

**AURORA R-VIII SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
9:00 AM Saturday, January 9, 2021  
Aurora R-VIII Central Office  
201 S. Madison Ave.**

**OPEN SESSION 9:00 A.M. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**1. INTRODUCTION (Welcome, Pledge, Roll, Agenda)**

**\*The Board approved the agenda for the meeting.**

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Minutes
- b. Expenditures
- c. Cox Contract for Athletic Training
- d. Visual Impairment Services Contract
- e. PDC Plan

**\*The Board approved the Consent agenda.**

- 3. Enrollment Projections/Class Size Projections-**September enrollments were used to estimate numbers for 2021-2022 school year. Kindergarten student numbers for next year were estimated at 125 based on reviewing previous years. All other enrollments were moved to the next grade level for estimation purposes. The unknown for 2021-2022 will be the number of virtual students who will continue learning through this type of instructional method. Some movement of staff is expected based on current numbers in comparison to next year's estimates.
- 4. Ozarks School Benefits Association-Insurance-**Currently, 205 employees utilize the District's insurance plans. A single digit increase is projected for the 2021-2022 school year. Using a 9% increase, the following would apply to the current levels for the 2020-2021 school year as projected to the 2021-2022 school year: \$1,500 Deductible (PPO) from \$589.66 to \$642.72, \$2,000 Deductible (PPO) from \$553.39 to \$603.20, \$2,500 Deductible (PPO) from \$527.54 to \$575.01, \$3,500 Deductible (PPO) from \$507.10 to \$552.74, \$3,500 Deductible (HSA) from \$497.91 to \$542.72, \$5,000 Deductible (HSA) from \$471.58 to \$514.02, and \$6,500 Deductible (HSA) from \$453.31 to \$494.10. Last year the Board voted to increase the monthly stipend from \$500 to \$525. With these types of increases, only two HSA plans would still be covered without additional out-of-pocket expense for employees at \$525. If the stipend was increased to \$550, all three HSA would be covered and \$2.74 would be required out of the employee's pocket for the \$3,500 PPO Deductible. A decision will be made at the February Board Meeting after final numbers are received.
- 5. Board Resolution Regarding COVID Leave-**The Board approved a resolution to extend the COVID-19 Leave to continue providing relief regarding the mandated Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). The FFCRA expired on December 31, 2020. The resolution allows the continuation of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (EFMLEA) leave until June 30, 2021 for those employees who did not exhaust the provided leave by December 31, 2020. The leave criteria will be in the same form and under the same conditions as outlined in the FFCRA.
- 6. Budget-**Information was presented comparing the previous two-year's expenditures through December versus the amounts spent during the 2020-2021 school year (2018-2019 v. 2019-2020 v. 2020-2021). Because Robinson School was combined into one building, the numbers from past years were added together to develop a total (completed below for 1112). Overall, most areas are similar to District expenditures at this time last year. Expenditures through December 2020 are \$7,315,259.66 down from \$7,642,456.54 for 2019-2020 and less than the \$8,161,274.04 spent for 2018-2019. It should be noted that the budgets for the previous years were \$20,212,200.33 for 2019-2020 and \$20,157,122.22 for 2018-2019. This year's approved budget is \$19,852,995.45. The approved decrease was based on information indicating revenues would be either less or withheld by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

**Points of Interest:**

**1110 Pate-Positions** were added for the Pate building and included additional expenditures that increased the budget for the year. Increases to salaries for people providing virtual instruction were also included.

**1112-Robinson-The** previous budgeted amount was \$1,714,349 for 2018-2019 and \$1,674,743 for 2019-2020. Expenditures for these years include \$604,404 for 2018-2019 and \$604,099 for 2019-2020. The total spent so far for 2020-2021 is \$627,052. Increases to salaries for people providing virtual instruction were also included.

**1251 Title I-Due** to the recoding revisions, this amount increased and other areas were added under the expenditure code. (1152, 3512 and 3912)

**1281 Special Education-Due** to recoding revisions, this amount decreased and funds were coded to other areas. (2142, 2152, 2162, 2172, 2182, 2191, 2329 and 3512)

**1921-Area Vocational School Fees-This** amount increased from last year due to additional enrollment at Scott Regional Technology Center. This amount is estimated to increase as enrollment at the High School trends up (future Juniors and Seniors).

**2540 Operation of Maintenance of Plant-This** continues to decline due to changes made last year.

- 7. Bond Issue and Draft Language-**The Board approved ballot language for the April 6, 2021 election regarding a no-tax increase bond issue. The initiative will be known as Project SOS-Safety of Students. The ballot language will read, "Shall the Aurora R-VIII School District of Lawrence County, Missouri issue its general obligation bonds in the amount of \$7,700,000, resulting in no estimated increase to the debt service tax levy, for the purpose of constructing, improving, repairing, renovating, furnishing and equipping school facilities, including:

  - Secure entryways and safety improvements at Robinson School and Aurora Junior High School;
  - Construction of severe weather, storm hardened shelters; and
  - Renovations and utility efficiency upgrades to all District facilities?

