

Board of Education
Howards Grove School District
High School Library
May 17, 2021

Board 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 has 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.

Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mr. Pahl, 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)(c),(f). This closed session will relate to a review of applications received for 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 Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mrs. Siemers to reconvene into open session at 7:00 pm for the purpose of conducting the regular monthly meeting. Motion carried, 4-0.
(It was noted that Mr. Pahl left the room during this motion).

Board members present were Mrs. Bramstedt, Mr. Loomis, Mr. Pahl, Mrs. Siemers, and Mr. Stoeckigt. Administrators present included Tracy Bandt, Jason Cole, Scott Fritz, Chris Peterson, Josh Swanson, and Heather Zizis. Advisory Board Members present (virtual): Jeff Grunewald, Allison Kunze, and Kim Tess. Also present: Kate Elder, Abby Hawkinson, Sharry Ringmeier, Lisa Schultz, and Jason Yancy. Approximately 46 staff and community members viewed the meeting by remote access technology.

The election of board officers for 2021-2022 was held. Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mr. Pahl, to nominate Dave Loomis as President. Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mr. Pahl to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mr. Loomis, to nominate Ed Pahl as Vice President. Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mr. Pahl to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mr. Stoeckigt, to nominate Kari Bramstedt as Clerk. Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mrs. Siemers to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mr. Loomis, to nominate Janina Siemers as Treasurer. Motion by Mr. Stoeckigt, second by Mr. Pahl, to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Loomis, second by Mr. Pahl to nominate Mike Stoeckigt as Director. Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mr. Pahl, to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mrs. Siemers, to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2021 regular board meeting, and the April 12, 2021 special board meeting. 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 April:

#10 - General Fund	}	
#27 - Special Education Fund		\$ 940,403.02
#50 - Food Service Fund		
#30 - Debt Service Fund		\$ 0.00

Motion carried, 5-0.

There were no amendments to the 2020-2021 adopted budget.

The School Board and administration acknowledged and expressed 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 Howards Grove PTO donated \$500 to the Middle School Library for a 3D printer.

The Howards Grove PTO donated \$1006.13 for costs associated with the 7th grade Camp Y-Koda field trip, the 6th grade Wetland Experience, and the Middle School Art Showcase.

The West Bend Mutual Insurance Company donated \$500 to the high school golf program.

A \$500 donation was received for the high school golf program from Simply Faster by TAG

ADVISORY MEMBER REPORTS:

Allison Kunze inquired about staffing and class sizes. Mr. Peterson responded by saying that contracts have been issued at the current staffing levels and enrollment will be monitored over the summer. Mrs. Kunze also inquired about mask mandates, which will be addressed later in the meeting.

Jeff Grunewald joined the meeting virtually and reported he is hearing many questions about the number of closed session meetings, the staff turnover, and what is happening behind the scenes. Mr. Peterson responded by saying the board and administration cannot share a lot of information about what is discussed in closed session, and that the staffing issues are being addressed. President Loomis added that two board meetings each month are open to the public and the closed session is to address staffing needs.

Guest Speaker:

