

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Sandwich Community Unit School District #430, DeKalb, Kendall, and LaSalle Counties, Illinois was held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sandwich Middle School library.

ROLL CALL

Present: President Stahl, Vice President Miller, Secretary Schroeder, Englehart, Wilson, Scharenberg & Saitta.

President Stahl welcomed the Board and audience to the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Stahl led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD SALUTES

The Board saluted the administration, staff and parents serving on the in-person feasibility committee and to all staff and families for their many efforts since last March.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, EXPENDITURES, PAYROLL & INVESTMENTS

Mrs. Scharenberg moved, seconded by Mr. Schroeder to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021 regular board meeting and the expenditures, payroll, and investment plans as presented.

Ayes: Englehart, Miller, Wilson, Schroeder, Scharenberg, Saitta, & Stahl. Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVE STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

There is no increase in the 2021-2022 student accident insurance and catastrophic insurance premium

Ms. Saitta moved, seconded by Mrs. Scharenberg to approve rates as presented from First Agency, Inc. for student accident (\$23,041) and catastrophic insurance (\$1,390) for the 2021-2022 school year.

Ayes: Englehart, Miller, Wilson, Schroeder, Scharenberg, Saitta, & Stahl. Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVE SHS BATHROOM RENOVATION BID

Bids were opened on March 8th and four contractors submitted bids. This project is offset by a \$50,000 maintenance grant the district applied for and received from ISBE.

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson to award the base bid of \$128,711 to Lite Construction, Montgomery, IL, and the alternate bid and deduct of \$2,000 for installing manual flush valves in lieu of automatic flush valves for a total cost of \$126,711 to complete the bathroom renovation project at Sandwich High School.

Ayes: Englehart, Miller, Wilson, Schroeder, Scharenberg, Saitta, & Stahl. Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVE IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

Administrators provided a report on in-person instruction, planning, logistics and the recently released IDPH/ISBE updated guidance. Most notable, the social distancing guidance was changed from 6 feet to 3-6 feet allowing more flexibility to provide full in-person instruction beginning April 5, 2021.

Dr. Englehart moved, seconded by Ms. Saitta while following current IDPH/ISBE guidelines, approve the implementation of full day in-person instruction Monday through Friday beginning April 5, 2021 and to approve the amended 2020-2021 calendar as presented.

Ayes: Englehart, Miller, Wilson, Schroeder, Scharenberg, Saitta, & Stahl. Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT REPORTS

In written reports:

Ms. Greenacre – LGH

We have spent some time analyzing the FastBridge benchmark data on our students and began developing/modifying intervention plans. There was a lot of dialogue about where students are performing on these assessments and what impact the pandemic has had. We also have been talking about SEL activities that we can do when the students are at school.

Our building Cognia Committee members have been meeting with the other elementary building representatives and working on completing plan. While they were meeting, there have been some excellent discussions and enthusiasm for the school improvement process. We will continue working regularly with the district team to prepare the materials required for next year's review and highlight all of the work on our school improvement goals that has been done during this last review cycle. One focus will be to communicate about the review and our work with all stakeholders.

There are some exciting virtual events that have been planned! One Book, One School- Know More on 34 kicks the week of 3/15. The students will be doing an author study of Peter Brown. We are working the Plano and Somonauk School Districts on this event. We have a virtual Grandparent's Week schedule for the week of 3/22. We are discussing all of our end of the year activities to see what events we can modify and still have.

Mr. Ryan – PV

Spring is in the air! Spring is known for a time of great transformation as we see the remaining snow disappear and flowers arrive. The staff at Prairie View is excited about the transformations we see each week with our young learners. We are seeing our students continue to develop their independent learning skills, take ownership in their remote learning responsibilities, and become more confident as the school year has progressed. Our staff is excited about the opportunity to have students back in school five days a week in the near future. We are confident that this will allow us to maximize our time during the third trimester and assist our students in their efforts to make up for time lost over the last calendar year due to pandemic restrictions.

