

Nottawa Community School

Board Meeting

April 8, 2024 ~ 7:00 P.M.

Minutes

“Building Better Futures for Children and Communities”

I. Call to Order

- A. Required Reading of PA213.

II. Introduction of guests:

- A. Kathleen Brandon addressed the board of education to discuss activities for staff appreciation week in May. She also plans to seek support from community businesses and organizations for staff appreciation. She also described a number of activities to celebrate staff and bring employees closer together. The board thanked Mrs. Brandon for her efforts and volunteered their support.

III. Correspondence:

- A. Mr. Wolff shared a correspondence from MASB congratulating Treasurer Danberry for training to further her skills in service to the Board of Education.

IV. Presentations if any:

- A. No Presentations at this time.

V. Consent Agenda

All items will be acted upon by one vote without being discussed separately unless there is a request from a board member to remove an individual agenda item (or items) from the Consent Agenda to be discussed and possibly voted upon separately. All agenda items pulled from the Consent Agenda will be placed under Action Items.

- A. Approval of Minutes for March 11th, Board of Education Meeting
- B. Approval of Financial Report.
- C. Approval of Monthly Board Bills: in the amount of \$32,893.47 through March 27, 2024.

Motion by Danberry, support by Hochstetler to approve the consent agenda. Motion Carried 5-0.

VI. Action items

- A. First Read of Spring Policy Update 38.2

Motion by Danberry, support by Rosenbaum to approve the first reading of Spring Policy, and Special Update 38.2. Motion Carried 5-0.

- B. IRS Section 127 EAP

The board discussed at length its desire for continued support of staff seeking to meet qualifications to become a fully endorsed teacher as part of a district, “grow your own initiative.”

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Brandon to approve and adopt language for IRS Section 127 Education Assistance Program. Motion Carried 5-0.

C. Bus Barn Agreement with ISD

Mr. Wolff presented the board of education with the revised bus and highlighted that in addition to the new agreement the added improvements to lighting, additional roll door, and office window to enhance the functionality of the facility. The board expressed appreciation for the continued partnership and the benefits it brings to both the district and the ISD.

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Hochstetler to accept the bus barn agreement. Motion Carried 5-0.

D. Bus Cameras on stop signs

A quote was generated for additional stop sign cameras for buses 17 and 18 to help the district address safety concerns. To the surprise of the district, the company providing the quote accidentally sent all the equipment to the school prior to approval. The board must decide whether to approve the quote or return the equipment. There have been repeated incidents of vehicles running the red stop signals. The addition of these cameras will aid law enforcement in their efforts to increase driver accountability, hopefully reduce incidence, and improve safety.

Motion by Brandon, support by Danberry to approve the purchase of the added cameras. Motion Carried 5-0.

E. Bus Fencing

Mr. Wolff presented a quote for 6-foot chain link fencing to surround the designated bus parking area. This barrier would not be completely closed, but would corral bus access toward the south of parking areas in full view of the security camera serving as a theft deterrent. Additionally, there have been occasional problems with unsupervised children at the ball diamond playing in between and around the buses during after school functions. The board reviewed a quote from Miracle Lawn Service and members expressed a desire to gather two more comparable quotes.

F. Rouch World Table and Chairs for graduation

Mr. Wolff presented a quote for Tent, and Chairs for graduation. The quote is greater than the previous year but the district added 200 chairs and is still receiving a 10% discount on the rental and service. This tent will be used for Graduation and Awards ceremonies at the end of the school year.

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Danberry to approve tent and chairs for graduation. Motion Carried 5-0.

G. Calendar 2024-2025

Calendar for next school year was presented. It was noted that because our district is very connected to services from surrounding local education agencies that there may be a need to amend some dates as we await confirmation of other events. Professional development days prior to the first student day are also subject to change.

Motion by Danberry, support by Borkholder to approve the 2024 - 2025 school calendar, *with the understanding that there may be a need to amend. Motion Carried 5-0.

H. Board Meeting Calendar 2024 – 2025

A calendar for regular Board of Education meetings was presented. As in past years, board meetings are generally held on the second Monday of the month, starting at 7:00 PM.

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Hochstetler to approve the Board Meeting Calendar for 2024 - 2025 school year. Motion Carried 5-0.

VII. Information items

A. Board of Education Binders: Work in Progress.

B. School Sign, Repair/Replace

Wire tracing to be done by trustee Brandon to determine next steps.

C. Stone School Update

1. Volunteer Sidewalk Project: Making plans for Spring of 2024

Mr. Wolff shared a drawing of the planned project. He will seek advice on the sequence of steps and then seek skilled volunteers.

D. Update: Progress on Modular Addition

The construction of the classrooms has begun. Several questions about materials and colors have been asked and answered. There is a site planning meeting on Friday at 9:00 AM. Trustees Brandon and Hochstetler will attend along with Mrs. Beery.

E. 2024 - 2025 Budget Planning

1. Fiscal Services

Mr. Wolff also requested Mrs. Bojanich to provide recommendations for a multi-year plan to bring district contributions for fiscal services into alignment with current cost. Mr. Wolff shared an email correspondence from Karen Bojanich where she reported the estimated costs associated with business office services. Treasurer Danberry and Mr. Wolff will set up a meeting with Karen to review and bring forward recommendations to the board of education.

F. Superintendent Contract Language Updates

MASB has provided legal updates for Superintendent contract language based on changes in legislation. Both NEOLA and the business office passed along the update.

G. Business Office Contract Updates

This was an accidental duplication of agenda item E (1).

H. Communication Update

Kindergarten round up post cards have been sent out. A special edition of the constellation in news print format was sent to every home in the district. The goal was to share the history of the district and the next steps for adding early childhood education.

I. Student Gardens

Many thanks to school volunteer Ms. Maggie. Along with school staff she is introducing students to gardening and greenhouse activities. The goal is to provide students with enrichment opportunities and begin the process of braiding these with district curriculum.

J. Enrollment is 185

1. Kindergarten Round up

At this time, we have 15 signed up, many will attend the in person round-up on April 25th.

2. St. Joseph County Schools of Choice

Reminder; Nottawa is participating in St. Joseph County Schools of Choice as uncapped for the 2024-2025 school year. Nottawa is not participating in 105c for out of county students.

K. Legal Update(s)

VIII. Other

IX. Adjourn

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Brandon to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 PM. Motion Carried 5-0.

VISION

“Nottawa Community School will encourage the involvement of parents and community to embrace a shared purpose in the education of our students to become problem solving, responsible, and contributing members of society.”