

Regular Meeting – March 22, 2021

Unapproved

The Charles City Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 22, 2021 in the High School (HS) Library. President Mack called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Present: Board members Freund (via zoom), Dight (via zoom), Rottinghaus and Bergland (via zoom) and student board members Ruzicka (via zoom) and Jones. Absent: none. Staff members present included Superintendent Fisher, Board Secretary O'Brien (via zoom), and Communication Director DeVore. Five others attended, one via zoom and four in person.

The Mission/Vision statement was read by Student Director Ruzicka.

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

There was one public comment from Bryan Elsbury. He wanted to compliment Director Rottinghaus on her March 8th equity presentation on LBGTQ, however he is questioning some social media posts by a staff member which he feels makes light of others beliefs. We need to walk the walk and respect others views.

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

Strategic Goal 1: The Iowa Department of Education released graduation and dropout rates. The Schools dropout rate is low.

Strategic Goal 2: We are addressing School character.

Strategic Goal 3: The Learning Center Daycare received a \$775,000 grant from Future Ready Iowa for the North Grand Building renovations. The dream of our partnership is beginning to come true.

Director Rottinghaus gave a shout out to Lincoln and Washington elementary schools who were two of three schools in the state to receive the highest possible recognition for their participation in the Positive Behavior, Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program.

Superintendent Fisher provided a Covid update. The mask requirements remain in force. We are planning a safe prom and graduation.

(Freund/Rottinghaus) to direct the superintendent to launch and open a new Innovative School Campus that will specifically meet the need of at-home learners through digital delivery and to designate up to 30% of the 3rd round of COVID relief money as the funding source. With the passage of the most recent COVID Relief bill by congress, Charles City Community Schools will receive additional funding to respond to the pandemic. The identified need is to have a separate Innovative School Campus that can provide services to our School to You students. Motion carried 5-0.

Communications Leadership class students, Michellel Jones and Madi Johnson explained the authentic learning happening in their class which is taught by Dana Sullivan and Justin DeVore. These students see real life situations they wouldn't have the chance to experience in a regular class. They have the freedom to decide their projects based upon their interests. In the second part of the presentation Justin DeVore, Director of Communications, explained the intricacies of Charles City Comet branding and how logos, fonts, colors and images are used to explain who we are.

(Bergland/Dight) to direct that the 2021-22 certified budget be published at \$12.74537 property tax rate and 7% surtax as presented. The budget taxes rates include \$10.64974 general fund levy; \$.56264 management fund levy; \$0.33 Board approved PPEL; and generating the voter approved \$1.34 PPEL levy through property tax of \$1.20299 totaling \$12.74537. This is the same property tax rate as fiscal year 2021 and 1% income surtax increase from 6% to 7%. Motion carried 5-0.

(Freund/Rottinghaus) to set the public hearing concerning the 2021-22 certified budget for Monday, April 12, 2021, at 6:15 p.m. in the High School Library. Motion carried 5-0.

(Dight/Freund) to approve the purchase of an automated baseball practice machine from Fungoman for \$14,500 as recommended pending the Athletic Booster club approval for half of the amount with the district covering the remaining half. Tyler Downing, Head baseball coach, has requested this purchase since it will greatly increase the efficiency and effectiveness of practice. Competitive quotes were not obtained since this is the only one that can be both a pitching machine and an automated machine that directs fly balls to outfielders. Also, every other machine someone has to manually feed it baseballs requiring more coaches. Motion carried 5-0.

(Rottinghaus/Bergland) to approve the consent agenda items as listed below.

- Approval of the resignation of Diane Hobert as Washington paraeducator effective 3/31/21.
- 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
Molly Staudt	High School Spanish teacher	*	8/12/21
Carly Marten	Middle School Language Arts teacher	*	8/12/21

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

- Approval of the transfer of Katelyn Shultz from Middle School special education teacher to elementary special education teacher effective 7/1/21.

Motion carried 5-0.

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

- More responsibility and decision making is being delegated to students thru the communications leadership class.
- The property tax rate is not increasing.
- It is exciting to launch an innovation campus to separate our school-to-you service from building services.

The Board discussed other important upcoming dates. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 12, 2021.

President Mack adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Following the regular meeting the Board conducted an exempt strategy session regarding negotiations with collective bargaining units. The exempt session adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Terri O'Brien, Board Secretary