If this question is approved, the District's debt service tax levy is estimated to remain unchanged at \$1.05 per \$100 of assessed valuation of real and personal property.
- 8. CTS Project Plan and Letter of Intent-**The Board discussed the preliminary project plans provided by CTS regarding both safety upgrades and developing energy saving solutions for Aurora R-VIII facilities. The Board approved the CTS Letter of Intent (LOI) to work with the District regarding the project.
- 9. Community Survey and Teacher Input-**The Board discussed the Community Survey and Teacher input regarding the proposed project. Of the 182 survey responses, 77.47% indicated the need for maintenance, renovations and safety additions was critical or important. Secure entryways at Robinson School and Aurora Junior High School were identified as the most important revisions. Based on survey responses, 77.47% indicated they would vote for the issue if it did not raise their taxes. Respondents totaling 9.34% said they would not vote for the issue whether it kept their taxes the same or not. The final 13.9% marked that they would need more information to decide.
- 10. Activities/Tutoring/Use of Facilities-**The Board discussed spring activities, tutoring and use of the facilities by sports and recreational groups. Current procedures will be continued until progress is made with COVID trends.
- 11. Technology Usage and Plans Going Forward-**The Board was provided information and discussion was completed regarding the District's use of technology. Students in grades kindergarten through 8th utilize iPads for classroom and instructional activities. MacBook laptops are provided to students in grades 9th through 12th. Due to the life and efficiency of the current laptops ending, additional information was requested regarding the utilization of Chromebooks in place of MacBooks. This will include quotes for cost of the new devices. Due to the cost difference between devices and the increase in durability, a recommendation was made that the Chromebook would be more financially prudent for future student use.
- 12. Program Needs-**Program needs were provided to the Board. Transportation was the only area included at this time. A recommendation was made to purchase two buses for the 2021-2022 school year. One bus (purchased new) will be used for activities/trips and the other bus (purchased pre-owned, low mileage-if possible) would be put on the route. The current activity/trip bus will be placed on a route.
- 13. Additional Teaching and Program Changes-**Based on enrollment, the number of staff appears appropriate for the needs of the 2021-2022 school year. Currently, it was noted that the position of process coordinator is .86 FTE. A

recommendation was made to hire a 1 FTE process coordinator to assist with the newly expanded special education and 504 requirements.

14. Initial Calendar Discussion for 2021-2022-The Board reviewed draft calendars for the 2021-2022 school year. Due to the four-day school week, flexibility for a variety of options is limited. A survey will be developed and administered outlining options to obtain teacher input. Approval will be completed at a later meeting regarding the finalized calendar after receiving employee feedback.
15. Closed Session: Motion to go into closed session pursuant to RsMo. 610.021 to discuss item (1, 3 and 13).
16. Adjourn

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Aurora R-VIII School District  
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

By roll call vote the Aurora R-VIII Board of education will enter into closed session pursuant to RSMO 610.021 to discuss the following:

- ☒ 1. Legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys.
- ☐ 2. Leasing, purchase or sale of real estate by a public governmental body where public knowledge of the transaction might adversely affect the legal consideration thereof.
- ☒ 3. Hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded.
- ☐ 4. Non-judicial mental or physical health proceedings involving identifiable persons, including medical, psychiatric, psychological, or alcoholism or drug dependency diagnosis or treatment.
- ☐ 5. Scholastic probation, expulsion or graduation of identifiable individuals, including records of individual test or examination scores.
- ☐ 6. Testing and examination materials, before the test or examination is given.
- ☐ 7. Welfare cases of identifiable individuals.
- ☐ 8. Preparation, including any discussions or work product for negotiations with employee groups.
- ☐ 9. Software codes for electronic data processing.
- ☐ 10. Specifications for competitive bidding.
- ☐ 11. Sealed bids and related documents.
- ☐ 12. Individually identifiable personnel records.
- ☒ 13. Records which are protected from disclosure by law.
- ☐ 14. Scientific and technological innovations in which the owner has proprietary interest.
- ☐ 15. Records relating to municipal hotlines established for the reporting of abuse and wrongdoing.
- ☐ 16. Confidential privileged communications between a public governmental body and its auditor.
- ☐ 17. Operational guidelines to protect the health or safety of persons.
- ☐ 18. Security systems and structural plans where disclosure would threaten public safety
- ☐ 19. Records that identify security systems and access codes.
- ☐ 20. Records that identify and would allow unauthorized access to data systems.
- ☐ 21. Credit card numbers, personal identification numbers, digital certificates, keys and codes to protect security.

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Posted 01/06/2021