

**UNION COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
DYSART-GENESE-OLA PORTE CITY
Tour of Middle School Building and Regular Board Meeting
November 20, 2017**

Tour of Middle School Building:

The board toured the Middle School building beginning at 6:05 pm.

Roll:

The regular meeting of the Board was called to order by President Sash at 6:35 pm in the MS Library. The following board members were present: Darrell DeWinter, Corey Lorenzen, Kristi Martin, Cathy Niebergall, Brandon Paine, and Jenna Scott.

Agenda:

Board President Sash requested that the agenda be amended to add item #9a, Approve SBRC request for special education administrative costs associated with River Hills School in Cedar Falls. On a motion by Lorenzen, seconded by Niebergall, the board approved the agenda as amended. Motion carried 7-0.

Speer Financial Presentation:

Maggie Burger, of Speer Financial, was present to go through information regarding refinancing our current revenue bond. Because of changes since our last meeting with Speer just over a year ago, we now have the option of doing an advanced refunding of our 2010 revenue bond, with a lower interest rate and savings which could potentially allow for additional money to be available for current capital project expenses and projects. Approval of this proposal may allow for tax rate stability with the voter-approved PPEL. With possible tax law changes coming as soon as January 1st, 2018, if we want to take advantage of the advanced refunding we need to move forward with it so everything is finalized in December.

Middle School Presentation:

The board visited the classrooms of Dawn Stoakes, (FCS) Family Consumer Science teacher, and Bill Zak, Industrial Technology teacher. Dawn shared with the board some of the areas of instruction that are being taught at the Middle School and High School in her classes, including career exploration, relationships, sewing, food prep, and the restaurant. Bill showed the board some of the projects the students are working on, including drafting, wood working, and metals.

Principal Albertsen reported that the Middle School is preparing to start using the LST (Learning Support Team) program in January. The elementary buildings are currently using the program and it is working well.

Superintendent's Report:

1. Congratulations to the Pressbox Radio Crew for being recognized as the top radio crew, to the football team for getting into the post season, to Lake Lebahn for his 5th place finish in the state cross country meet, and to Arabella Shepard for her 9th place finish in the 100 meter fly and 4th place finish in the backstroke at the state swimming meet.
2. Instructional and Professional Development Update:
 - a. Special Education headcount is complete.
 - b. Supt Fleshner will be meeting with Justin Stockdale, from the AEA, to complete the case load reviews of each special education teacher and the special education delivery plan.
 - c. We will be interviewing for a half-time, one-semester, Title I position at LPC Elementary. Patti Wandschneider had resigned the position at the end of the last school year, then agreed to come back for the first semester when we weren't able to fill the position at the beginning of the current school year.

- d. FAST Assessment: Congratulations to our staff and students on the FAST assessment results. Our students at both D-G and LPC Elementary did very well, with some of them having the top scores in the area. With 78% of our elementary students scoring at or above the benchmark, they have exceeded the target goal of 73% and are working towards the 80% target.
3. Financial Updates:
 - a. Supt Fleshner and Business Manager Krug attended a workshop at Kirkwood on October 24th to work on the 5-Year Projection Model. Supt Fleshner will be meeting with Dr Voss from Hudson on Dec 7th to go through the information.
 - b. On Dec 7th Supt Fleshner and Business Manager Krug will be meeting with Norma Stoll, from Mercer, to look at health insurance options and costs. The information will go to an insurance committee for review and input once we have reviewed the information. The board will be making the final decision on any changes.
 - c. The ACA fees that were waived for the 2017 calendar year will begin again in January 2018. The fees will be \$28.86 per policy, for an additional cost of about \$23,042.64 for the remainder of the current fiscal year and approximately \$46,085.28 for the 2018-2019 school year. While the increase of \$30 per single policy and \$40 per family policy went into place this year, those increases barely cover the additional fees.
 - d. IPERS has announced that contributions will be increasing beginning July 1, 2018 and will include a .51% employer increase, from 8.93% to 9.44%. Using the current year salaries (not including overtime) as an example, that increase would be \$34,030.38 for the district.
 - e. The district will be on budget guarantee again next year due to declining enrollment. The budget guarantee will be \$155,516. With the added costs listed above for ACA fees and IPERS for the coming year, the balance of budget guarantee money is about \$75,400.34, which would need to cover all increases in employee contracts, additional IPERS for the higher salaries, and increases in insurance costs.
 - f. Solvency ratio: increased from 8.6% to 10.7% and the unspent authorized budget increased by \$68,192, to a total of \$2,132,885.
 - g. Supt Fleshner reported that during the IASB School Board Convention, several of the Finance Sessions referenced the need for school board members to review monthly financial reports. We include those in the board information for the meetings.
 - h. Supt Fleshner reported that during the IASB School Board Convention, several of the Finance Sessions referenced the need for school board members to review bills. We include the bill listing in the board information for the meetings.
 - i. The auditors were here on November 15th. They noted a few small items in their comments, with many of them already being addressed.
 4. Facility Updates:
 - a. The high school LED lighting is nearly completed, with retrofits or bulbs. The high school parking lot lighting will also be switched to LED; these lights are on 12-plus hours in the fall and winter months.
 - b. The middle school concrete projects are completed. There is some clean up along the fence line behind the middle school that needs to be done yet.
 - c. LPC Elementary: Having issues with the Airedale units.
 - d. D-G Elementary: Having issues with the Airedale units.
 - e. Would like to have a Capital Projects work session on December 11th. Need to look at items like the boilers, where the project will reduce some costs in the General Fund. Also need to look at work on some roof sections.
 - f. Supt Fleshner will be contacting some other architects to look at their services and billing levels. Our current architect is supposed to be getting budget numbers on boilers for us and after requesting them over two months ago, we are still waiting. We also received a \$4,100 bill for roof estimates, however Supt Fleshner provided the square footage and aerial photos to the architect, and what we received was photocopied pages of the aerial photos with estimated costs. There was no information regarding types of materials to use, what areas need to be done first, etc. The board

