

Board of Education
High School Library
Howards Grove School District
April 19, 2021

President Dave Loomis called the regular monthly meeting of the School District of Howards Grove to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Loomis noted that the meeting had been posted as prescribed by law and the news media notified.

Board members present: Mrs. Bramstedt, Mr. Loomis, Mr. Pahl, Mrs. Siemers, and Mr. Stoeckigt. Administrators present: Tracy Bandt, Scott Fritz, Chris Peterson. Lisa Schultz was also present.

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

Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mr. Pahl, to convene in closed session as set forth in Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(f). This closed session will relate to staffing vacancies and strategic discussions with a consulting search firm regarding specific staffing decisions for open positions throughout the District. **The closed session will take place from 6:00-7:00 pm.** 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 at 7:00 pm for the purpose of conducting the regular monthly meeting. Motion carried, 5-0.

Board members present: Mrs. Bramstedt, Mr. Loomis, Mr. Pahl, Mrs. Siemers, and Mr. Stoeckigt. Administrators present: Tracy Bandt, Jason Cole, Scott Fritz, Chris Peterson, Josh Swanson, and Heather Zizis. Advisory Board Members present (virtually): Jeff Grunewald, Allison Kunze, and Kim Tess. Also in attendance: Jerry Dudzik, Grant Howard, and Lisa Schultz. Approximately 34 staff and community members viewed the meeting by remote access technology.

Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mrs. Siemers, to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2021 Regular Board Meeting and the March 1, 22, 29, and 31, Special Board Meetings. Motion carried, 5-0.

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

#10 - General Fund	}	\$ 950,743.90
#27 - Special Education Fund		
#50 - Food Service Fund		
#30 - Debt Service Fund		\$ 0.00

Motion carried, 5-0.

There were no amendments to the 2020-21 adopted budget.

ADVISORY MEMBER REPORTS:

Allison Kunze and Jeff Grunewald inquired about any follow-up following the referendum vote, and also expressed concern with the number of staff openings.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. The Oath of Office for Board Members was read by Kari Bramstedt, Board Clerk, and signed by Janina Siemers and Dave Loomis.
2. Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mrs. Bramstedt, to set Monday, September 20, 2021, as the date for the district's Annual Meeting, with the Regular Monthly Board Meeting starting at 6:30 pm, the Budget Hearing at 7:30 pm, and the Annual Meeting at 8:00 pm. Motion carried, 5-0.
3. Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mrs. Bramstedt, to appoint Ed Pahl as the Howards Grove representative for the CESA 7 Convention. Motion carried, 5-0.
4. Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mr. Pahl, to approve the staffing recommendations and issuance of teacher contracts, as presented, for the 2021 -2022 school year Motion carried, 5-0.
5. Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mrs. Bramstedt, to ratify the teacher's Collective Bargaining Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year with a CPI increase of 1.23% to be applied to the Professional Compensation Model. Motion carried, 5-0.
6. Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mrs. Siemers, to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Establishment of an Escrow Account with Respect to Certain of the Taxable General Obligation School Building and Improvement Bonds, Series 2017A, dated April 20, 2017. Motion carried, 5-0.
7. Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mr. Pahl, to approve the applications for the ECCP and Start College Now program for the Fall of 2021 as presented. Motion carried, 5-0.
8. Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mrs. Siemers, to approve the new Medical Terminology course offering as presented. Motion carried, 5-0.
9. Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mr. Pahl, to accept the letter of retirement/resignation from Mrs. Jeanette Schmidt, with regret. Motion carried, 5-0. Board members expressed their congratulations and thanks to Mrs. Schmidt for caring for so many students over the past 24 years.
10. Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mr. Pahl, to accept the letter of resignation from Mrs. Jada Peterson. Motion carried, 5-0. Mrs. Bramstedt thanked Jada for her help through this past school year during the pandemic and congratulated her on her promotion at the hospital.
11. Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mr. Stoeckigt, to accept the letter of resignation from Mr. Jason Cole as presented, with regret. Motion carried, 5-0. Mrs. Bramstedt thanked Mr. Cole for his leadership and wished him well in his new position.
12. Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mrs. Siemers, to accept the letter of resignation from Mr. Chris Peterson. Motion carried, 5-0. Mrs. Bramstedt added to accept the resignation with regret and recognized Mr. Peterson for his contributions to student achievement and expanded & improved facilities.

OTHER REPORTS:1. **BUILDING REPORTS:****Northview Elementary School – Submitted by Jason Cole, Principal**

- Thank you Aimee Thiel for her positivity and ways to help our students be part of something bigger than themselves. She had the suggestion of doing something for Harms Bus Company. We organized a coin drive to raise money for Harms Bus Company. The Northview students, staff, and families collectively raised \$1046.05.
- Virtual parent teacher conferences were held on March 16 and 18. We had 90% participation.
- Northview students will begin the Forward Exam April 26 through May 7.
- Opinion Writings led to a recycling program. Thank you Mrs. Johnson's class for sharing your opinion writings about the need for more recycling at Northview. Thank you Amanda O'Connell, Lisa Bissonette, Sara Demmon, Julie Johnson, and Shari Vogel for creating an Eco club.
- Joke-Ha-Thon was last week and the students did an amazing job sharing jokes and showing empathy towards others through raising funds to end childhood poverty.

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

- We are heavy into the “assessment” season. All ACCESS testing, district-wide, is expected to be completed by the end of the day tomorrow. We are preparing for the Forward tests at the elementary and middle schools, along with alternate assessments. Thank you to all our school counselors and principals for their tireless effort in preparing for the testing by setting schedules, completing proctor training, and inputting accommodations. A special thanks to Jessica Luecke for serving as our DAC this year. It is a big role to fill, and she has done a tremendous job. For all the teachers and para-professionals who have worked so hard to continue the level of academic excellence in instruction, in an unprecedented time, “thank you” just doesn't capture how deeply I appreciate all you do every day.
- I would, personally, like to thank Chris Peterson, Heather Zizis, and Jason Cole for their excellent leadership for the students of Howards Grove. Your years of service will make an impact for years to come. I have appreciated the incredible commitment to always trying to do what is best for the students and families of this community, whether it is regard to academic excellence, social-emotional support and development, and school safety. I know there will be many heavy hearts in this community, and I can't even imagine the sadness our students will feel with you leaving. It has truly been my honor to work with you over the past many years. You are the strongest combined leadership team I have ever had the opportunity to work with in my 25 years as a school psychologist in three different districts. I wish you much happiness and success in the future and know that the communities you are headed to will benefit tremendously from your leadership. You are A+ in my book.
- I would also like to thank Josh Swanson. While it has only been for a short time, I have truly appreciated having the opportunity to work with you. You are EXCELLENT at your job! Best wishes...you will be greatly missed.

Middle School – Submitted by Heather Zisis, Principal

- Forward state testing is quickly approaching. Middle School students will be testing between April 26th and May 7th. Staff participated in their proctoring training this past Wednesday, April 14th. I'd like to thank Jessica Luecke for all of the testing preparation and communication she has done to help our teachers be prepared. Thank you to the staff for preparing our students for the assessment.
- A total of 35 middle school athletes, in grades 6 through 8, began their track season on Monday, April 5. Their season consists of four triangular meets and concludes with a Central Lakeshore Conference meet on May 20. Our first triangular track meet will be on Thursday, April 29. We will be hosting Kohler and Random Lake. Field events are scheduled to begin at 3:30 pm with track events starting at 4:00 pm. Mark Maranell is serving as both head middle school and high school coach. Mark has been teaching these young athletes how to improve their explosiveness and quickness as well as their jumping and throwing abilities.
- The Middle School Student Council has been hosting a Hygiene Drive from April 12th through the 23rd. In each round homerooms face off against one another to see who can bring in the most points. Each round lasts for 2 days. At the end of 4 rounds, the homeroom with the most wins will earn a prize! All the proceeds are going to the Salvation Army. This is a great way for the Howards Grove Middle School Student Council to help our community!

High School – Submitted by Scott Fritz, Principal

- Thank you to Krista Neave and Jess Luecke for their work and planning as we begin preparation for the State Aspire Testing for Freshman and Sophomores.
- Thank you to Melanie, Miranda and Krista as we begin building the master schedule for the 2021-22 school year.
- Thank you to Sarah Hill and the senior graduation committee as we begin our preparation and planning for the 2021 Graduation ceremony.
- Thank you to the Student Council Leadership committee for help surveying students and collection information as we begin to prepare for our 2021 prom. We will be sharing information with students and families this week.
- Congratulations to the 2020-21 NHS inductees for all their leadership, hard work, and academic successes.

