

Regular School Board Meeting
School District of La Farge
Monday, November 18, 2019
6:00 pm
District Conference Room

In Attendance were Board members Aaron Nemec, Shawn Sedgwick, Curt Parr, Holly Franks, and Chad Wirts; School staff Meaghan Gustafson and Mark Dubey; and media representative Lonnie Muller.

Nemec called the meeting to order at 6pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Gustafson confirmed compliance with open meeting law.

Nemec requested a motion to approve the Agenda. Motion and second by Sedgwick/Parr. Motion carried.

Nemec requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion and second by Parr/Sedgwick. Motion carried.

No citizen comments.

Nemec requested a motion to name Sedgwick as WASB delegate and Nemec as alternate for the delegate assembly at January's State Education Convention. Motion and second by Parr/Wirts. Motion carried.

Nemec requested a motion to reschedule the December Board Meeting from the to Wednesday, December 11 at 5:00pm to avoid conflict with the Winter Concert. Motion and second by Parr/Sedgwick. Motion carried.

Significant discussion regarding the District's pursuit of a solar project occurred. Additional discussion with the village utility must occur before taking further action. The school board will be represented at the December Village Board meeting. Nemec requested a motion to accept grant dollars (if applicable), with no district obligation, and authorized the Facilities Committee to continue to research the scope and feasibility of a potential project, in accordance with established school board policies. Motion and second by Parr/Sedgwick. Motion carried.

Gustafson presented about the State School Accountability Report Cards and new Redefining Ready indicators. Each school and the district as a whole is designated at Meeting Expectations. The administrative team is working to set goals based on student achievement of the Redefining Ready indicators.

Gustafson discussed a continued trend in accelerated depreciation of the facilities budget, presented a draft facilities strategic plan, and recommended a formal facilities study by an outside agency. The Board discussed how to encourage community participation on the facilities committee.

Gustafson discussed progress on the KVR Partnership Project for a Nature Immersion program. The Steering Committee is researching options and financial analyses of different enrollment options.

Elementary Principal's Report

1. Take-Home Bags
 - a. There was a grant last year for students to take home activities for parents and students to work on together.
 - b. These bags were handed out at conferences.
 - c. Parents were encouraged to read with their children, practice writing on a whiteboard, do flashcards of letter sounds and sight words, etc.
2. Elementary Goal: Improving reading instruction
 - a. Phonics Instruction
 - i. We ordered a new phonics curriculum for K-2
 - ii. This curriculum is based on Orton-Gillingham phonics instruction
 - b. Professional Development - Workshop Model
 - i. We will be having a trainer from CESA 4 come into school after the new year to work with our teachers.
3. Parent-Teacher Conferences - everything went well.
 - a. Almost every elementary parent attended.
4. Veteran's Day Program
 - a. Deb Michaels had the 4th and 5th-grade sing a song as part of the program.
 - b. It was very well done and well received.
5. Looking Ahead
 - a. Family Night - December 9th
 - i. We will be adding new activities to the take-home bags.
 - b. Holiday Concert - Elementary - December 16th at 6 pm.

MS/HS Principal's Report

- Mrs. Fowell held a Fall Concert on October 28. As usual, it was well attended and the music was amazing.
- There was a great turnout for the high school drama production this last weekend. 18 students participated in the play. The directors wish to thank everyone for their support.
- High School Forensics begins this week. La Farge will be hosting sub-districts in February.
- Senior Traveler's Club will be going to Washington, DC over spring break. Ms. Lund will hopefully present an itinerary at the December meeting.
- Mrs. Benson's DonorsChoose project was fully funded. Her classroom received \$1012 from generous donors to replace ill-fitting and aging seating. The art room will be furnished with 28 new more appropriately sized stools. Mrs. Benson's art classes are currently working on the memory project again, creating 15 portraits of children in Nigeria.
- Student Council members from both middle and high school delivered a \$766 check to the Norma J. Vinger Center for Breast Care in La Crosse last week, and went on a tour of the center. Student Council is also working on a food drive for the local food pantry.
- Mrs. Fowell and 14 MS and HS students participated in the Honors Band in Westby on November 18.

Superintendent's Report

- District will begin work with NEOLA in early December.

Board Member Concerns

- Parr: Complimentary of the Veteran's Day Program, appreciates that entire student body participates, praised slideshow.
- Sedgwick: Asked clarifying question about Redefining Ready. Complimentary of drama performance.

- Nemec: Asked to reprise Bring Your School Board Member to School Day. Gustafson will follow up with high school student council advisors.

Nemec requested a motion to convene into closed session to discuss administrative updates and evaluation of the Superintendent.. Motion and second made by Franks/Parr. Motion carried.

Nemec requested a motion to convene into open session. Motion and second by Sedgwick/Parr. Roll Call Vote: Franks: Aye. Parr: Aye. Wirts: Aye. Sedgewick: Aye. Nemec: Aye. Motion carried.

Nemec requested a motion to adjourn. Motion and second by Parr/Wirts. Roll Call Vote: Franks: Aye. Parr: Aye. Wirts: Aye. Sedgwick:Aye. Nemec: Aye. Motion carried.