

HOUSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, March 3, 2022

- I. Call to Order – Chair Stilin called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Members present were Mimi Carlson, Tom Stilin, Richard Erdmann, Arlin Peterson, Josh Norlien and Mary Morem. Absent was Gene Lundak and Mark Swenson.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Agenda Approval – A motion was made by Erdmann to approve the agenda. Seconded by Peterson. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Public Comment - None
- V. Consent Items – A motion was made by Norlien to approve the consent items. Seconded by Erdmann. Motion passed unanimously.
 - A. Minutes
 - 1. Approval of February 3, 2022
 - B. Payment of Bills
 - C. Personnel
 - 1. Contracts
 - a. Darla Bernard
 - b. Melissa Hall
 - 2. Increased Contracts
 - a. Addie Bratrud
 - b. Jill Deitering
 - c. Kelsy Flowers
 - d. Kelsey Glebke
 - e. Elizabeth Mangan
 - f. Dean Sonsalla
 - 3. Hiring Memos
 - a. Greta Goetting
 - b. Paul Grupe
 - c. Jacob Highum
 - d. Brett Hoskins
 - e. Steven Munderloh
 - f. Dana Norby
 - g. Perry Smith
 - h. Joshua Swenson
 - 4. Resignations
 - a. Travis Kingsley
 - b. Tracey Schmidt
- VI. Discussion Items
 - A. Hurricane Hero – Superintendent Morem explained that Hurricane Hero awards are now being given to students that do an exemplary job of serving their fellow students, school and community. She announced that recent Summit graduate Lilly Davenport has been recognized for being our first Hurricane Hero. Superintendent Morem shared that Lilly demonstrated hard work and dedication by volunteering to supervise preschool students during their van rides. A huge thanks and congratulations were given to Lilly.
 - B. Building Updates Including Phone/Internet Systems – Superintendent Morem updated the Board regarding the new property purchases. She anticipates closing on the ABLE property by April 18 and the Catholic church early this summer. She also shared that a building use committee has been formed and that she has contacted vendors for quotes for internet and phone lines.
 - C. CDC Guideline Changes for Transportation – Superintendent Morem alerted the Board to a recent update in CDC guidelines that changes the mask requirement for student

transportation. She noted that information regarding this change will be distributed this week and mask requirements for school related transportation will drop.

- D. HHS DC Trip – Superintendent Morem shared details of the proposed November 2022 HHS trip to Washington DC and asked the Board to review the information for approval at the April meeting. Discussion was held regarding the cost of the trip, and it was clarified that prices for our students will be based on a four to a room occupancy.
- E. Upstairs Copy Machine for HES – Superintendent Morem described the issues teachers are seeing at the elementary building when preparing copies for their classes. As a result, she is seeking bids to add an additional copy machine for the second floor. More information will be shared when available.
- F. Update on High School Course Offerings – Principal Michael Mangan outlined new electives for the high school based on student input through surveys. These new offerings include family and consumer science courses, food preparation and expanded art classes. He also shared that a parent meeting has been scheduled for March 24 so information on the courses and class registration can be distributed.
- G. *Stop it Solutions* Student Reporting – Principal Michael Mangan provided details of a grant that will provide resources aimed at stopping school violence. Students will have access to an app on their electronic devices that they can use to anonymously report social or emotional issues, threats of violence and bullying. The app also connects students to professional counselors as situations warrant and school officials can monitor the program for any trends among the student population.
- H. Board Self-evaluation – Superintendent Morem polled Board members regarding their preference for the upcoming Board self-evaluation. She asked if they would like to complete the MSBA version of the evaluation as is or incorporate questions based on the discussion held at the November Board retreat. Board members indicated they would like to combine the tools and tailor the evaluation to their specific needs. Superintendent Morem will develop this tool and distribute it for a work study session to be held on March 17.

VII. Old Business (Items for Discussion and Approval)

- A. Banking Options – Superintendent Morem shared that she is still contacting local banks for information on their rates and services and will present her findings for approval at the April 7 Board meeting.
- B. 2022 – 2023 Academic Calendar – A motion was made by Peterson to approve the 2022 – 2023 Academic Calendar with the shorter Christmas break. Seconded by Norlien. Discussion was held regarding the importance of communicating changes to the first few days of school with parents and students. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. 2022 – 23 MNVA Enrollment Cohort Dates – Superintendent Morem explained that the 22 – 23 enrollment dates for MNVA have been changed and the November cohort has been eliminated. She noted high withdrawal rates for this cohort and the difficulty in hiring teachers. A motion was made by Norlien to approve the 2022 – 2023 MNVA enrollment cohort dates. Seconded by Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. Bathroom Partitions for Elementary and High School – Superintendent Morem shared that she was unable to find other vendors for bids for the bathroom partitions. She also noted that this work would be done after July 1 and LTFM funds would be used. A motion was made by Norlien to approve the bathroom partitions and installation. Seconded by Peterson. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. Policies for Second Reading – A motion was made by Norlien to approve policies 404, 417, 418 and 424. Seconded by Erdmann. Motion passed unanimously.
 - 1. Policy 404 – Employment Background Checks
 - 2. Policy 417 – Chemical Use and Abuse
 - 3. Policy 418 – Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School
 - 4. Policy 424 – License Status

- VIII. New Business (Items for Discussion and Approval)
- A. Policies for First Reading – Minimal changes have been made to these policies and Board members were encouraged to review them for approval at the April meeting. It was also noted that the Finance committee will meet on April 7 to review policy 714.
 - 1. Policy 707 – Transportation of Public-School Students
 - 2. Policy 708 – Transportation of Non-public School Students
 - 3. Policy 709 – Student Transportation Safety
 - 4. Policy 710 – Extra-curricular Transportation
 - 5. Policy 714 – Fund Balances
- IX. Announcements
- A. Important Events – Superintendent Morem noted that School Board Recognition Week was held February 21 – 25. On behalf of the district, she thanked Board members for their service and dedication and presented each with a Certificate of Appreciation. She also provided a reminder that Kindergarten Roundup will be held on March 11 at the elementary school.
 - B. Meeting and Committee Updates – An Online School committee meeting was held earlier where the enrollment cohort dates were discussed and revised. Other conversation focused on enrollment numbers, online program risk management and marketing strategies. It was also shared that Finance Committee Meeting will be scheduled for 5:00 PM on April 7.
 - C. Board/Superintendent Feedback/Thank You's/Future Agenda Items – Superintendent Morem shared that an MNVA teacher is preparing information regarding a trip to Costa Rica and will present his information at the April meeting. She also explained that she is working on a grant application that would provide funding for bus cameras that would aid in tracking vehicles involved in stop arm violations.
- X. Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made by Erdmann and seconded by Peterson. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM.