

Board of Education
Howards Grove School District
High School Library
October 19, 2020

President David Loomis called the regular monthly meeting of the School District of Howards Grove to order at 7:03 p.m. Mr. Loomis noted that the meeting had been posted as prescribed by law and the news media notified.

Board members present: Mrs. Bramstedt, Mr. Loomis, Mr. Pahl, Mrs. Siemers, and Mr. Stoeckigt. Administrators present: Jason Cole, Scott Fritz, Chris Peterson, and Heather Zizis. Advisory Board members attending: Jeff Grunewald and Allison Kunze. Also present: Krista Neave and Lisa Schultz. Approximately 31 staff and community members viewed the meeting by remote access technology.

Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mrs. Siemers, to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried, 5-0.

Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mrs. Siemers, to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2020 special board meeting and the September 21, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Mr. Pahl, seconded by Mrs. Bramstedt, to approve the treasurer's report as presented by Mrs. Siemers, along with the following vouchers payable for the month of September:

#10 - General Fund	}	\$ 968,831.41
#27 - Special Education Fund		
#50 - Food Service Fund		
#30 - Debt Service Fund		\$ 0

Motion carried 5-0.

There were no amendments to the budget this month.

The School Board and administration acknowledged and expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the following individuals and/or organizations for their support of the school district and students through their generosity of the following donation:

The Howards Grove School District received a generous donation of extra school supplies from Walmart.

Zoetis Company donated \$500 to the FFA.

The Howards Grove PTO donated \$550 toward the purchase of virtual learning mentor texts for Northview Elementary School.

Millersville Rec donated \$257 to the football program.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Board acknowledged a thank you note received from the family of Wally Siemers.

ADVISORY MEMBER REPORTS:

Jeff Grunewald shared comments related to the current transition to virtual learning, indicating the teachers appear calm and are more interactive and engaged with the students. Positive changes have been noticed compared to virtual schooling last Spring. Mr. Grunewald indicated he is hearing comments related to connection issues with the Chromebooks, and asked what matrix will be used to determine continuing with the hybrid vs. completely virtual. Allison Kunze indicated that she did not have a new report, but echoed Mr. Grunewald regarding the positive transition vs. the Spring. Superintendent Peterson indicated there is a meeting with County Health on Tuesday which will provide more direction related to students attending in person or virtual.

STUDENT LEARNING PRESENTATION / STUDENT ADVISORY REPORTS:

Student reports are suspended until further notice due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

OTHER REPORTS:**1. Building Reports****Northview Elementary- Submitted by Jason Cole, Principal**

Art boxes

- Thank you Papa John's, Little Ceaser's, and Marcos pizza for donating pizza boxes to be used as art kits
- Thank you Marco's pizza for the coupons

Virtual learning

- Collaboration among colleagues
- Modifications of lessons based on technology -simplifying lessons when appropriate and utilizing new technology to enhance learning experiences.
- A wonderful mix of live instruction, breakout sessions for students to work together virtually and small group/1:1 meetings staff are having with students
- Each teacher has a schedule of virtual learning and group meetings that has been shared with parents and myself
- I appreciate the feedback we've been receiving from parents
 - Great improvement from the Spring

Thai Express - Food Truck

- Saji Vanwinkle - parent of Middle School and Northview students
 - Provided lunch opportunity for staff at MS October 1, HS October 14, NV October 27

Modifications at Northview beginning October 26

- Lunchroom has been reorganized into quadrants with separate trash and tray bins for each section. Students are being dismissed by classrooms
- Playgrounds are divided into more defined zones so classrooms are separated from other classrooms
- Specials (Art, CASE, Library, Music) are moving to classrooms of classroom teachers. PE is outside or in the gymnasium
- Releasing students at the end of the day is class by class for distance in between each class
- Students need to sit in their assigned seats on the bus
- Chromebooks going home every day with students

Hybrid Model

- Mr. Peterson and I began discussions about reopening - hybrid
- Met with the building leadership team on Friday afternoon
 - Discussed multiple hybrid options
 - Landed on M/T/TH/F in-person learning with Wednesday's being an opportunity to plan and meet with students
- Opposition at first until I saw virtual learning first hand

Middle School – Submitted by Heather Zizis, Principal

Hybrid Schedule: We have completed one full week in utilizing our hybrid schedule. Overall it's been a good transition. Having half of the students present at one time is much easier to manage and control social distancing. Last Wednesday was a virtual/flex day. Students checked into their encore and core classes. Teachers were then able to work with students who were struggling or behind. The staff was very grateful for this time. With the revised schedule we are losing instructional time. We will continue to analyze this and problem solve but it is a concern when preparing students for state testing and High School.

Parent Teacher Conferences: Parent Teacher Conferences were held this past Thursday evening and again tomorrow night. Conferences are being held virtually. I heard some positive feedback from teachers and parents regarding the virtual format, specifically that parents could do the conference from the comfort of their homes.

Impact of COVID: We have learned a lot about contact tracing over the last several weeks and one area that we have adjusted due to this is the structure of our recess. Students are now divided into zones by their homerooms. Each week the homerooms rotate to a new zone. The goal of this is to minimize contact tracing and the number of individuals deemed a close contact if and when we have a positive case. The zones are not ideal but again, if it will allow us to stay open longer, it is necessary at this time.

The teachers and staff continue to improve their instructional practices utilizing our technology. We have learned that teaching "virtually" seems to feel "slower". I believe this has allowed us to grow as practitioners and stronger as teams. There's certainly an element of vulnerability but with discomfort comes growth.

Appreciations:

- Thank you Aimee Thiel and Amy Lyskawa for helping us at the Middle School when we were short staffed. Also thank you Jason for allowing this opportunity.
- Thank you Joanne Wesener and Jackie Stoeckigt for being available and willing to come to the Middle School to serve as a guest teacher during these uncertain times. We appreciate you!
- Thank you to the teachers and staff for their ongoing flexibility, patience, and positive attitudes. This is tough on all of us but the staff continues to work together to accomplish our goals.
- Thank you to the parents. As a mother of two elementary students, I empathize and understand the struggles and challenges virtual learning has presented. Thank you for your support. I know it's not easy but I appreciate all of their efforts.

High School – Submitted by Scott Fritz, Principal

- We moved to a hybrid schedule at the High School. The amount of adjustment and flexibility with staff, students and families is greatly appreciated. We had 2 cohorts meet at separate times in person and the schedule seemed to work well. We had an Educational Flex day on Weds and we had 120+ student appointments where students came in to get additional help and work with teachers. We believe the Flex Weds was huge success at the high school and would like to see it continue if we maintain a hybrid schedule.
 - To prepare for our hybrid schedule the maintenance staff had to remove half of the desks out of the classrooms and put them in temporary storage, so we could increase the social distancing in our classrooms for our students. Thank you to Brian and his crew for moving those desks and putting them in storage.
- We spend every morning reviewing and managing the contact traces for COVID19 absences with follow up phone calls when needed. Thank you to Melanie, Karen and Jada with all of their help monitoring our COVID19 absences. Currently we are doing all of the contact tracing for the county health department for our buildings.
- Last week was a modified homecoming week. We did allow buff volleyball and powderpuff football without fans. Thank you to Lizzy Hill, Kim Hager and student council for putting homecoming together.
- The high school office and pupil services office will begin preparing the 2020-21 scheduling process to be rolled out to students prior to Winter break.
 - We are meeting at the department levels to discuss any new courses or curriculum revisions needed for the 2020-21 school year.
 - Staff will begin working on revising the course offering booklet for the 2020-21 schedule.
- Congratulations to our Fall athletes and coaches and good luck to those beginning their fall tournaments.

District – Reported by Chris Peterson, Superintendent

- We have hired Lorrie Wanty as the new food service manager. She has jumped right in and has been orientating herself with staff, ordering, menus, procedures and schedules.
 - The USDA has extended the free lunch program for the remainder of the year. Grab and go lunches are available for students who are not physically in session.
- Our Strategic Planning Committee has been reconvened this past month to finalize our plans and how we present our mission, vision, goals, and motto to the community. Our next working session is scheduled for tomorrow (Tuesday, October 20).
- Water Bottle fillers have been added to both Northview and the High School.

2. Initial Staff Engagement Survey Results

108 responses were received from the recent staff engagement survey. This is a 78% return, which is a very good response rate. Areas of strength include health/stress management, controlled working environment, collaborative educational excellence, equity. Areas of improvement include work load, affirmation, planning and improvement processes, trust and communication. The next step in the process is to develop a plan and move forward. The results will be discussed at the next working session of the Board.

3. COVID-19 Pandemic Update

As of today there are 12 staff and 21 students in the district who either have symptoms or need to be quarantined due to the virus. The hybrid model at the Middle School and High School is working rather well. The Wednesday "flex day" has been a very big success and has been beneficial in keeping students caught up. There is also better accountability and clear expectation. There are still some technology issues and we continue to look for solutions. The plan for Northview is to return to in-person learning on Monday, October 26th. Specific protocols have been put into place to reduce contact tracing and improve social distancing. Some of those protocols include reorganizing the lunchroom; dismissing students by classroom, students riding the bus need to be sitting in their assigned seat with a face covering on; Chromebooks will be sent home with students every day beginning on Monday. A hybrid model is also being considered for Northview, should the need arise. A survey may be developed and distributed to parents of elementary students with regard to a hybrid model and related daycare issues and concerns.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mr. Pahl, to approve the final budget of \$14,225,508 for the 2020-2021 school year as presented and proposed. Motion carried, 5-0.
2. Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mr. Pahl, to approve the levy of \$4,697,191 for the school year budget. Motion carried, 5-0.
3. Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mrs. Siemers, to approve the purchase of the on-line math and English/Language Arts curriculum as proposed. Motion carried, 5-0.
4. Motion by Mr. Stoeckigt, second by Mrs. Siemers, to approve the applications for the ECCP and Start College Now program for the Spring of 2021 as presented. Motion carried, 5-0.
5. Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mr. Pahl, to approve the formation of a Citizens Advisory Committee to study the construction of a new middle school and possible referendum. Motion carried, 5-0.

Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mrs. Siemers, to convene in closed session as set forth in Section 19.85 (1)(c),(f) of the Wisconsin Statutes to consider the employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of employee(s), and to consider personal history or disciplinary data of specific person(s). Vote by the board: Bramstedt, aye; Stoeckigt, aye; Siemers, aye; Pahl, aye; Loomis, aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mr. Pahl, to adjourn at 10:46 p.m. Motion carried, 5-0.



Kari Bramstedt, Board Clerk