

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
AN ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING OF THE DIERKS BOARD OF EDUCATION
OCTOBER 14, 2019 6:00 P.M. JOANN WALTERS ELEMENTARY LIBRARY

MEMBERS

PRESENT

Bubba McSpadden, Presiding Officer
Brad Garner, Jeffrey Mounts, Trey Eckert, Wendell Garner

ABSENT

Mr. Jody Cowart, Superintendent of School, welcomed those in attendance.

Mr. Cowart discussed the 2018-2019 ESSA School Status Report.

He also discussed The Dierks School Board members. Those members include: Dillard McSpadden, Jeffrey Mounts, Trey Eckert, Brad Garner and Wendell Garner. All board members have received required training hours, as required by law.

Dierks School Districts goals and objectives reflect those listed by the JoAnn Walters Elementary School and the Dierks High School with a district-wide vision to Empower Lifelong Learners.

Mr. Cowart reported that the district has 53 certified staff and 31 classified staff. The district has a net legal balance of \$771,337.80, with a building fund balance of \$1,207,908.07 as of June 30, 2019. The 2018 Total Assessment Value was \$42,848,120.00. Debt service expenditures totaled \$242,998.00.

Mr. Cowart discussed updates on the elementary expansion wing. State funding has been awarded in the amount of \$345,886.00. The project size is 6,000 square feet. An architect has been approved by Dierks School Board of Education & currently reviewing qualifications for a construction manager. Other renovation projects across the district include HVAC & roof replacement/repairs, security enhancements, paving projects, and other needed updates.

The 2017-2018 audit report was conclusive with no findings.

The district will budget more than \$338,875.42 in federal funds this school year. Title I allocation this year is \$118,155.49 with a carryover amount of \$13,082.66. We are also transferring the Title II-A allocation of \$16,024.64, and Title IV allocation of \$10,000.00 into Title I to budget a total of \$157,262.79 for the Title I program. Title VI, Part B for small rural school, also referred to as REAP monies total \$46,750.43. VI-B Pass-through funds dedicated for the special needs students total \$111,399.95 with a carryover amount of \$4,948.38. Other special needs monies come through Medicaid claims for speech services, physical and occupational services and through ARMAC.

Mrs. Lori Finley, Principal at JoAnn Walters Elementary, presented the annual report for the 2019-20 school year. The schools accreditation status is Accredited. One teacher has an approved Alternative Licensure Plan and only needs to pass the Foundations of Reading exam.

October 1 enrollment at the elementary school is 293 students in K-6 with 40 students in Pre-K. Current class sizes are: K – 42, 1st – 46, 2nd - 36, 3rd - 42, 4th - 44, 5th – 43, 6th - 60.

Mrs. Finley noted that the student handbook and parent involvement plan are available on the school website. A hard copy will be provided upon written request in the office. Policies are reviewed annually and revised as needed.

Elementary programs include gifted and talented, special education, speech, migrant education, dyslexia, therapy, and intervention and enrichment. Other programs available are chess, FCS Jr., Quiz Bowl, and Robotics.

The elementary schools' goals and objectives for 2019-2020 are for all students to be reading on their grade level. Based on the 2019 ESSA data, 68 of 168 students are reading at grade level, resulting in a 37.5 ESSA score. Mrs. Finley stated that in accomplishing goals elementary has implemented Professional Learning Communities K-6, is focusing on meeting needs of all students, daily intervention/enrichment, as well as assessing students through STAR and Accelerated Reader.

To address individual reading intervention we use grade level small group time, classroom small group work, Istation and other software programs, as well as individual pull-outs as needed.

Our second goal for 2019-2020 is to continue improving attendance. The ADE defines chronic absenteeism as missing more than 10% of the school year for any reason. Improving attendance not only increases students' chances for success, but it is an essential strategy for reducing achievement gaps. Building relationships, following up with families, educating students and parents, recognizing good attendance, and making school a place children want to be are some of the strategies we are using. There is also a sign outside the office that shows how many students are absent daily.

Mr. Todd Finley, Dierks High School Principal, reported the school was fully accredited. Two Licensed Professional Teachers are working under an Alternate Licensure Plan. There are two new licensed employees this school year: Colbey Lawyer and Chad Lites.

October 1 enrollment at the high school school is 251 students in 7-12. Current class sizes are: 7th – 45, 8th – 42, 9th – 48, 10th – 41, 11th – 42, 12th – 33.

Mr. Finley noted that the student handbook and parent involvement plan are available on the school website. A hard copy will be provided upon written request in the office. Policies are reviewed annually and revised as needed.

High school programs include Quiz Bowl, Athletics, Band, Chess, FBLA, FCCLA, FCS, FFA.

The high school's goals and objectives for 2019-2020 is to increase the number of students who score a 19 or above on the ACT test, and that students will read at their current grade level. Based on the 2019 ESSA data, 59 of 152 students are reading at grade level, resulting in a 38.82 ESSA score. Mr. Finley stated to accomplish these goals the high school has implemented Professional Learning Communities. There will be an ACT Prep Summer Workshop. These is also math programs and literacy programs that will help accomplish these goals. Programs include: Accelerated Math, Illustrative Math, IXL, Accelerated Reader, MyAccess, as well as Ramp Up to Literacy class.

Mrs. Paula Stapp presented the program outline for the Gifted and Talented program for the district, to those in attendance. She noted that there are current 37 students currently placed in the GT. There are 18 in elementary and 19 in high school. Program options for elementary include K-2 whole group enrichment once per month with long-term identification. 3-6th grade identified students receive 150 of resource room instruction weekly from Mrs. Stapp. There are also enrichment opportunities such as chess and Quiz Bowl offered to all 3-6th grade students. Identified students at high school receive 150 minutes of direct instruction weekly through approved programs. Students in GT have advanced placement where they can earn concurrent credit, honors and advanced courses. There are enrichment opportunities open to all students. The GT program is evaluated annually, referrals are ongoing.

President

Secretary

Approval Date