

# BOARD BRIEFS

December 13, 2021

## Statements from the Audience

**\*\*Cassie Diester**, mother of six students in the district, asked the board to look into the quarantine policies. Her oldest has had to quarantine and she does not feel like he was supported academically during this time.

**\*\*Mary Mumbower**, mother of students in our district, expressed concern about many of the district's covid guidelines. She does not support masking or the testing that we do. She also feels that quarantines are a useless tool for schools to be enforcing.

**\*\*Gary Witt**, patron of the district and past substitute teacher, asked the board and administration to please be diligent in the warnings that are in the news regarding our children and our schools. He knows that our teachers are faced with many more challenges and obstacles with students than ever before.

**\*\*Daniel Friesen**, Reno County Commissioner, was here to listen to the board's discussion on COVID policy. He appreciates the board having conversations about our current policies and he encouraged them as leaders to take responsibility for the policies being enforced and to keep looking at new information as it becomes available.

Board President Laura Meyer Dick asked Mrs. Couchman to share at this time with the patrons who were in attendance. Mrs. Couchman shared that the administrative team has been working on an "exit strategy" for our current covid policies as this moves from a pandemic to an endemic. She stated that the new policy is not ready to be released yet, but she hopes that by spring we will be able to introduce a new policy.

## Approval of Minutes

As recommended the board approved the minutes of the regular meeting on November 8, 2021 and the special meeting on November 23, 2021.

## Approval of Building Financials

As recommended the board approved the financial reports from each building.

### Rescinding Resignation

As recommended the board accepted the rescinding of Conan Shinn's resignation from the Spanish/ELA teaching position at BHS.

### Termination of Classified Staff

As recommended the board approved the termination of Tammy Flager, office secretary at BHS.

### Resignation of Classified Staff

As recommended the Board accepted the resignation of the following classified staff:

- i) Harley Martin, Shining Stars assistant at UV.
- ii) Paige Roberds, CARES Club aid at PCE.

### Resignation of Supplemental Staff

As recommended the board accepted the resignation of Brett Smith, 8th grade assistant football coach at PHMS.

### Employment of Classified Staff

As recommended the board approved the employment of the following classified staff:

- i) Robert Davis, evening custodian at PHMS.
- ii) Kristen Millsbaugh, Shining Stars assistant at UV.
- iii) Crystal Kohls, virtual academy assistant.

### Transfer of Staff

As recommended the board approved the transfer of Matt Bale from evening custodian to mid-day custodian at PHMS.

### Gifts and Grants

As recommended the board accepted the following gifts:

- i) \$100 from each of the following businesses to fund the District Christmas Spirit gifts:
  - Midway Motors
  - Prairie Bank of Kansas
  - Scooters
  - Addi Rose Clothing
  - Ideatek

### Interagency Agreement

As recommended the board approved the Interagency Agreement between ESSDACK and the district for the use of services at The Learning Center.

### New Credit Card

As recommended the board approved a credit card from Mid Kansas Credit Union for Michael Ellegood for the FACS Department with a credit limit of \$1200.

### Special Recognition

The Board recognized the following student groups for their exceptional work this fall in their activities:

- i) BHS Marching band, directed by Eric Stambaugh. They had an exceptional season with two grand champion finishes and third place overall in the KBA Marching competition.
- ii) Girls Golf, coached by Brennan Torgerson. The team finished second in the regional tournament and 8th at the State tournament.
- iii) Girls Tennis, coached by Matt Babcock. The team finished 2nd at regionals and 4th at the state meet.

### Student Presentation

Payton Thiessen, Ad Astra Virtual Academy student, presented her senior project as part of her requirements for graduation. Her presentation was Addressing Trauma in Our Schools.

### Post Secondary Success Data

Mrs. Couchman shared the post secondary success data from the Kansas State Department of Education. We received awards in every category this year.

- Academically Prepared for Postsecondary - Copper
- Graduation Rate - Gold
- Post Secondary Effectiveness - Silver
- Commissioner's Award

### Audit Report

Stan Busby, CPA with Busby, Ford, Reimer LLC gave a review of the 2020-2021 financial audit to the Board. The Board approved the audit as presented.

### Capital Outlay Projects

Shane Hecox shared information about the capital outlay projects that are being proposed. After the study of the buildings was completed it was obvious that the HVAC issues would need to be addressed. The board gave approval to purchase up to \$250,000 in HVAC rooftop replacement units.

### Bids for Emergency Lights

As recommended the board approved the bid from DCS services to replace emergency lighting.

### Preliminary Legal Max

Shane Hecox shared the preliminary legal max from the Kansas State Department of Education. This information is based on our unaudited SO66 report. Our legal max is down this year due to lower enrollment numbers and lower at-risk funding.

### Executive Session - Negotiations

The board met in executive session to discuss matters related to employee compensation.

### Executive Session - Real Estate

The board met in executive session to discuss the sale and/or acquisition of real estate.

### Additional Personnel

Mrs. Couchman shared the need to realign job duties at the administrative level and add a Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for Secondary Education. Kyle McClure's position will be realigned as the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for Elementary Education. She also expressed the need for a Behavior Interventionist for the elementary schools. As recommended, the Board approved the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for grades 6-12 and the Behavior Interventionist positions.

### Executive Session - Personnel

The board met in executive session for personnel issues.

### Comments

- Fall sports have concluded and all teams had great seasons.
- Winter sports and activities, including music and band programs are off to a great start!
- Operation Joy, led by Kyle McClure and Erica Shook, is in full swing! We are looking forward to celebrating and rewarding students and staff this week going into the holiday break!
- Mrs. Couchman shared the ESSER 3 survey results with the board.
- Board Member Monte Cross was not able to attend the meeting but was recognized for his years of service to the USD 313 students, staff and patrons.
- Board member Todd Carr, who also serves as the USD 313 representative to the RCEC Board reported that a parent advisory council is being developed. Some of our USD 313 parents will be serving on this council.
- Board member Miranda Engelken reported that ESSDACK will be interviewing in January for their director position.



### Policy Updates

As recommended, the board approved the Therapy Dog Policy to be added to the Certified Staff Handbook.

### Transportation Update and Action Plan

The transportation committee continues to meet often and brainstorm ideas for meeting our current needs. Currently they are exploring the idea of staggered start times at the schools in order to use bus drivers to run multiple routes.

The next regular board meeting will be Monday, January 10, 2022.