requested that we get a detailed billing from the architect showing the cost breakout for those billings.

5. Transportation Updates:
 - a. Bus inspections were done in October and the inspections had about the same results as last spring, and better results than several years ago.
 - b. On the agenda is a request to seek bus bids. We would like to seek bids on two buses and are looking at both propane and diesel buses. Also trying to plan ahead for accommodating students with special transportation needs for activities, athletics, and shuttles.
 - c. A new snow blade was purchased for one of our trucks housed in La Porte City.
 - d. Mike Strubel will be the new River Hills driver, replacing Cliff McFarland, who resigned last month.
6. Technology:
 - a. When looking at capital projects plan, we need to include wireless networks in all buildings. The elementary buildings do not have 1:1 networks, and the high school has the oldest wireless network.
7. Marketing Update:
 - a. The media team met November 14th to review the new website template. The board presentation of the new website will be at the December 18th board meeting. The Facebook account is growing; it has well over 300 followers and new content is being added daily.
8. IASB Conference: Was a good conference and all board members were there at least one of the days.
9. Daycare 28E Agreement: This item will be on the December agenda.
10. Superintendent Evaluation: Supt Fleshner is planning to have an update at the December meeting.
11. Dr Ryan Wise, the Iowa Dept of Education Director, will be in our district on December 19th. He is touring districts across the state.
12. December 11th meeting (pending approval of bond restructuring).
13. Next Regular Board Meeting: December 18th at La Porte City Elementary.

Approval of 2017-2018 School Board Goals: On a motion by DeWinter, seconded by Paine, the board approved the 2017-2018 school board goals. Motion carried 7-0.

SBRC Request for Special Education Administrative Costs Associated with LIED Center

Consortium in Waverly: Scott made a motion that the Board of Directors of the Union Community School District approve the application to the School Budget Review Committee in the amount of \$4,164.98 for special education administrative costs associated with LIED Center Consortium program for the 2018-19 school year. The motion was seconded by DeWinter. Motion carried 7-0.

SBRC Request for Special Education Administrative Costs Associated with River Hills Consortium in

Cedar Falls: Scott made a motion that the Board of Directors of the Union Community School District approve the application to the School Budget Review Committee in the amount of \$9,062.12 for special education administrative costs associated with River Hills Consortium program for the 2018-19 school year. The motion was seconded by Niebergall. Motion carried 7-0.

Restructure Current Bonding Agreement with Speer Financial and Piper Jaffray: On a motion by Niebergall, seconded by Paine, the board approved restructuring the current bonding agreement with Speer Financial and Piper Jaffray. Motion carried 7-0.

Approval to Seek Bid for Two School Buses: On a motion by DeWinter, seconded by Lorenzen, the board approved seeking bids for two school buses. Motion carried 7-0.

Second Reading of Board Policies #407.6 and #413.6: On a motion by Niebergall, seconded by Lorenzen, the board approved the 2nd reading of board policies #407.6 and #413.6. Motion carried 7-0.

