the January 11 and 18 meetings to make a decision for February. Motion Failed.

**Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mr. Pahl, to continue with the hybrid model at the Middle School and High school, and continue with the four-day schedule at Northview, having Wednesday, January 6, 13, 27, and February 3, 10, and 17 as "flex" days. Students will be in session on January 20 due to the short week/end of semester. The Board will revisit this matter at the January 18 Board Meeting. Motion carried, 3-2.**

2. Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mrs. Bramstedt, to approve the 2021-2022 and the 2022-2023 school calendars as presented. Motion carried, 5-0.
3. Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mr. Pahl, to approve the special working sessions of the Board as presented. Motion carried, 5-0. The special meeting dates are as follows: January 11, February 1, March 1, April 5, and May 3, 2021.

OTHER REPORTS:**1. Building Reports****Northview Elementary – Submitted by Jason Cole, Principal**

- Has been a huge success connecting and building relationships
- Letters- delivered by Cliff the Elf
- Holiday gift creations - "stress balls" made on December 17 and 18
  - So many helpers from all three buildings
  - About 15 different languages for saying Happy Holidays
- Thank you Amanda O'Connell for organizing all of this.
- Thank you to the HG PTO for their tremendous support.
  - Rocky Rocco Night on Tuesday, December 8
- Spreading Holiday Cheer
  - Dress Up days - Amazing Cindy Lou Who hair day
- Holiday Food Drive-Thru
  - Food donation to Sheboygan County Food Bank - total pounds donated 596!!!
  - Online giving - \$165 donated online
- Water bottle fillers - saved how many water bottles as of December 18 - 1,275 and 770 total 2,045
- Several new students open enrolling to Northview
- Breakfast beginning late January

**Pupil Services – Submitted by Tracy Bandt, Special Education Coordinator & School Psychologist**

- We are in the process of submitting all ACT accommodation requests to ACT.org.
- ACCESS testing for English Learners has been pushed back to spring but would currently be going on now.

- Thank you to our special education team for all they do to meet the needs of their special education students. I'm so thankful to all of you.
- Thank you to our pupil service team for all your work to address mental health and academic needs of all students throughout the district, through school-wide initiatives, district-wide initiatives, and nation-wide initiatives. I also want to thank the entire staff and families for the efforts they make to reach out to make sure all of our students are being heard and making sure their mental wellness a priority.

#### **Middle School – Submitted by Heather Zisis, Principal**

- **New ELA/Math curriculum:** The ELA and Math teachers received some training on the new curriculum in November. They have continued to explore and work with the curriculum this month. Some of the highlights the teachers have seen so far are the many resources the program has all in one spot. They don't have to pull from different collections or areas to create lessons. They love that the curriculum has the option of reading to the students. The ELA curriculum is very aligned to the workshop model which again, is a huge advantage. The class set of hardcopies have already been very valuable for some of our students. We are learning things through this process. For example: when you have a primarily all online resource, if and when the site is down or we have internet issues, it becomes a challenge. In addition, for our younger students we are seeing more and more how valuable the print resources are for them to be successful. I will be scheduling an additional training for the teachers to take place in January.
- **Speak Up Speak Out:** David Hickmann and Jess Luecke have begun to present to the 6th-8th grade students on Speak Up Speak Out (SUSO). SUSO is a new resource for our students and families. It was created by the Wisconsin Department of Justice Office of School Safety, is a comprehensive one-stop place to turn to with your concerns regarding school safety. One of the most important facets of SUSO is the threat reporting system. The SUSO threat reporting system is available 24/7 and is free to all.
- **Trusted Adult Survey:** Jess Luecke sent out our Trusted Adult Survey earlier this month and has been organizing the data for our staff to utilize. Our next step is to focus on the students who identified that they do not have a trusted adult at home or school. Our staff will be strategically working on building relationships with these students. Then we will focus on the students who identified that they have a trusted adult at home but not school. In the upcoming months we will resend the survey to those identified students to see if their perception has changed and they are able to identify an adult at school they trust.
- **Student Council:** Steph Harms, one of our Student Council Advisors, has been working with students to incorporate more activities organized by the Middle School Student Council. I'd like to thank her and our newest Student Council Advisor, Courtney Athorp, for finding ways to keep our students engaged.
- **Free Breakfast:** Beginning January 4th, we will be offering free breakfast for all Middle School students. Students can pick up breakfast in the cafeteria when they arrive at school and take it to their classrooms to eat. Breakfast will be available from 7:15-7:30. Breakfast will include milk, are nutritionally balanced, and vary daily. The breakfast menu can be found on our school website under "Food Service". Similar to the free lunches offered, this free breakfast program is part of the federal government's COVID relief efforts. The free breakfast program will conclude at the end of the 20-21 school year. At the end of the school year we will evaluate whether to continue the breakfast program in 21-22. If the breakfast program continues it will be offered at a cost, unless the family qualifies for free or reduced lunch.
- **Girls Basketball:** We have successfully started and finished our girls' basketball season. I'd like to thank Ann Parnitzke who is one of our Athletic Directors and coached our 7th grade girls, Steve Heim who coached our 8th grade girls, and Gary Kalk our Co- Athletic Director. All three have worked diligently to ensure our students and spectators are safe. The boys' season will begin in January. The coaches are Kyle Quintell (Grade 7) and Mark Eirich (Grade 8). I'd like to thank them in advance for their time and work with the athletes.

**High School – Submitted by Scott Fritz, Principal**

- 2020-21 Course Registration is under way for HGHS students. Meetings are occurring in cohorts for current Freshman – Juniors to help choose course requests for the 20-21 school year. HS staff are creating short department videos that will help create a “Virtual Tour of the Departments” for incoming Freshman. Due to the pandemic we will be having a virtual incoming freshman orientation in January supplemented by this video.
- Thank you to Krista Neave for scheduling student and parent meetings with sophomores to work on their Academic Career Planning.
- Thank you to the flexibility of our staff at the HS as they have helped each other with subbing and support during our hybrid schedule.
- Due to the pandemic and uncertainty related to travel, we have decided to cancel the Nashville/Memphis Music trip in the spring of 2021. We postponed the trip from the fall due to the coronavirus. We needed to make the decision this month to insure that our families are refunded the maximum amount of money for the cancellation of the trip. By making this decision now parents should only lose the non-refundable processing fee for the payments. Information from the music department and the travel company will be sent out shortly to families.
- Thank you to Jada, Melanie and Karen as we navigate the COVID protocol changes from the county and the contact tracing within the school.

**District – Submitted by Chris Peterson, Superintendent**

- Thank you to the Administrators for taking care of our holiday treat today. The leadership team served Hot Chocolate and muffins to all the staff today. They even dressed up for the occasion. Thanks to Lorrie Wanty in food service for helping to coordinate the event.
- Just a reminder that the deadline to run for school board is December 5<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. You can get papers from Lisa in the district office. There are two seats on the ballot this year.
- I want to wish everyone a safe and happy holidays.

**2. Citizens Advisory Committee Report**

Superintendent Peterson provided an update on the status of the Facilities Study and Citizens Advisory Committees. Below is a summary of the update:

Early in 2019, the School District of Howards Grove engaged a consultant specializing in the analysis of school buildings and operations. CESA 10 completed an assessment of all our facilities and compiled recommendations for consideration by the district.

After receiving this comprehensive assessment, the district assembled a committee of 18 people which was a diverse group of community members, business leaders, staff, administration, and school board members. The charge of this committee was to determine next steps for the district to take with the facility assessment recommendations.

The committee discussed needs at all schools but understood that at this time the needs of the current middle school were most urgent and highest priority. In the fall of 2019, the committee invited architects, designers, and construction professionals to visit with the committee to discuss options of how the district could be assisted in further prioritizing, understanding, and addressing the needs identified in the report. The committee, using the information gathered from those discussions, continued to refine options, and plan the next steps for the

district. Discussions were initiated with a consultant to help the district create and execute a community survey to help understand the citizens' interest in addressing the needs.

In spring of 2020, the district needed to focus its thoughts and efforts on addressing the pandemic and operations of the school during the crisis. The work of the committee was temporarily put on hold.

Recently, the committee reengaged the design and construction professionals to pick up where the work had been put on hold. The committee interviewed two firms and recommended Hoffman Planning, Design & Construction from Appleton – a firm with a long history of experience in school construction – to help the committee complete our process.

Hoffman completed interviews with staff and administration to develop a further understanding of the baseline needs for the planning process. They used this information and the information created by CESA 10 as well as discussions by the committee to explore three preliminary options; build a new middle school at the Northview Elementary School site; build a new middle school to the north of the existing middle school and deconstruct the existing middle school, or build a middle school addition on the high school to share existing high school spaces where appropriate.

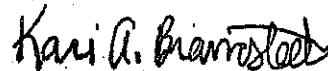
On December 9<sup>th</sup>, the committee met to review these three options which included information on functionality, site, building construction, phasing, and budget. Both positive and negative aspects of each option were discussed. At the close of the meeting, the committee gave Hoffman the direction to further develop the option to construct a new middle school on the existing middle school site

Over the next four weeks, Hoffman will be working on further details to develop a final solution to recommend to the community this spring.

A survey was been created and sent to staff and the community. Data from the survey will be available for the Board to consider at the January 18 meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mrs. Siemers, to convene in closed session as set forth in Section 19.85 (1) (c) (d) (f) of the Wisconsin Statutes to deliberate the employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of employees, to consider strategy for crime detection or prevention, and to consider personal history as is relates to a specific person(s). Vote by the Board: Bramstedt, aye; Loomis; aye; Pahl, aye; Siemers, aye; Stoeckigt, aye.

Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mrs. Siemers, to adjourn at 9:27 p.m. Motion carried, 5-0.



---

Kari Bramstedt, Clerk