

Board of Education
High School Library
February 15, 2021

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 had been posted as prescribed by law and the news media notified.

Board members present were Mrs. Bramstedt, Mr. Loomis, Mr. Pahl, Mrs. Siemers, and Mr. Stoeckigt. Administrators present included Tracy Bandt, Jason Cole, Chris Peterson, and Heather Zizis; (Scott Fritz and Josh Swanson, virtual). Advisory Board Members present (virtual): Jeff Grunewald, Allison Kunze, and Kim Tess. Also present: Lisa Schultz. Approximately 39 staff and community members viewed the meeting by remote access technology.

Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mrs. Siemers, to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried, 5-0.

Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mr. Pahl, to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2021 Regular Board Meeting and the January 11 & 25, 2021 Special Board Meetings. Motion carried, 5-0.

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

#10 - General Fund	}	\$ 939,701.97
#27 - Special Education Fund		
#50 - Food Service Fund		
#30 - Debt Service Fund		\$ 0.00

Motion carried, 5-0

There were no amendments to the 2020-2021 adopted budget this month. Josh Swanson provided a budget update indicating that wages are in line with budget and health insurance is currently lower than expected. Transportation costs have also provided a savings. Costs associated with cleaning supplies have been higher than expected. Overall the total budget is on track and consistent with prior years.

Informational Items:

Mr. Loomis made mention of the FFA Food Drive that will be held February 22-March 5 at the high school. Students can bring in food items and put them in bins marked for specific teachers. The teacher with the most food items in their bin will kiss a pig.

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

The Sheboygan County Food Bank donated \$4295 toward the development of a Flex Farm and Hydroponic grow machines.

Lakeshore Pallet donated \$100 to the Special Education Program.

The Howards Grove Athletic Association donated \$1712 toward the cost of a timing system for the athletic department.

Millersville Rec donated \$1712 toward the cost of a timing system for the athletic department.

The daycare families from So Big Daycare collected & donated \$360.77 toward Challenge Day.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence this month.

ADVISORY MEMBER REPORTS:

Advisory Board Members inquired about a Covid update and an anticipated return to school date for students. Both items will be addressed during the Action Item segment of the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Following lengthy discussion related to Covid-19, and hearing updates from the superintendent and building principals related to student and staff attendance, a Motion was made by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mr. Loomis, to return to 5 days a week at the high school beginning March 1st and to continue to offer a virtual option. Wednesdays will be half days for students so teachers can plan and prepare materials. Half day Wednesdays will run from March 1-April 1. Motion carried, 4-1.
2. Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mrs. Bramstedt, to approve the Library Media Plan as presented. Motion carried, 5-0.
3. Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mr. Pahl, to approve a contract for Peter Marotz as the new Buildings and Grounds Manager. Motion carried, 5-0.
4. Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mrs. Bramstedt, to approve the updated long range facilities plan as presented. Motion carried, 5-0.

OTHER REPORTS:

1. Building Reports

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

The ACT is coming up, and all ACT accommodations for special education, 504, and EL students have been submitted and approved or acknowledged.

ACCESS testing for our English Learners is all set up, and testing will begin at the end of this month.

Our Child Find screening process for three- and four-year-olds was supposed to be held at the end of this month. While we are not completing in-person play-based screening, all of the families have been sent an ASQ-3 to complete, and we will be following up with them regarding results, recommendations, and resources. If needs are found, further in-person screening and/or evaluation will be completed.

Northview – Submitted by Jason Cole, Principal

The morning breakfast program at Northview has been going well. More students are beginning their day with something in their bellies than ever before which is a huge positive.

Preparing for our Assessment windows of AIMSweb and Forward testing for the spring. The state made some adjustments to the Forward Exam.

- DPI and Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) have implemented two one-year adjustments to shorten testing times for the 2021 administration. These changes will reduce testing times by a minimum of 70- 80 minutes depending on grade level.
- **Field test items** from the English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science subject areas have been removed.

The Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) item, which is "the long write" of the ELA subject area has been removed.

Our strong partnership with Mental Health of America - Sheboygan. Northview Elementary School is part of a video that they've put together. It is on our district Facebook page, Northview website, and Northview's YouTube page.

Middle School – Submitted by Heather Zizis, Principal

Update on being back: It has been just over two weeks since all our students have been back, 5 days a week. It was a quite the transition for all coming back. There was a lot of re-teaching expectations. However, it has been great to have our kids back. Last week we also started our grade level band and choir lessons in the gym. With all these changes our numbers of students/staff out sick, continues to stay steady.

Boys Basketball: Howards Grove Middle School recently completed its boys' basketball season. Mark Eirich led 14 eighth grade boys through a Covid shortened season with a winning record of 5-1. Kyle Quintell brought energy and enthusiasm to the seventh-grade team while leading 12 boys to a record of 3-2. Both coaches represented our school district in an extremely positive, professional manner. Mark and Kyle's dedication to teaching the game of basketball in a fun, safe manner while also working to diligently distribute playing time to everyone should be noted. I'd also like to thank Ava Sloma and Korynne Wesener made our games run smoothly by running the clock and keeping the official scorebook. Finally, thanks to the parents for their dedication and support.

Girls Volleyball: Volleyball begins on Monday, February 22nd. Coaches are Taylor Bubolz and Jodi Heim. The 7th/8th grade girls will play a six-game schedule.

Wrestling - HG Wrestlers Co-op with Elkhart Lake and their season begins today. They will have 3-4 meets. We have 4 students participating (2-8th graders and 2-6th graders).

Math Competition: Mathew Kue, Sam Parnitzke, Jack Bartz, and Hannah Ziegler competed in a Math competition called MATHCOUNTS on Saturday, Feb. 5th.

- MATHCOUNTS is a National competition promoting middle school students to think critically. MATHCOUNTS programs build problem solving skills and positive attitudes about math, so students embrace challenges and expand their academic and career opportunities in the future. MATHCOUNTS is sponsored by The National Society of Professional Engineers, among others. Many local engineers volunteer their time to the meet to promote future leaders of Engineer.

Each student has the chance to advance to the State MATHCOUNTS meet in March. I'd like to thank Mrs. Ann Parnitzke for continuing to work with our students to offer this amazing opportunity.

A special Thank You to Pat and Rodger Klemme for donating a chicken lunch for the Middle School and Northview staff. It was fun to see Mr. Bartz cooking the chicken and Mr. Cole and I enjoyed boxing the food up for our staff. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

High School – Submitted by Scott Fritz, Principal

We are currently working on building the 21-22 Master schedule. We are using student requests to determine course offerings and section numbers.

We are beginning to plan for the 2021 graduation ceremony. We are currently working on both an indoor and outdoor graduation plan. We will probably have a restricted crowd size that will impact planning, but at this time we do not know what that will be.

Congratulations to the Girls basketball team for their regional championship. Good luck at Sectionals and good luck to all our winter athletes in the WIAA tournament.

March 9th will be our Junior ACT testing. Thank you to Krista, Dave and Jessica for their work planning for this day.

We will be adding a Flex Farm to the AG department this spring to grow leafy vegetables for the food bank. Thank you to the FFA Alumni, the Sheboygan Food Bank for helping fund this project.

Business Office – Submitted by Josh Swanson, Business Manager**2nd Friday Membership Count**

The 2nd of the DPI mandated count dates was conducted on January 8th and submitted to DPI on January 20th. We saw an increase in 5 FTE from the first count date in September – 816 vs 811. Thank you to Shelly, Jeannine, Mel, and Lisa for their help with the reporting. We were also selected for a membership audit (again). This will take place virtually in March or April (due on May 3rd).

Tax Collections

We have received \$1,811,179.78 of property tax collections in January. This represents 39% of our total tax levy, which is down slightly from last year (\$2,043,855.46 collected of \$4,556,534 levy, or 45%). CY Levy is \$4,697,191.

New Printers

We will be getting 5 new devices (2 at HS, DO, MS, NV) over spring break. Our newest functioning printers will be repurposed to strategic locations, and the oldest machines will be removed. New machines will be leased and the service contract is restructured. Overall the new contract is cost neutral but we should also see some energy savings with more efficient machines. A Big thank you to Chris Woller for his help with this project.

Budget Update

Work continues on the 2021-22 budget. Revenue side (what we can't control), looking at different enrollment scenarios, budget scenarios from the state. At this point there is still a lot of uncertainty with the state's new biennium budget, but Governor Evers will present his 2021-23 budget proposal tomorrow at 7 PM. Expenditure side (what we can control), looking at payroll costs, budget requests are now open for staff. Meeting with the Insurance Center on Wednesday the 17th to discuss plan options for next year.

Breakfast Reimbursement

The January breakfast claim will be received tomorrow in the amount of \$4,159.89. We expect the participation to continue to increase with NV and MS returning to 5 days of in-person instruction.

District Update – Submitted by Chris Peterson, Superintendent

Legislative Update: Round 2 of ESSER Funds will be distributed, reimbursement style in the coming months. We are projected to receive \$363,795. That would go a long way compared to our Round 1 allocation of \$40,000. There are 172 schools that will not meet the minimum threshold according to Title 1 Allocations. Those schools will be eligible for a discretionary 10% of federal funds that the legislature has

control over. The legislature has decided to "reward/incentivize" districts that have been open. It will be based on the total number of instructional minutes. We are investigating if we will qualify.

I want to thank all of our maintenance staff and cleaners. They all have been incredibly flexible in covering buildings, helping out with snow removal, and getting rooms cleaned. All of them have been very accommodating and helpful.

Special thanks to David Hickman, Angie Houston, Mel Kautzer, Karen Salm, and Daniel Butler for their leadership the past several weeks in keeping the High School running smoothly.

We are preparing to launch a "facelift to the current district website.

2. Referendum Update


Chris Peterson shared a handout and some photos of an initial plan for the proposed middle school. He also indicated that the plans for the high school office space/secured entry will be modified. Additional communication will be provided to the community regarding plans and open houses, etc. Updated information will also be shared on the district website.

Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mr. Pahl, to convene in closed session as set forth in Section 19.85(1)(c),(f) of the Wisconsin Statutes to consider the employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of employee(s); to consider personal history as it relates to a specific person(s). Vote by the Board: Bramstedt, aye; Stoeckigt, aye; Siemers, aye; Pahl, aye; Loomis, aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mrs. Siemers, to reconvene into open session for possible board action on matters discussed in closed session.

Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mrs. Bramstedt, to approve the administrator contracts as presented. Motion carried, 5-0.

Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mr. Pahl, to adjourn at 9:19 p.m. Motion carried, 5-0.



Kari Bramstedt, Clerk