Jason Yancy, parent and resident, addressed the board regarding the American Transmission Company's (ATC) proposal for a new high-voltage electric transmission line. A similar proposal was received several years ago but never materialized. The preferred route for the proposed high-voltage lines would run along the north playground/soccer field of Northview Elementary School. The alternative route would go along CTH FF. As a school district, we would prefer the lines to go long FF, away from the schools. Mr. Yancy plans to contact the Village Board, the PTO, and local government officials to help get information to the community. The intent is not to stop ATC, but to advocate for the right route to support it.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Motion by Mr. Loomis, second by Mr. Pahl, to maintain the mask requirement through June 8, 2021. Masks will be optional for summer school with the caveat that students have masks with them and teachers can require students to mask up if an activity requires close contact, or if students need to be inside due to poor weather. If parents don't want students to wear masks, they need to discuss expectations with students at home prior to attending summer school. Motion carried, 3-2.
2. Motion by Mr. Loomis, second by Mrs. Bramstedt, to accept the retirements of Jane Lensmire and Linda White with congratulations and appreciation. Motion carried, 5-0.
3. Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mr. Pahl, to accept the resignation of Mr. Scott Fritz, with congratulations and best wishes in his new position. Motion carried, 5-0.
4. Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mrs. Siemers, to accept the resignations of Amanda O'Connell, Gabby Kramer, Andrea Schmidt, Mitch Freiberg, and Ashley Miller as presented, with regret. Motion carried, 5-0.
5. Motion by Mr. Stoeckigt, second by Mrs. Siemers, to approve Grant Howard as an Advisory Board Member for the remaining 5 months of the term. Mr. Howard will represent the Town of Mosel. Motion carried, 5-0.
6. Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mr. Pahl, to grant authority to the Board President to temporarily suspend any policies necessary to conduct virtual board meetings through June 30, 2021 (or until a new administrative team is established). Motion carried, 4-0-1.

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

- Forward Testing
Thank you Amanda O'Connell and 3rd/4th grade teachers for administering the Forward Exam test over the past few weeks. Students were able to complete the tests using their 1:1 device within their classrooms.
- Staff Appreciation Week
Thank you staff for your dedication to the success of the whole child
Thank you to the PTO for caring so much for our staff and for the wonderful gifts they put together.
- End of the year
All school cookout hamburgers and hot dogs - thank you food service for your help
Classroom Field Day - thank you Lisa Gartman and Brittney Kramer for working on the Field Day activities.

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

- I would like to congratulate and send out a huge thank you on behalf of our students, staff, and community to Linda White and Jane Lensmire, who are retiring at the end of this school year. Their work on behalf of our students has been tremendous, and they have fostered excellent achievements for our students. Their love and care will be greatly missed. I wish them all the very best as they pursue new ventures!
- I would also like to thank Andrea Schmidt and Gabby Kramer for their excellent work for the students and families in our district. Andrea is a HG alum and has worked as a special education teacher in our district for the past six years. She is taking a position in her home community. Gabby just finished her first year

with the district and has accepted a full-time position in another district. I can speak for everyone in saying they will be greatly missed!

- I would like to thank Amanda O'Connell for her role in creating a positive, caring and supportive environment for our Northview students as the school counselor for the past three years. Amanda is kind, caring, and tremendously talented and will leave a huge hole. Best wishes, Amanda!
- It has been a blessing to work with the incredible special education and pupil service teams this past year. In a year like no other, they have put forth tremendous effort and have sought to make student learning and mental wellness of our students a top priority. I will be forever grateful to them.

Middle School – Submitted by Heather Zizis, Principal

- Thanks to Jess Luecke for all of her help, district wide, with testing. We wrapped up Forward State Testing last week (make-ups) and will be completing Aimsweb testing this week.
- Student Council is ending the school year on a positive note. They helped make Staff Appreciation week extra special by making signs of "thank you" for each teacher on their classroom door and some treats. They will be organizing some fun dress up days to end the year on a positive note!
- This Thursday is the MS conference track meet at Random Lake. I wish all the athletes the best of luck!

High School – Submitted by Scott Fritz, Principal

- Thank you to Krista Neave for organizing and proctoring the State Forward and Aspire Exams this spring.
- Thank you to Sarah Hill, Zach Holzer, Angie Houston and Peter Marotz for all of their help with planning the logistics for this year's graduation ceremony.
- Thank you to Kim Hager for her work in organizing Mock interviews for her seniors. This is a great opportunity for students to build their interviewing skills.
- Shout out to the Student Council leadership committee for all of their help with planning and finalizing this year's Prom for June 11th.
- Thank you to Karen Salm, Melanie Kautzer, and Miranda Lorenz for all of their work in helping with all of the end of the year items.
- Thank you to the HG Staff, Students and Community I have truly enjoyed my 11 years here and being an HG Tiger, but my family and I are looking forward to the new chapter in our life as I take over as the Superintendent in Kewaunee next school year.

