

Regular Meeting – February 22, 2021

Unapproved

The Charles City Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 22, 2021 in the High School (HS) Library. President Mack called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Present via zoom: Board members Freund, Dight, Rottinghaus and Bergland. Absent: Student Board members Ruzicka and Jones. Staff members present included Superintendent Fisher, Board Secretary O'Brien (via zoom), and Communication Director DeVore. Six others attended via zoom.

The Mission/Vision statement was read by Director Freund.

(Freund/Dight) to approve the agenda as amended. Item 8, Comet Shop presentation, was tabled to be rescheduled for a later date. 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 continue our equity training and pilot work. More specifically our training has centered around empathy.

Strategic Goal 2: February is a difficult month for culture and climate work. Tonight we have a presentation on some of the work we are doing to improve it.

Strategic Goal 3: We continue to meet with Armory staff regarding resource sharing. The Armory has strength and conditioning equipment which the District could use as a temporary space in order to spread out our students and staff. An agreement will be brought before the Board for consideration.

Director Dight gave a shout out to the Comet Café for the wonderful Sweetheart meal they served in February. It was delicious.

Congratulations were extended to the Wrestlers, Bowling team, and Speech students for their success at state competitions.

Director Freund reported the SIAC committee heard a great presentation from Jenna Haglund and Sheri Meza.

Superintendent Fisher provided a Covid update. Our positivity and absence rates continue to remain low. The mask mandate is still in force and we continue to remind students. Some families may still want a digital learning option for students after COVID. Some nearby schools have begun work to open their own digital campus. We are looking at hiring a few dedicated digital campus staff for the "School To You" program, relieving the bricks and mortar staff from this work. This could potentially be funded with another COVID stimulus package, if approved. President Mack questioned whether COVID funding could be used for security of electronic data.

(Freund/Bergland) to approve the Covid decision matrix revision dated 2/22/21 as recommended. The Board discussed the revised matrix. Director Rottinghaus questioned if the revised matrix met CDC guidelines. Superintendent Fisher stated that we are ultimately responsible to follow the state guidelines, which are changing as COVID conditions change. Motion carried 5-0.

Brandy Mutch, Washington, Diane Sande, Lincoln, Brenda Bailey, Middle School (MS), and Abby Gomez, HS, provided an update on the District's culture and climate at their campus. On February 8th, Superintendent Fisher presented a PowerPoint on "Why Organizational Health Matters: The What and Why of Culture and Climate?". These campus leaders expanded on the first presentation with what systems we have in place to promote a healthy staff and organization. Each campus has a team of staff to address professional development, remote learning and span of care to staff. The Board questioned what funding is available for these expenses. Some buildings have "sunshine funds", which is funded by staff members. School funds may be used if they meet "public purpose" guidelines. The Board wants to support the buildings in any way possible.

The Iowa Association School Board (IASB) awarded the Charles City Board the Better Boardmanship Award for 2019-20. Only five Board teams in the entire state earned this award. To qualify for this award, the majority of the Board must earn Individual Achievement Awards and they must have a Board development policy in place. A plaque was presented in recognition of the Board's support and encouragement for individual board member development, which only adds to an educated, more effective governance team.

Superintendent Fisher explained the proposed 2021-22 school calendar. A team of 20 staff, students, parents and Immaculate Conception School had input in the draft. He extended his appreciation to Paige Elsbernd for taking input and putting the calendar together. President Mack requested the addition of the school election date. Director Freund commented she likes to see professional development dates were scheduled for Monday's or Friday's allowing extended families more opportunity to get together.

(Rottinghaus/Dight) to set the public hearing concerning the 2021-22 school calendar for Monday, March 8, 2021 at 6:15 PM in the High School Library. Motion carried 5-0.

(Bergland/Freund) to approve the driver education contract agreement with Street Smarts for the period 7/1/21 to 7/1/24 as recommended. The Street Smarts driver education contract is up for renewal. Due to the limited number of vendors providing this service, the HS is recommending renewal of the agreement for another three years. The cost will increase from \$365 to \$380. Motion carried 5-0.

(Dight/Rottinghaus) to approve the bid from Countryside Construction for \$50,539.92 to construct the vehicle garage as recommended. The District sent out six bid specifications to vendors. There were two bids received. Director of Operations, Jerry Mitchell explained the process and answered questions. This project was approved as part of the 2021-22 facilities project, \$105,000 budget. The cement work will be bid out separately. Motion carried 5-0.

(Rottinghaus/Freund) to approve the bid from Countryside Construction for \$117,305.17 to construct the maintenance shed as recommended. The District sent out six bid specifications to

vendors. There were two bids received. Director of Operations, Jerry Mitchell reviewed the bids and answered questions. This project was approved as part of the 2021-22 facilities project, \$125,000 budget. The cement work will be bid out separately. Motion carried 5-0.

(Freund/Dight) to approve the bid from Mike Molstead Motors for \$22,750 for the purchase of a 12 passenger 2019 Chevy Express Van as recommended. The District received three bids. Director of Operations, Jerry Mitchell reviewed the bids and answered questions. This project was approved as part of the 2020-21 facilities project, \$18,000 budget. Motion carried 5-0.

(Bergland/Rottinghaus) to approve the revisions to the Relocation Assistance Regulation and Procedure documents as presented. This document was first approved by the Board on May 13, 2019. Several revisions are proposed, the main one revising the relocation amount from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for senior leader staff. These changes will take effect immediately. Motion carried 5-0.

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

- Approval of resignations of Ross Chettinger as Elementary Special Education Teacher effective 6/30/21, Scotti Hagensick as Elementary Counselor effective 6/30/21 and Denise Flick as Lincoln Para educator effective 2/19/21.
- Approval of the following appointments contingent upon completion of positive background checks. Also appointments are also contingent upon successfully completing the pre-employment/post-offer functional capacity physical assessment and having the Para Certification on file and any additional testing, if required for the position.

Name	Position	Amount	Start Date
Evan Marten	Director of Finance (53 days)	18,346	04/19/21
Evan Marten	Director of Finance (2021-22)	90,000	07/01/21
Ray Cole	MS Track Coach	\$2,956	02/22/21
Laura Smith	HS Counselor	*	08/11/21

* amount and start date to be determined after the 2021-22 collective bargaining agreement is approved.

- Approval of the transfer of Erik Hoefler from 8th grade Language Arts Teacher to Middle School Exploratory Teacher effective 8/1/21.

Motion carried 5-0.

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

- It was good to hear directly from the campuses regarding their culture and climate work.
- They appreciate the work and guidance of the Superintendent and public health's, Gayle Arjes, on the revised matrix.
- Culture and climate must be nurtured. We want everyone to feel like family.

The Board discussed other important upcoming dates. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 8, 2021.

President Mack adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Terri O'Brien, Board Secretary