

Regular Meeting – November 23, 2020

Unapproved

The Charles City Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, November 23, 2020 in the High School (HS) Library. President Mack called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Present: Board members Freund (zoom), Dight (zoom), Rottinghaus (zoom) and Bergland (zoom). Absent: student member Ruzicka. Staff members present included Superintendent Fisher, Board Secretary O'Brien, and Director of Communications DeVore. There were nine other attending via zoom.

The Mission/Vision statement was read by Director Freund.

(Freund/Rottinghaus) to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

There was no public comment.

Superintendent Fisher reported District progress on the three Strategic goals: equity and achievement, culture and climate and facilities and infrastructure.

Strategic Goal 1: We had a recent training with Equity Literacy in our partnership with Storm Lake Schools. We are working on student equity training for a pilot group of students at the secondary level. We continue to advance and communicate our new vision of learning. You'll see more video and social media content to help our students and parents understand. We are working on a partnership with a consultant on how to create and deliver even more high quality digital content.

Strategic Goal 2: We continue to meet and talk to our staff 1-1 during this challenging season. Culture and climate is a huge priority of our leadership and we are doing our best to be present and vulnerable to take feedback and get better. We want our family to continue to give us feedback on how to get better and navigate this season of affliction and anxiety.

Strategic Goal 3: We continue to focus on disinfection protocols and keeping our facilities as clean as possible. We have adjusted and made changes as needed and work with public health on the best practices. We are also preparing for our first measurable snowfall tonight. The batting cage is finished at the baseball field. Our Comet Gym flooring was refinished and was covered by insurance.

A Finance committee report was received from President Mack and a SIAC report from Superintendent Fisher. Director Rottinghaus reported the negotiations and compensation committee participated in interest based bargaining training.

Superintendent Fisher provided an update on COVID. The previous two weeks have been most challenging. It is stressful and challenging for staff and students. The community was asked to be wise and reasonable over the Thanksgiving break. The District wants to avoid having to go to remote learning. The hybrid matrix is very helpful and provides framework and clarity around the District's decisions going forward.

Bryan Jurrens, HS Principal, and his team of staff and students presented information on the High School 2020 Vision. Our vision is: Creating compassionate competent problem solvers. Staff

members Tyler Downing, Derek Sturtevant, Dana Sullivan and Chealsey Moen and students Keely Collins and Claire Girken provided their insights and experience. In some cases, the COVID situation has promoted more flexibility and granted students choice in their learning platforms. We are shifting our mindset. Employers are looking for problem solving skills.

Superintendent Fisher presented a PowerPoint on the “Healthy Campus Metrics Project”. We are developing our matrix of health and healthy campuses and what that looks like. A dynamic data dashboard will provide a regular cadence of our health and when adjustments are needed. We will report this data a few times a year to show if we are hitting our goals and targets. April Hanson, Director of Technology, explained the dashboard draft. The matrix includes goals around staff and student satisfaction, student engagement, evidence of learning, activity connectedness and trust. Each goal has assigned who, where, when and how they will be measured and tracked.

(Dight/Rottinghaus) to approve the FRSecure LLC Master Services agreement for the information security risk assessment for \$17,000 and security program roadmap for \$3,850. A technology assessment presentation was given to the Board at their November 9 meeting. If the District does not receive a second round of COVID funding, the general fund will pay the cost using flexibility funds. This expense would require the use of carryover flexibility funds below the \$100,000 minimum balance target. Motion carried 5-0.

(Freund/Dight) to approve a resolution to consider continued participation in the Instructional Support Program and authorizing and directing the secretary to give notice of a public hearing to be held in the High School Library on December 14, 2020 at 6:15 p.m. The Board of Directors wishes to consider continued participation in the Instructional Support Program for a period of 5 years commencing the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, at an amount not to exceed 10% of the total regular program district cost to be used for any general fund purpose. Roll call vote. Motion carried 5-0.

(Dight/Bergland) to approve the resolution setting the date for a public hearing on the proposed issuance of approximately \$8,900,000 school infrastructure sales, services and use tax revenue refunding bonds for December 14, 2020 at 6:15 p.m. in the High School Library. The Finance Committee met with Matt Gillaspie, Piper Sandler, on Friday November 13 to discuss the possible refinancing of the Sales Tax Bonds issued in 2013 and 2015 to finance the Middle School project. These bonds become callable in 2021. Savings from refinancing range from \$359,379 to \$557,041 depending upon the interest rate sold. At this meeting the debt coverage rate and the possibility of future debt were discussed and weighed into the discussion. The committee directed administration and Piper Sandler to proceed. The papers were drawn up by Ahlers and Cooney law firm. The resolution includes the approximate amount of the bonds and the intended use of the bond proceeds, and sets the time, date, and location for the public hearing on the proposed issuance. Director Freund is abstaining because the action is related to bonds. Roll call vote. Motion carried 4-0 (Freund Abstaining)

(Rottinghaus/Bergland) to approve the engagement agreement with Ahlers & Cooney PC to serve as bond counsel for the issuance of approximately \$7,904,000 School Infrastructure Sales, Services and Use Tax Revenue Bonds. Ahlers & Cooney law firm will handle the legal issues and documentation needed with the sale. This is for the refinancing of the two Middle School sales tax

bonds issued in 2013 and 2015. The fees are estimated not to exceed \$17,500 plus related fees for copying, printing and other related expenses estimated not to exceed \$500. Roll call vote. Motion carried 4-0 (Freund Abstaining).

(Bergland/Dight) to approve the engagement letter with Piper Sandler & Co to serve as placement agent or underwriter for the issuance of School Infrastructure Sales, Services and Use Tax Revenue Bonds. Piper Sander will serve as placement agent or underwriter for the proposed issuance. The fees will depend upon the type of sale, by placement agent or underwriter. Roll call vote. Motion carried 4-0 (Freund Abstaining).

(Rottinghaus/Freund) to approve the 5-year facilities plan as presented. The facilities plan was presented to the Board for discussion at their October 12 meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

The Board shared their experiences attending the Iowa Association of School Board (IASB) convention on November 18 and 19. The convention was completely digital. The Delegate Assembly was held on November 17. The convention allowed each Board member to choose from multiple education sessions, networking time and innovative learning opportunities with their peers. They commented the opening speaker was very moving and reported on the sessions they attended.

The Board reflected on the October 26, 2020 workshop with Harry Heiligenthal, IASB, regarding governance and management roles and responsibilities. The Board took a few minutes to reflect about key insights or take-a-ways from the workshop.

(Bergland/Freund) to approve the purchase of a 2021 Chevrolet Suburban for \$42,886.70 from Karl Chevrolet as recommended. The Suburban is a 4-wheel drive, 4 door vehicle. Special Education funds will be used for the purchase. The competitive bid process was completed and performed by the State of Iowa who awarded 2021 Model year SUVs, Trucks and Vans to Karl Chevrolet. Motion carried 5-0.

(Rottinghaus/Freund) to approve the first reading of Employee Early Retirement Application, 407.6E3 and waive the second reading. Minor changes were made to the application form. The changes require the retiree to select the option they wish to retire, option 1 or 2. The Board questioned why a December action is needed to consider offering the program in the coming year since they were under the impression the policy would be continuing. The current policy states “the board has complete discretion to offer or not offer this early retirement program for eligible employees and shall make that decision annually at their regular December meeting.” A policy committee meeting will be scheduled to discuss possible changes to policy 407.6 to eliminate the annual review. Motion carried 5-0.

(Freund/Dight) to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- Approval of the following resignation.

Name	Position	Date Effective
Karleen Sickman	Girls Basketball Mentor Coach	11/23/20

- Approval of the following personnel appointments contingent upon completion of positive background checks.

Name	Position	Amount	Start Date
Karleen Sickman	Assistant Girls Basketball Coach	\$4,012	11/23/20
Brady Girken	Assistant HS Bowling Coach	\$2,173	11/23/20

- Approval of Kevin Clipperton as volunteer High School boys’ basketball coach effective 11/23/20.
- Approval of the Transition Alliance Program (TAP) contract amendment for the period 10/1/20 to 9/30/21 decreasing the overall budget \$15,570.00.

Motion carried 5-0.

The Board identified some of the Big Ideas that came out of the Board meeting.

- The healthy campus matrix dashboard is exciting and interest. It is a good idea.
- The HS 2020 Vision is exciting and is a big win for students. They are empowered to make requests to pursue projects that interest them.
- The bond refinancing shows the District is being fiscally responsible and the technology security assessment shows we put importance on data security.
- COVID updates provide transparency for the community.

The Board discussed other important upcoming dates. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 14, 2020.

President Mack adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Terri O’Brien, Board Secretary