Prairie View staff continues to focus on meeting the needs of our students. For the last month, our grade level teams have been digging deep into Fastbridge data, classroom-specific formative assessments, and anecdotal teacher data to identify our students' most significant areas of need. We are beginning to see some trends by grade level, which we plan to attack between now and the end of the school year. The staff has been innovative

in their use of resources, schedule adaptations, and use of paraprofessionals to maximize their ability to provide support to our most struggling learners.

The SIP goal that we are perhaps most proud of this year is our school's progress towards recognizing our students for positive behaviors, work completion, demonstrating growth mindsets, etc. Currently, our staff is taking part in a "Kindness Counts" program. As a building, we watch for opportunities each day to recognize students for demonstrating kindness and selflessness. Each time a student is observed showing kindness, their name is added to a piece of "confetti" and is glued onto our wall display in our main hallway (see below). Students are also recognized each week during morning announcements.

Mrs. Kern – WWW

February was a challenging and eventful month. We continue to work hard together with families in support of our students while also striving to maintain a positive learning environment for both students and staff. We were able to plan ahead to celebrate Valentine's Day with students and look ahead to One Book One School. After completing winter benchmarking our priority is to reevaluate our instruction and makes adjustments to both curriculum and individual learning plans. We are pleased to see growth in many of our students and attribute that success to both time with their teacher on essential content as well as the wonderful support of so many parents and guardians at home. We continue to work together as partners in learning and support of one another.

Mrs. Ford – HED

Our students who returned from fully remote within the last couple of weeks have been doing well. It's great to see students interacting face to face with their teachers. As we are rounding out our 2nd trimester, we still see kids struggling to get work completed especially on the remote days. Teachers and staff have worked diligently on educational plans, communication, and social/emotional support for many students and families. Hopefully as the weather turns nicer, spirits will rise and the work and effort will somewhat return.

We await information from Illinois Board of Education with regards to IAR testing. We were informed that testing needed to take place so we wait as final details have not been released. Having our 1:1 devices will be a huge asset for taking these tests because scheduling our computer labs for all classes to work through was a logistical nightmare! Having Chromebooks will make this process more time efficient as long as the technology piece all works as planned.

Mr. Heilemeier – SMS

We will continue to update our current Cognia goals to reflect the new 4th quarter plan. Another thing the team is tackling is the implementation of MTSS in the 2021-2022 school year. Currently we are looking at adding a math intervention next year. Work is underway to make adjustments to the schedule for this to occur.

The staff at SMS is starting to prepare for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) and the Illinois Science Assessment. SMS students will start the State assessments at the end of April.

Scheduling for the 2021/22 school year is underway and coming along nicely. Hopefully we will be able to run all seasons next year as close to normal as possible.

Mr. Sodaro – SHS

Mrs. Heilemeier and I attended an additional Transitional English workshop. The date of implementation has been postponed, which will allow the new administration to work on this process next year.

3.6 Luncheon is an annual event for students who have maintained an overall 3.6 GPA in addition to a 3.6 average for every semester. Current mitigation will not allow us to hold this event as in the past, but we will alter the format to allow a modified banquet.

Senior Awards is an annual event celebrating the seniors' accomplishments. Students receive awards for academic achievement, National Honor Society membership, attendance, sports, etc. Students may also be acknowledged for receiving local scholarships. This event will bring in at least 200 students and adults. Due to this number of participants, we will be altering the ceremony to a full virtual event.

We are still developing plans for graduation.

The Freshmen Curriculum Nights have been completed with more than 90% of our new freshmen students enrolled in classes. Overall, we have about 90% of all our students enrolled in courses.

Our counselors will be running our "Life in High School" event on March 15 and 16 at SMS.

We are still waiting for the announcement of the Illinois State Scholars. There have been no updates on the release date. We hope to get these in time to honor these students this year.

