

Regular Meeting – September 28, 2020

Unapproved

The Charles City Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 28, 2020 in the Studio Room at Lincoln Elementary. The meeting was open to the public by attending in person or watching live at Facebook.com/CharlesCityCSD. President Mack called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Present via zoom: Board members Rottinghaus, Dight, Freund, and Bergland. Absent: none. Staff members present included Superintendent Fisher, Board Secretary O'Brien, and Communication Director DeVore. Ten others were present either in person or via zoom.

The Mission/Vision statement was read by Director Bergland.

(Freund/Dight) to approve the agenda as amended. Item 22, Notice of Public Hearing on use of flexibility funds was revised. The amount was increased from \$55,488.77 to \$60,620.37 for additional Washington landscaping expenses. Motion carried 5-0.

There were several comments from the public. Secretary O'Brien read a statement from Renee Schradle regarding her petition to allow those who are comfortable to send their kids back to school full time. Two other public comments were received from Jennifer Hoeft and Betsy Gavitt both advocating for the Board to return students 6-12 to school full time from the Hybrid schedule. A special Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at noon to discuss and act on the matter.

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

Goal 1: The District continues to work on digital strategy. Because of COVID we have had to deliver high quality content digitally to our school to you students. Our staff continues to grow in this area.

Goal 2: Homecoming went well. Thanks to our staff and students who worked in conjunction with public health to determine the best strategies to celebrate and stay as safe as possible.

Goal 3: Our new sod is down at Washington Elementary around the playground to give our kids even more room to move and play. This was in response to our drought earlier this year. We had the chance Friday night at Homecoming, to really use our new athletic lights at Comet Field.

A Policy committee report was received from Director Freund.

Superintendent Fisher provided an update on COVID. There have been lower instances of COVID cases. We are working to determine whether to fully reopen grades 6-12 or main in Hybrid for an additional 30 days beyond October 5th, the date previously set to return to full reopening. The District wants to reopen but is reviewing many factors including public health guidance. The District is asking for grace and patience while we work to reopen, balancing with safety.

Superintendent Fisher led a Board professional development session on equity. Prior to the meeting, the Board read an article on White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack. Board members were asked to answer the question what grabbed you and surprised you about the information. Some comments made include; some people get defensive with the term and can't recognize where there is white privilege in the system, individuals may feel they are acting morally but that doesn't change the systems of oppression and it is hard to understand if you don't live it.

Four principals and one staff member provided a review of their building culture and climate results from the 2019-20 school year. This would have normally been reported in June. The High School reported they had good survey results prior to COVID, then supports were shifted to virtual. The Middle School, Lincoln and Washington reported they saw improvements in their scores. The biggest improvements were in the area of providing meaningful recognition and making all staff accountable for doing quality work.

Todd Forsyth, Activities Director, presented information on their actions to improve sportsmanship in our District. We received from the state athletic associations a rating for fans, players and coaches. We received a level 1 rating, but we are still working to improve. Student leaders are discussing ways to create a higher vision starting with core values. We are receiving feedback from other districts. The Board asked about the face mask policy at events. We require face masks at indoor events and recommend their use at outdoor events. People have been following the indoor policy well. Social distancing is being practiced at outdoor events, while some where masks.

Justin Heyer, a senior and boy scout member, described his project installing flag poles at the new softball and baseball fields for his eagle scout project. He sought to visually show his patriotism and service to his country with his project. A series of photos were shared with the Board showing the work progression. He received donations from community businesses and volunteer work from other boy scouts. The Board praised and thanked him for his work. Superintendent Fisher explained the District will present Justin a certificate for his exceptional work and for his demonstration of core values. The District is very thankful.

(Bergland/Rottinghaus) to approve the Equity Literacy Institute scope of work/estimate not to exceed \$36,000 over three years as recommended. Superintendent Fisher explained the Equity strategic plan initiative and funding for the initiative. The cost will be paid through categorical funding. Motion carried 5-0.

(Dight/Freund) to appoint Cael Ruzicka and Mario Hoefler as the student Board members for 2020-21. The oath of office was administered to Cael Ruzicka. By policy, student Board members serve from September through the last regular meeting in May. A student Board member is eligible to participate in discussion, but not vote, at all regular board meetings held in open session. The student Board member shall be responsible for communicating Board decisions and information to the student body. The Board thanked Cael and Mario for serving on the Board. Motion carried 5-0.