Business Office – Submitted by Josh Swanson, Business Manager

- **2021-22 Budget Update**
Thank you to those who have submitted budget requests or provided input for the 2021-22 budget. I appreciate the insight and suggestions for balancing the different needs of the district with limited funds. As of today, we are still in the process of finalizing a variety of expenditure areas but the overall budget is coming together and I will provide a preliminary budget at the June meeting.
- **Fund Balance Projections**
The general fund is projected to have a slight increase in fund balance of approximately \$40,000. I will provide an updated projection in June. At that point we will be able to make a decision about how to use any end of the year savings. Potential options are to retire fund 38 debt, transfer to capital improvement trust fund, address maintenance equipment needs, or retain in fund balance as assigned or committed for specific purposes.

District – Submitted by Chris Peterson, Superintendent

- Compensation Model Update – We have gone through all of the proposed moves, reviewed what documents are still needed for each staff member. We are on track to have all compensation work completed by end of school.
 - We will need a board member or two to join us when we meet to finalize staff movements. Looking for volunteers...would be in the afternoon.
- I would like to personally thank Mr. Fritz for his 11 years of service to the district. I have enjoyed working with Mr. Fritz and look forward to working with him in the future. Thank you for your service to our students.
- Congratulations to our retirees, Linda White and Jane Lensmire for their many years of service. I wish them the best.
- I would like to extend best wishes to Amanda O'Connell, Gabby Kramer, Andrea Schmidt, Mitch Freiberg, and Ashley Miller on their new positions. Thank you for your service to the children of Howards Grove.
- There has been a request to change the date of regular monthly meetings. You have two options:
 - You can change them on an as needed basis
 - You can change the policy. Policy 0164.1 states:
 - The Board shall meet on the third Monday of the each month at 7:00 P.M. in the high school library, or such other place as may be designated by the Board with due notice.
 - The regular meeting of the Board may be changed by a vote of the Board at one (1) previous regular Board meeting. Meetings may be adjourned to a specific date, at the direction of the Board President, for the consideration of unfinished business.
- With direction from the board, I can prepare a policy change for consideration at the June meeting.

2. Summer School Update – Mrs. Zizis reported there are currently 205 students enrolled in summer school classes. Thirty students are currently signed up for summer fitness and there will be additional students participating in the Middle and High School band offerings. Twenty-one different classes are being offered. Applications are available in the high school for summer school helpers.

3. Graduation Update – Mr. Fritz reported preparations are underway for an outdoor graduation ceremony. Students will be seated in the bleachers and guests will be seated on the football field. Chairs will be provided, however spectators may bring their own chairs and set them outside the reserved seating area. Each graduate will receive 6 tickets for invited guests. If there is inclement weather only spectators with a ticket will be allowed in the gymnasium for the graduation ceremony.

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)(e) to consider an employee health insurance proposal, and to discuss a transportation contract with Harms Bus; and Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(f) to consider personal history as it relates to a specific person(s), specifically discussion of open enrollment applications received, as well as consideration of alternative education diplomas. 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 to vote on items discussed in closed session. Motion carried, 5-0.

1. Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mrs. Bramstedt, to approve the employee health insurance proposal as presented. Motion carried, 5-0.
2. Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mrs. Siemers, to approve the wage adjustment for the custodial crew as presented. Motion carried, 5-0.
3. Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mrs. Bramstedt, to approve the open enrollment transfer in and transfer out applications as presented. Motion carried, 5-0.

Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mrs. Siemers, to deny the open enrollment transfer-in applications as presented based on specific program restrictions. Motion carried, 5-0.

4. Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mrs. Siemers, to approve the 4 students as presented to receive their HGHS diploma upon successful completion of the Howards Grove GED Option #2 alternative education program. Motion carried, 5-0.

Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mr. Pahl, to adjourn at 10:06 p.m. Motion carried, 5-0.



Kari Bramstedt, School Board Clerk