Business Office – Submitted by Josh Swanson, Business Manager

- **Membership Audit**

The District's membership was audited by CliftonLarsonAllen in March. The membership audit consists of reviewing district policies and procedures that ensure accurate student reporting to DPI. Test counts are performed for each building. Summer school attendance and fees are also included in the audit. CLA submitted our membership audit report to DPI on April 6th. I am pleased to report that there were no findings or corrections to any of our originally reported totals. Thank you to Shelly, Jeannine, Mel, and Lisa for their assistance with the membership audit.

- **Debt Summary**

An updated debt summary is provided after the defeasement payment will be made. Projected 6/30/21 balance of outstanding principal is \$6,343,256.98. Total principal and interest to be paid is \$8,035,110.46. Compared to 6/30/2020, the principal and interest outstanding was \$9,883,088. This is a \$1,847,978 debt reduction this year, or an 18.7% reduction. This is an impressive number especially considering only \$761,559 was scheduled to be paid.

- **Fund Balance Projections**

The general fund is projected to have a slight increase in fund balance of approximately \$64,000. I will continue to monitor these accounts as additional events occur and update the projections each month. At this point I would recommend using our general fund surplus to either pay down Fund 38 debt, or reinvest into Fund 46. As we get closer to the fiscal year end we can evaluate more accurate projections and determine if the surplus should be transferred to another fund or retained in the general fund.

District – Submitted by Chris Peterson, Superintendent

- I would like to introduce Mr. Grant Howard. Mr. Howard lives in the town of Mosel and is interested in serving as an Advisory Board Member.
 - Tell us a little bit about yourself
 - Why are you interested in being an Advisory Board Member?
 - Board would take formal action at the May regular meeting.
- COVID-19 Update
 - 26 students out, district wide
 - 3 staff members
 - Numbers continue to be consistent

2. Buildings & Grounds

- Buildings & Grounds Supervisor, Peter Marotz, reported that the district has a lot of needs other than those mentioned as part of the recent referendum. Some of those include the dust removal system in the high school tech ed area. In addition, there is a settling issue in several areas of the athletic complex causing cracking in the bathrooms at the concession stand. The track is in need of repairs, as is the tennis court area. There are black top issues at both, the high school and at Northview.

3. Summer School Update

- As of this morning we have had 164 students sign up for summer school through online registration. Registration will remain open until April 30th. This has been communicated to families through Mr. Peterson's weekly communication along with where to access the online registration, class descriptions, and schedules. This morning I did "close" several classes due to them being at maximum capacity. If a family is interested in a class that has been closed, they will be placed on a waiting list. Once registration closes, we will be working on summer school budgets and hiring HS helpers. I'd like to thank Shelly Kuether and Chris Woller for their ongoing help with summer school. I'd also like to thank Mrs. Courtney Athorp who will be serving as the summer school administrator when I leave. I have started to work with her on the transition and am confident she will do a wonderful job.

4. District Insurance Plan Update

- We are still working on moving to partially self-funding
- The Insurance Center is working on a new timeline to complete the work prior to all staff leaving for summer break
- Renewal date this year would be August 1st/ and for the summer of 2022 it would be July

Representatives from the Insurance Center are still working on getting claims data from Humana, then they will send to Pareto. So until they get the claims data she can't provide a more detailed timeline. However, they don't see any issue moving to an 8/1 effective date.

They are also going to work on getting quotes for fully insured HRA (what we have now) so we can use as a comparison to Pareto's costs as well as have a backup plan in case Pareto falls through.

Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mrs. Siemers, to convene in closed session as set forth in Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(c) to consider the employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of employee(s); Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(f) to discuss a contract with the Harms Bus Company; and Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1) (f) to consider personal history of specific person(s) as related to the Wisconsin Education Career Access Network (WECAN), and to continue the discussion regarding specific staffing decisions for open positions throughout the District. Vote by the Board: Bramstedt, aye; Stoeckigt, aye; Siemers, aye; Pahl, aye; Loomis, aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Stoeckigt, second by Mrs. Bramstedt, to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. Motion carried, 5-0.



Kari Bramstedt, Clerk