

HOUSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, April 7, 2022

- I. Call to Order – Chair Stilin called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Members present were Mimi Carlson, Tom Stilin, Mark Swenson, Gene Lundak and Arlin Peterson. Absent was Josh Norlien and Richard Erdmann.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Agenda Approval – A motion was made by Swenson to approve the agenda. Seconded by Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Resolution for Closed Meeting for Negotiations Strategy – A motion was made by Carlson to pass the resolution for a closed meeting for negotiation strategy. Seconded by Lundak. A roll call vote was taken, and the resolution passed unanimously.
- V. Public Comment – None
- VI. Consent Items – A motion was made by Swenson to approve the consent items. Seconded by Peterson. Board member Carlson commented on the resignations and retirements included in the consent items and thanked those staff for their dedication to the students and the district. Motion passed unanimously.
 - A. Minutes
 1. Approval of March 3, 2022
 - B. Payment of Bills
 - C. Personnel
 1. Contracts
 - a. Sondra Monson
 - b. Dionne Schoh
 2. Increased Contracts
 - a. Michelle Andres
 - b. Jacqueline Artymiuks
 - c. Tammy Bartz
 - d. Brandy Haglin
 - e. Melissa Hall
 - f. Rebecca Jennings
 - g. Sally Mensink
 - h. Susanna Ojakangas
 - i. Jon Peterson
 3. Hiring Memos
 - a. Damon Carrier
 - b. Travis Frank
 - c. Brandon Leske
 - d. Darlene Peter
 - e. Stephanie Peterson
 4. Retirement
 - a. Greta Goetting
 - b. Jacolyn Thimmesch
 5. Resignation
 - a. Jacob Merchlewitz
 - b. Steven Munderloh
- VII. Discussion Items
 - A. Hurricane Heroes – Ethan Kinstler and Sydney Torgerson – HS Principal Michael Mangan introduced this month’s Hurricane Heroes and provided a brief summary of the qualities they display in serving their fellow students, school and community. Certificates,

congratulations and thanks were given to Ethan Kinstler and Sydney Torgerson for their roles in strengthening the Hurricane.

- B. MNVA Class Connects Memorandum of Understanding – Survey Distribution to Parents and Students – Superintendent Morem explained that surveys have been distributed and data is being analyzed regarding the MNVA Class Connect sessions. She will use the data to create a Memorandum of Understanding that will require approval at an upcoming Board meeting.
- C. New Buildings Update – Superintendent Morem outlined survey results regarding building usage for both the Catholic church and ABLE building. She also shared a document of the building team’s proposal for use of spaces.
- D. Principal Updates – Principal Michael Mangan updated the Board on recent high school activities including enrollment projections, academic interventions and work-based learning. He also noted that a Family and Consumer Science program is being developed for the fall. Elementary principal Richard Bartz provided details on the elementary’s ADSIS program, MCA testing, parent conferences and proposed social and emotional programming. He also shared that preschool registration took place recently and 24 3-year old’s and 28 4-year old’s have enrolled. Superintendent Morem also shared MNVA Principal Angela Specketer’s update where enrollment information was provided and expanded course offerings and the success of the MEIRS team shared.
- E. March Work Study Session Follow-up – Superintendent Morem noted that the main focus of the March session was communication. The next steps include meetings with administrators and compiling the data to be shared with the Board. The next Work Study session is scheduled for April 21 at 6:00 PM.
- F. Stop Arm Cameras for Buses – Grant Confirmation Pending – Superintendent Morem updated the Board on the progress of the grant application. She also explained that she will be looking to purchase cameras for buses this fall if the grant is approved.
- G. Update on John Deere Tractor – Chair Stilin explained that a repair quote for the 22-year-old tractor was extremely high, so another vendor has been contacted for a bid.
- H. Ball field lighting – Insurance Replacement or Replace Completely – Superintendent Morem reviewed a quote for replacing the damaged light pole by the baseball field. She also outlined the insurance reimbursement available as well as the costs to upgrade all the outdoor field lighting if necessary.

VIII. Old Business (Items for Discussion and Approval)

- A. HHS DC Trip – A motion was made by Peterson to approve the HHS DC Trip. Seconded by Swenson. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Banking Options – Selection of Bank and Vote to Make Official Depository – Superintendent Morem provided a comparison chart of the available banking options and asked Board members to vote for the official depository. A motion was made by Carlson to approve Rushford State Bank as the official depository. Seconded by Lundak. Motion passed with a vote of 4:0 with Board member Swenson abstaining.
- C. Resolution Regarding Purchase of Property – Lori Volz of Baker Tilly attended virtually to explain the process the Board must complete regarding the purchase of the former ABLE building. Board member Swenson introduced the resolution approving lease-purchase agreement and ground lease with Merchant’s Bank. Seconded by Lundak. A roll call vote was taken, and the resolution passed unanimously with a vote of 5:0.
- D. Solar Projects for District – Brok Johnson of Solar Connection attended virtually to share information regarding the Solar for Schools grant that would cover 95% of the costs to install solar panels at the elementary and high school buildings. He included information regarding installation, potential cost savings, maintenance and educational benefits. Board members gave approval to purchase the solar panels contingent on grant approval.

- E. Policies for Second Reading – A motion was made by Swenson to approve policies 707, 708, 709, 710 and 714. Seconded by Lundak. Motion passed unanimously.
 - 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. New Business (Items for Discussion and Approval)
 - A. MNVA Class Trip to Costa Rica – MNVA teacher Andrew Borne shared details of a proposed trip to Costa Rica in the summer of 2023. The trip will be done through EF Tours and will be open to local and online students with a scholarship program available to help defray costs. A motion was made by Carlson to approve the summer of 2023 trip to Costa Rico. Seconded by Swenson. Motion passed unanimously.
 - B. First Quarter Board Pay – A motion was made by Carlson to approve the first quarter Board pay. Seconded by Peterson. Motion passed unanimously.
 - C. Shot-clocks for District – A motion was made by Lundak to approve the purchase of shot-clocks for the district. Seconded by Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.
 - D. Policies for First Reading – No changes have been made to these policies for this reading and Board members were encouraged to review them for approval at the May 5 meeting.
 - 1. Policy 103 – Complaints – Students, Employees, Parents, Other Persons
 - 2. Policy 806 – Crisis Management
- X. Announcements
 - A. Important Events – A reminder was provided that spring break is scheduled for April 14 through the 18.
 - B. Meeting and Committee Updates – Board member Carlson shared a brief summary of the Finance meeting held earlier. The committee reviewed the online program risk management section in Policy 714 and the FY22 adjusted budget. The next Finance committee meeting is scheduled for 5:00 PM on Thursday, May 5. Superintendent Morem provided another reminder that a Board study session has been scheduled for 6:00 PM on Thursday, April 21 in the high school library.
 - C. Board/Superintendent Feedback/Thank You’s/Future Agenda Items – On behalf of the district, Superintendent Morem extended gratitude and appreciation for the services provided by those staff resigning or retiring from their duties. She also shared that the Houston High School graduation ceremony is scheduled for 7:00 PM on Friday, June 10 in the gymnasium and MNVA’s ceremony is scheduled for 2:00 PM on Sunday, June 12 on the U of M campus. Superintendent Morem asked Board members to notify her of their intentions to be a part of the graduation ceremonies.
- XI. Closed session for Negotiation Strategy – Chair Stilin closed the meeting at 7:20 PM. The closed meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by Chair Stilin. Members present: Tom Stilin, Mark Swenson, Gene Lundak, Mimi Carlson, Arlin Peterson and Mary Morem. Discussion was held concerning the Local 70 contract negotiations. A motion was made by Swenson to adjourn the closed session and return to the regular meeting. Seconded by Peterson. Motion passed unanimously.
- XII. Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made by Lundak and seconded by Peterson. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.