

Palmyra R-1 Board of Education
Press Release
May 15, 2019

The regular meeting of the Palmyra R-1 Board of Education was held on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. in the office of the Board of Education at 1703 South Main, Palmyra, Missouri.

The principals gave their monthly reports on happenings in their respective buildings.

John Watkins reported on district technology. The district is nearing completion of year two of the 1:1 initiative providing iPads to every student in all grades. The IT staff has been repairing damaged iPads in-house this year at a lower cost than sending them off to be repaired. As a result of the savings on repairs, insurance on iPads will be reduced next year. The district infrastructure has handled the increased wireless activity very well throughout the past two years.

Kirt Malone updated the board on new construction throughout the district. Work on the track is ongoing and the concrete for the inside curb is nearly finished. The track and field is scheduled to be completed at the end of August. Work has started on the middle school kitchen addition this week.

The board approved adding outlets to the light poles and adding a shot put ring at the track complex.

The board approved to have the City of Palmyra move a water main that runs parallel to the new track and field.

Kirt Malone reported on the MSBA Spring Regional Meeting that was hosted at Palmyra High School.

In old business, Brad Wegman, Vice President of LJ Hart and Company, reported to the board regarding the sale of bonds from the recent April election.

The board approved the Series 2019 general obligation bonds.

In other old business, the board approved rescinding a previous resolution to defease and prepay \$300,000 of Series 2016 general obligation refunding bonds.

The board discussed the 2019-2020 preliminary budget. The preliminary budget reflects an approximate increase of about 2% increase in state revenues and flat funding locally. The state legislature has added funding to transportation for next year as well. State transportation payments will still be well below the mandated funding requirements for public schools. The budget includes a \$450 increase to the base salary for teachers in addition to vertical movement on the salary schedule for years of service. The base salary will be \$34,250 for teachers next year. The budget also includes paying 12 month classified employees for vacation. The board hopes to adopt the final budget at the regular June board meeting.

The board approved the 2019-2020 salary schedules as presented.

In new business, Kirt Malone gave a legislative update. As the 2019 Missouri Legislative session winds down there are several bills that could impact public schools in the future. One such bill is HB 161 that would remove the option allowing public schools to set an opening date earlier than 14 calendar days prior to the first Monday in September.

In other new business, the school board heard a report regarding the creation of a school foundation. Education foundations are “privately operated, nonprofit organizations established to assist public

schools” and who qualify as charitable organizations, “different from school districts, public institutions or local governments”. A public school foundation “is designed to augment, supplement, or complement programs and activities currently being provided by the district”. Currently in the U.S. there are over 6,500 school foundations in 14,500 school districts. They have their own board of directors and their own staff, both paid and volunteer. Most school foundations operate as “an independent entity, with no formal, legal relationship to the school district”. The goal is to have the school foundation up and running in Palmyra within the next year.

The board accepted the following resignations

Shelley Smith as Elementary Teacher due to retirement

Julie Thrower as Middle School Track Coach

Marena Hall as Middle School Paraprofessional

Jessie Sommers as High School Math Teacher

The board hired the following:

David Meyers as the District Bus Mechanic

Dennis McCarty as a Middle School Special Education Teacher

Jennifer Sparks as an Elementary Teacher

Angi Mullhatten as Junior Class Sponsor

The board hired classified staff and summer maintenance staff as presented.