

**UNION COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DYSART-GENESEEO-LA PORTE CITY  
June 17, 2024**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Call to Order:** Corey Lorenzen called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at Union High School. The following board members were present: Reid Carlson, Carly McGivern, and Brandon Paine.

**Approval of Agenda:** On a motion by Paine, second by Carlson, the agenda was approved as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Board member Maureen Hanson arrived at 6:02 p.m.

**Consideration of Actions on Consent Items.** Approval of the May 20, 2024 board minutes; Approval of Resignations- Dean Bostian- UHS At-Risk; Korina Carlson- UHS Head Tech and Assistant Drama; John Mix- Director of Transportation/Buildings and Grounds; Amy Nading- LPC 4th Grade; Adam Sacquitne- HS Ag Ed Teacher and FFA. Approval of New Hires- Lanie Dawson- LPC Elementary 4th Grade; Tammy Kimbrell- UMS Kitchen Assistant. Financials; Open Enrollment Requests (withhold request until Hudson acts on the application); Fundraisers. On a motion by McGivern, second by Paine, the board approved the consent items. Motion carried 5-0.

**Superintendent Report:** *Instructional:* The ESSA committee completed all the requirements in May, and the documents have been sent to the State. Spring FAST scores were once again good. The Conditions for Learning survey results were tremendous; we saw terrific gains (five percent) in each category throughout the district. The special education transition meetings went well again this year. This was implemented for those students/families who are moving to a different building. The change has resulted in some very positive results. The tentative professional learning plan for 24-25 has been sent to the staff. Attendance rates were shared and they have remained steady. *Facilities:* Cleaning of the outside of the high school building on the north, south and east sides will be done along with cleaning and painting of the columns outside the activity entrance and some of the areas between the windows on the east side. I have requested quotes to replace the older concrete in front of the activity entrance at the high school, the sidewalk going from the activity entrance to the south as well as all concrete stoops around the building. We have reached out to a cross section of stakeholders in both Dysart and La Porte City for input on facility improvements. There will be a meeting in Dysart on June 25 and in La Porte City on June 26 led by administration and reps from Denovo. *Safety/Security:* Key cards have been distributed and are working well. *Staffing/Transportation:* We have advertised for a Director of Transportation. *Other Info:* HS Division of Duties has been created to clarify who is responsible for what between HS Principal Jason Toenges and Activities Director Michael Bruns. Union is one of three or four districts in NE Iowa to receive a grant for an electric bus. I am working with the city utilities to make sure we have the infrastructure, or at least access to it, to get this bus on the road as soon as we receive it. Soccer update: The coach would like to see 12 to 19 non-shared players. Independence has shown some interest in sharing a boys' soccer program. More information will be forthcoming.

**Presentation:**

Denovo Construction Solutions and Piper Sandler were in attendance to present to the Board the options and process involved in preparing for a possible bond referendum.

Denovo, Martin Gardner and KCL Engineering conducted in-depth, on-site facilities assessments of the entire district throughout this year. Each building's architectural, mechanical and electrical systems were evaluated and information on their nature, age, and condition; predicted useful life; and estimated replacement value were developed using industry standards.

From their report the board was given a list of improvement projects listed by building and were asked to rank the items for which they could support. This same list of projects and scoring will be presented at the community meetings planned for June 25 and 26, at 6 p.m.

One of the more pressing items is the HVAC at the high school. The entire board ranked this as their top priority. The estimated cost is \$5,925,000. Required for the high school HVAC project are two additional items, interior lighting/controls \$1,427,000 and high school other architectural costs \$829,000.

The list of projects for all four buildings was broken out into three options with Option 1 infrastructure and safety/security needs with a price tag of \$15,133,000. Option 2 includes the items in option 1 plus high school sidewalks, locker room renovation, a practice gym, and locker rooms at the middle school. Total cost of Option 2 is \$20,995,000. Option 3 would include items from options 1 and 2 plus a locker room addition, cafeteria renovation and student center renovation at the high school; gym AC at the middle school; parking lot and gym AC at DG Elementary; and gym AC at LPC Elementary, with a total cost of \$25,745,000. There are still quite a few other improvement projects on the list such as roofing, parking lot replacements, renovations to the FCS rooms, the science rooms, restrooms, interior improvements, mechanical maintenance, HVAC, etc. at all buildings.

Representatives from Piper Sandler then presented various scenarios for financing the list of improvement projects. Based on the actual valuation of the district (\$914,961,322 for FY25) x 5 percent the district has a \$45.7 million debt limit. The tax history shows steady rates for the past 10 years. The Sales Tax debt used to finance the football/track complex improvements has a balance of \$636,558 and will be paid off in FY 29.

With changes made at the State level entities may only have a bond election once a year as part of the November general election. In order to meet those deadlines we have until August 28 to get the formation of the petition for election completed (by July 29); circulate the petition from July 29 through August 12; have a Board Resolution on August 18; then file the documents with the County Auditor by August 28. Once these steps are complete, August 28 through the date of the election, the campaign for the referendum must be conducted which will include meeting with residents of the Union Community School District to ask for their support at the November 5 election. A super majority (60%) is needed for this bond referendum to pass.

#### **New Business:**

**Discussion and recommendations for facility improvements.** No action was taken.

**Consider approval of an agreement with Pathways Behavioral Services for 2024-2025.** On a motion by Paine, second by Hanson, the board approved the agreement with Pathways Behavioral Services for 2024-2025. Motion carried 5-0. This will provide more mental health services to our students.

**Consider approval of the Jester Insurance Renewal for 2024-2025.** On a motion by Carlson, second by Paine, the board approved the Jester Insurance Renewal for 2024-2025. Motion carried 5-0. This is for the breakdown insurance. There was a \$20,000 decrease in the premium for the coming year due to business manager Kim Lubbert negotiating the renewal.

**Consider setting the public hearing for transferring categorical funds to the flexibility account for 2024-2025.** On a motion by Hanson, second by Paine, the board approved holding a public hearing on transferring categorical funds to the flexibility account. It will be held Monday, July 15, at 5:50 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

**Consider approval of an agreement with Donovan Group School Communication for the 2024-2025 school year.** On a motion by McGivern, second by Carlson, the board approved the

agreement with Donovan Group School Communication for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried 5-0.

**Consider approval of the monthly transfers from capital projects to debt service sinking fund for payment of principal and interest in the amount of \$52,000 per month from July 2024 to June 2025.** On a motion by Paine, second by Hanson, the board approved the monthly transfers from capital projects to debt service sinking fund for payment of principal and interest in the amount of \$52,000 per month from July 2024 to June 2025. Motion carried 5-0.

**Consider approval of a quote from D and N Fence Company to replace fencing at UMS softball field.** On a motion by Hanson, second by Carlson, the board approved the Quote from D and N Fence Company to replace fencing at UMS softball field. Motion carried 5-0.

**Consider approval of a recorder fee increase for the 2024-2025 school year.** On a motion by McGivern, second by Hanson, the board approved the recorder fee increase for 2024-2025. Motion carried 5-0.

**Consider approval of the milk bid from Anderson Erickson (AE) for the 2024-2025 school year.** On a motion by Hanson, second by Carlson, the board approved the milk bid from Anderson Erickson (AE) for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried 5-0.

**Consider approval of the bread bid from Bimbo for the 2024-2025 school year.** On a motion by McGivern, second by Paine, the board approved the bread bid from Bimbo for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried 5-0.

**Consider approval of Schedule E (coaches/sponsors) for the 2024-2025 school year.** On a motion by Carlson, second by McGivern, the board approved Schedule E (coaches/sponsors) for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried 5-0.

**Consider approval to purchase a 2025 Blue Bird BBCV3507 propane bus from School Bus Sales.** On a motion by Paine, second by McGivern, the board approved the purchase of a 2025 Blue Bird BBCV3507 propane bus from School Bus Sales. Motion carried 5-0.

**Consider approval of a cooperative agreement with Iowa State University for the 2024-2025 school year.** On a motion by Hanson, second by Carlson, the board approved the cooperative agreement with Iowa State University for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried 5-0.

**Consider approval of the TLC positions for 2024-2025.** On a motion by Paine, second by Carlson, the board approved the TLC positions for 2024-2025. Motion carried 5-0. Board member Corey Lorenzen abstained from action on Jennie Lorenzen's position.

**Consider approval of the agreement for the Shared Special Education Director with AEA for 2024-2025.** On a motion by Carlson, second by Hanson, the board approved the agreement for the Shared Special Education Director with AEA for 2024-2025. Motion carried 5-0.

**Consider approval of the agreement for the Workplace Coordinator with AEA for the 2024-2025 school year.** On a motion by McGivern, second by Hanson, the board approved the agreement for the Workplace Coordinator with AEA for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried 5-0.

**Adjourn.** On a motion by Paine, second by McGivern, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Corey Lorenzen  
Board President

Diane Roberts  
Board Secretary