Mr. Bloemker – Technology

Technology regular updates – An update from the Technology arena! From August 1st through February 3rd, we have closed over 1609 documented issues or an average of 60 issues per week. This is an increase of 335 reported issues over last year. Like previously mentioned, this increase is primarily due to chromebook issues. Granted, we are able to resolve most of the issues in-house with a few having to be sent away for repairs. As of this writing, we have 35 open reported issues to take care of. Of the issues currently open (22/35) are chromebook issues needing repairs, along with a few project requests, desktop computer issues, hardware requests and a few others.

Chromebook Repairs and Support – The order for the ASUS screens finally arrived around Feb 2nd. My team has replaced 35 of the 50 screens received, so far. Other chromebooks issues continue to get resolved in a timely manner. We continue to order replacement parts on an as-needed basis to repair the chromebooks and get them back into the hands of the students.

We are beginning to think about the end of the school year and how to handle the chromebooks. There are several aspects being considered and debated upon. We hope to get a plan in place before Spring break so the buildings can begin preparing for the process and purchasing the needed supplies.

Registration – The 2021-2022 Registration has begun. All of the forms were updated for the current year and approved by the administration. Parents were able to begin this process on January 27th. To date, we have had 555 submissions from parents for approval. This number of submissions is a little behind the number (647) as last year at this time.

Applications/ISBE Updates – For the standardized testing such as IAR, ISA, ACCESS and KITE (DLM-AA), these are now able to be completed using the chromebooks which each student has. I have been doing spot-checking to ensure ISBE has the correct information. The issue I reported to Tyler last month about their export for IAR testing has not been corrected yet. I am seeking an update from them and will pursue a resolution ASAP. The filename issue in a Tyler report was corrected along with the DLM-AA reporting issue.

ERATE: Before the USAC form 471 can be filed, we are waiting for an agreement from Syndeo. Once this is received, the form 471 can be filed. The deadline is March 25, 2021. Hopefully, we will receive their agreement soon.

Other items – We are beginning to make plans for the summer projects which includes possible replacement of staff devices and other components within the classroom. We continue to do our best to keep the district fully operational at all times.

Mrs. Swan-Gravatt – Special Education

Effective as of January 22, 2021, the district now has to implement the new requirements for bilingual interpreters who interpret for parents at IEP meetings. Initial guidance on the implementation of 23 IL Administrative Code 226.800 (1) and 23 IAC 226.530 was sent to districts by ISBE regarding the requirements for Qualified Interpreters and the use of such interpreters for meetings for special education purposes; however, in that guidance ISBE stated that at this current time, ISBE has no official training or certification process in order for bilingual interpreters to become “Qualified Interpreters”. ISBE stated that until such a time that ISBE sponsored training becomes available, districts are encouraged to continue to use interpreters that are “bilingual, demonstrably qualified, and capable of interpreting appropriately, with preference for those who have knowledge of special education terminology and processes.” The guidance goes on to say that once bilingual interpreters complete the ISBE training, they will become a part of a registry of qualified interpreters willing to contract with districts in need of securing a qualified interpreter. Other guidance from ISBE include that districts have to inform parents in writing that they have the right to have an interpreter present at IEP meetings. *This fact has always been the case in that it is the district’s duty to ensure a bilingual interpreter is available for parents.* Our handbooks, notification of conference process, and staff have been made aware of these new requirements.

ENTER CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson to adjourn to closed session to discuss matters related to the appointment, employment, dismissal, compensation or performance of specific employees; collective bargaining; safety and student discipline and other matters relating to individual students; litigation; and the setting of price for sale or lease of property or whether a particular parcel should be acquired. TIME 8:40 p.m.

Ayes: Englehart, Miller, Wilson, Schroeder, Scharenberg, Saitta & Stahl. Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION

The Board re-entered the Regular Session at 9:38 p.m. Roll call vote indicated the following: Ayes: Englehart, Miller, Wilson, Schroeder, Scharenberg, Saitta & Stahl.