The Board discussed 2020-21 committee assignments. Board members agreed that committee assignments will remain the same. There was a correction delegate assembly appointment. Scott

Dight, served as the delegate to the Iowa Association of School Board (IASB) assembly in 2019-20 and will remain for the 2020-21 school year.

(Freund/Rottinghaus) to approve the review of Board policy 210.2, Regular Meetings, with no changes. Regular meetings will be held at 6:15 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of the month excluding July, March and December. Motion carried 5-0.

(Dight/Bergland) to first reading of Board policy 907 and 907R1, District Operation During Public Emergency as recommended and waive the second reading. The policy template was received from IASB and modified by our attorney at Ahlers. In the policy the Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to determine whether to close certain classrooms within various buildings to in-person learning or for up to two days while a special board meeting is called to seek permission from state authorities if the Superintendent determines in-person learning would hinder the health and safety of the school community. In those situations, the Board approves the use of remote or hybrid learning opportunities as permitted by law. Motion carried 5-0.

The Board discussed Listening Post method and frequency for 2020-21. Listening Posts are used as a means for the community to interact and ask questions of the Board. These gatherings will be virtual. Community members may request a virtual time with the Board by completing an on-line form. The first Listening Post is scheduled for Saturday, October 24th at 9:00 a.m. Future listening posts will be scheduled.

(Rottinghaus/Bergland) to approve the list of depository banks and amounts for 2020-21.

- C US Bank, Charles City \$15,000,000
- UMB Investment Direct \$ 2,000,000
- First Citizens National Bank, Charles City \$ 200,000
- First Security Bank & Trust, Charles City \$ 200,000
- Fidelity Bank & Trust, Charles City \$ 200,000
- Iowa Schools Joint Investment Trust \$ 200,000

Motion carried 5-0.

(Rottinghaus/Freund) to request supplemental state aid in the amount of \$573,542.42 for the fiscal year 2020 negative special education balance. The deficit increased from \$126,905.45 last year to \$573,542.42. The deficit increased due to lower Medicaid revenue, and increased consortium expenses. The Board may request cash reserves to cover the deficit when they approve the 2021-22 certified budget in April 2021. Motion carried 5-0.

(Freund/Rottinghaus) to request modified supplemental state aid in the amount of \$76,918.19 for the fiscal year 2020 excess Limited English Proficient (LEP) costs. This program serves English language learners in a Limited English Instructional Program. Motion carried 5-0.

(Bergland/Dight) to set the date and time for a public hearing, on the use of Flexibility funds, for October 12, 2020 at 6:15 p.m. in the High School Library as per the resolution. This hearing is on a resolution to expend funds from district's Flexibility Account for:

Description	Amount	Vendor
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Math Curriculum	\$40,295.40	Agile Minds
Washington Landscaping	\$12,926.97	Otto's Oasis
Signage	\$7,000.00	Sandy's sign shop/ Blue Bird photography
Radios	\$398.00	Circle K

These funds, in the amount of \$60,620.37, were unexpended and unobligated from Home School Assistance Program (HSAP). The proposed resolution shall include certification that the statutory requirements for the original source of the money proposed, HSAP, have been met. Motion carried 5-0.

Terri O'Brien, Director of Finance, presented information explaining the Instructional Support Levy (ISL). ISL provides additional funding for school districts. It is limited to an amount up to 10% of the District's regular program cost. These funds may be used for any general fund purpose. The District's current levy is 7% and generates \$608,285 of funding. The current levy will expire June 30, 2022 if not renewed.

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

- Approval of the contract renewal dated 9/9/20 that extends the Transition Alliance Program (TAP) contract thru 9/30/21 and updates the annual budget for 2020-21.
- Approval to the 2020-21 fundraising calendar as submitted.
- Appointment of Anders Haglund and Shemiah Lara, High School students, to the School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC).

Motion carried 5-0.

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

- The flag pole project was a good learning experience.
- The District appreciates public comment and needs to hear from the community.
- The District is making a commitment to equity and continues to explore equity issues.
- Climate and Culture are improving.

The Board discussed other important upcoming dates. A special meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2020 at noon. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 12, 2020.

President Mack adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Terri O'Brien, Board Secretary