

Nottawa Community School

Board Meeting

November 11, 2024 ~ 7:00 P.M.

Minutes

“Building Better Futures for Children and Communities”

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Rosenbaum.

Members Present: Borkholder, Brandon, Danberry, Hochstetler, Rosenbaum

A. Required Reading of PA213.

II. Introduction of guests:

The board recognized Mrs. Amy Falkenstein. MRs. Falkenstein serves as our PE/Health Teacher and our Athletic Director. The board welcomed Mrs. Falkenstein and thanked her for her service, especially noting the positive relationships she has with the school children.

III. Correspondence:

A. Mr. Wolff shared a correspondence from the St. Joseph County School Board Association. The association is seeking \$200 from each local district in order to cover costs associated with providing regular programs and updates to local school board members. Board member Danberry noted that the amount should be \$250 as she is president of the SBA.

Motion by Hochstetler, support by Rosenbaum to approve up to \$250 for the St. Joseph County School Board Association fee provided that all districts pay in St. Joseph County pay the same amount. Motion carried 5-0.

IV. Presentations if any:

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 October 14 and October 24 Board of Education Meetings

B. Approval of Financial Report.

C. Approval of Monthly Board Bills: in the amount of \$70,173.24 through October 31, 2024.

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

VI. Action items

A. Fall Policy Update: Second Reading

B. CHRI Policy Update: Second Reading*

For action items A and B; the board conducted a second reading of policies. Upon clarification provided by NEOLA Mr. Wolff advised that the district does not have to adopt po 2264 and po 7440.03.

Motion by Danberry, support by Rosenbaum to approve the second reading of the Fall Policy Update 39.1 and CHRI Policy Update. Motion Carried 5-0.

C. Board Member Election Results

Certified election results are not yet available, but once they are Board members Danberry and Hochstetler may take the oath or affirmation of public office at either the Nottawa District Office or at the St. Joseph County Courthouse. Mr. Wolff can coordinate to ensure that a notary public is present.

D. Superintendent Mid-Year Progress Report

Mr. Wolff shared a mid-year report updating the progress made toward superintendent evaluation goals set by the board of education.

Motion by Danberry, support by Rosenbaum to accept the Superintendent mid-year Progress Report. Motion Carried 5-0.

E. Insulin Class Action Lawsuit

Mr. Wolff presented the board with information provided by Frantz Law Group about a class action lawsuit against companies who allegedly spiked insulin costs by 1000%. * THRUN Law is not a co council, but did share information about this suit. The board discussed the matter at length, but ultimately decided it was not in the best interest of the school district to be involved in matters that did not directly affect the district.

Motion by Hochstetler, support by Brandon, not to join the Insulin Class Action Lawsuit. Motion Carried 5-0.

F. Bus Driver Wage Review Request

Treasurer Danberry, Mr. Wolff, Mrs. Bojancich (CFM) and have reviewed the request made by bus drivers for wage changes. The school business office is reviewing certain aspects of this request to ensure that the decision of the board is in the best interest of all parties.

Motion by Hochstetler, support by Rosenbaum to Table a decision on the bus driver wage review request while Jerome awaits further information being sought by the business office. Motion Carried 5-0.

G. Crochet Club

Mr. Wolff read a correspondence from Mrs. Kristi Ruckert. Mrs. Ruckert would like to start a Crochet club. If approved Mrs. Ruckert would donate her time and skills. If approved the club would meet after school on Tuesdays. Parents would be responsible for student transportation.

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Borkholder to start a Crochet Club. Motion Carried 5-0.

VII. Information items

A. Update: Budget Audit Scheduled for December 9th

Karen Boajnich, Fiscal Services Manager and Ian Rees (joining virtually) will present the annual budget audit at the December 9th Board meeting.

B. Budget Revisions Coming December 9th

Mr. Wolff reported that budget revisions will need to include the new position of ESL Teacher, and planning to account for staffing changes related to the new Preschool and Young 5's program

C. Early Elementary Building (4-Year-Old Preschool and Young 5's)

Mr. Wolff reviewed a sequence of events that need to happen in order to bring the new early elementary programs into operation.

D. Planning Staffing Updates

As the staffing changes with additional programming being offered to the community, the district will prioritize internal placement.

E. Progress on facility projects

a) Clean Drinking Water: Update

Still waiting to complete grant revisions.

b) Roof: Update

The cost to complete the roof project is estimated to be \$425,000, sinking funds available by June of 2025 are estimated to be over \$300,000. Pending changes to funds or labor market the roof project will likely begin summer of 2026.

c) Internet Fiber Installation Project

Fiber installation is underway and will be completed this week.

d) Railing:

No progress has been made on getting a railing for the ramp at the stone school.

F. Legal Update(s)

1. Paid Time Off

District is on budget with 1 hour of PTO, per 35 hours of work, but will need to update the language of the hourly employee handbook as well as future contracts in order to reflect the standard set by the department of labor.

2. Minimum Wage Changes

The district is currently in compliance with the minimum wage standards but will need to forward plan adjustments to keep pace with continued minimum wage increases as well as give consideration to the wage gap.

VIII. Other

IX. Adjourn

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Hochstetler to adjourn at 8:37 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."