APPROVE CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Saitta to approve the closed session minutes of the regular meeting of February 9, 2021.

Ayes: Englehart, Miller, Wilson, Schroeder, Scharenberg, Saitta, & Stahl. Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

RETIREMENTS/LOA'S

Mr. Schroeder moved, seconded by Mrs. Scharenberg to approve the retirement resignation as presented for Cindy Fraser – LGH special education and Donna Ricci – speech practitioner; and the FMLA request for Kaylee Hill – LGH special education as presented.

Ayes: Englehart, Miller, Wilson, Schroeder, Scharenberg, Saitta and Stahl. Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

APPOINT SHS PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Scharenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Englehart to approve the employment contract for Shane Darnell as Sandwich High School Principal for the 2021-2022 school year setting salary at \$110,000. Employment is contingent upon the receipt and evaluation of employment documentation required by the Illinois State Board of Education which includes licensure, a physical exam/TB test, child abuse form, criminal history background check, and I-9 employment eligibility form completion.

Ayes: Englehart, Miller, Wilson, Schroeder, Scharenberg, Saitta, & Stahl. Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL

Mrs. Scharenberg moved, seconded by Ms. Saitta to approve the employment of Amy McDowell, speech pathologist for the 2021-2022 school year. Employment is contingent upon the receipt and evaluation of employment documentation required by the Illinois State Board of Education which includes licensure, a physical exam/TB test, child abuse form, criminal history background check, and I-9 employment eligibility form completion.

Ayes: Englehart, Miller, Wilson, Schroeder, Scharenberg, Saitta, & Stahl. Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF 2021-2022

Mrs. Scharenberg moved, seconded by Mr. Miller that the following first year probationary certified staff be re-employed for the 2021-2022 school year: Rylie Loux, Ashli Lumsden, Ashley Norton, Jennifer Reuter and Kimberly Teti (employed December 2019);

that the following second year probationary certified staff be re-employed for the 2021-2022 school year: Heather DeWitt, Kimberly Gudmunson, Brynn Hallman, Kaylee Hill, Derek Jones, Beverly Lloyd, Andrea Lusk, Barb McGregory, Ian Schielein, Shannon Stahl, Jason VanPelt and Elliott Velez (employed December 2018);

that the following third year probationary certified staff be re-employed for the 2021-2022 school year: Brandon Sanders, Malynda Martin, Jamie Johnson, Jennifer Baker, Shelley Morgan and Elizabeth Vick;

that the following fourth year certified staff be re-employed as non-probationary for the 2021-2022 school year: Alicia Espino, Lauren Hoyt, John Mestemaker, Lisa Ness, Gwendelyn Roseberg and Alexander Moore;

that the following part-time certified staff be re-employed for the 2021-2022 school year: Dr. Molly McDade & Erin Pearlman; and

that the employment of certified non-probationary staff, district wide staff, classified custodial staff, classified secretarial staff, classified paraprofessional staff, and classified transportation staff listed in exhibit #4 be approved for the 2021-2022 school year.

Ayes: Englehart, Miller, Wilson, Schroeder, Scharenberg, Saitta, & Stahl. Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

A report was provided regarding ESSR II funds and what items ISBE will approve as expenditures; and it was noted the recently passed stimulus package signed into law on March 11, 2021 indicates school districts will be receiving additional revenue.

It was noted IVVC has a special meeting on March 18, 2021 to consider approving full day in-person instruction Monday – Friday.

Set a special meeting for March 30, 2021 at 6:30 in the SMS LRC to review bond schedules.

Set a special meeting for April 13, 2021 at 6:30 in the SMS LRC to seat the new Board and reorganize.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Schroeder to adjourn the March 16, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

Ayes: Englehart, Miller, Wilson, Schroeder, Scharenberg, Saitta, & Stahl. Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED Meeting Adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

President:

Secretary: