

AKRON SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1
School Board Retreat
June 10, 2022

The Akron Board of Education held a board retreat at the Gemma's Crossing Conference Room.

1. Roll Call and Brunch

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m. by President Jessica Filla. Board members present were Nathan Quick, Andy Molt, Megan Bower, and Fred Raish. Also present was Brian Christensen, Superintendent. The meeting began with members grabbing breakfast items and sitting down to eat.

2. Discussion Items:

- a. Athletic Update:** Athletic Director, Tyler Pickens started by sharing the current coach's evaluation tool and items he is adding to it. Coaches will fill out a self-evaluation ahead of the evaluation and he is working on an athlete to coach feedback option. Next, Tyler shared the athletic handbook he has worked on that included slides for an all-sport parent meeting that will take place at the start of school. Additional discussion took place about communication, dual-sport athletes, additional coaches to support middle school athletes, and E-sports.
- b. Handbook Changes:** Secondary Principal, Shawn Randel shared changes needed in four policies to change the current grading scale to include D's and F's, rather than NC's. The new scale would include a D range from 65% to 69% and grades below 65% would be F's. Shawn then shared a change to graduation requirements that will allow students to take courses in a given subject area that fit their school or career path after high school. He commented that this will give students more flexibility with their schedule. Next, he shared information to be included in the handbook about attendance. The changes will include a return to some of the practices prior to the pandemic. He finished by sharing changes to the discipline rubric that will allow for restorative justice type practices rather than in-school suspension.
- c. Budget, Salary, and HR Training:** Business Manager, Kelli McCaffrey spoke to the members of the board about having Shelly Landgraf come to train staff at the beginning of year in-service. Shelly specializes in HR and has been a great resource for schools. At this time, she is scheduled to talk about staff social media use, code of conduct, one-on-one interactions, and other HR related items. Kelli then moved to salary and budget. She presented the board with three options to consider for staff raises. She then showed the board members what each option would mean for the budget.
- d. HVAC Update:** Superintendent, Brian Christensen then spoke about the progress on the school HVAC solution. He shared that he and the company he had been working with were successful in securing a

BEST grant that will be worth \$2.3 million to the Akron School District. He shared that it was a lot of work but well worth it. The school will now get a real solution rather than a band aid fix. Andy Molt is part of the HVAC committee and spoke to how impressed he was with the proposed solution. Brian said he has an RFQ ready and will be working with the regional BEST representative to figure out the best avenue for procurement.

- e. **First Day of School – Potential Calendar Change:** Brian then presented the board with a potential school calendar change. NEBOCES is bringing in a Ruby Payne for an Emotional Poverty Workshop. The workshop will address several areas including safety, understanding, motivation, and much more that will be a direct benefit to students and school. The board will be asked to consider starting secondary students one day later in August to allow secondary staff to attend this training. Brian then provided a handout showing the number of student contact days and hours, as well the hours required. The board will consider this at the regular meeting next week.
 - f. **Building Maintenance:** Brian then handed out a spreadsheet of facility items that included predicted life cycles and cost of replacement. The members discussed recent changes in prices and some of the items that had already been addressed on the document. Fred Raish mentioned separating out the items that fall into the next five years for replacement as a narrower focus. Brian plans to update the document.
 - g. **Board Superintendent Goals:** Brian provided the board with a list of items that were goals at the last retreat and progress that has been made toward those goals. After some discussion the group narrowed the goals moving forward: 1. Provide a positive informational communication that informs our stakeholders of all the good things that are happening at our school; 2. Commit to weekly/biweekly consistent meetings with superintendent and principals; 3. Set up a board member training retreat to take place by October; 4. Set up training for our coaches.
 - h. **Board Training Opportunity:** As a group it was agreed to have Brian look for a board training opportunity on a Friday morning if possible.
 - i. **Superintendent Evaluation Checkpoint:** Discussion centered around checkpoints at retreats prior to the final evaluation taking place in December.
3. **Items for Next Retreat:** The next retreat will be scheduled around the board training opportunity. Brian will continue to update the board on the progress of the BEST grant and HVAC solution.

The board retreat was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.