

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, April 19, 2022 7:00 p.m. at Sandwich Middle School.

Vice President Schroeder welcomed the Board and audience to the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present: Vice-President Schroeder, Secretary Saitta, Englehart, Wilson, Scharenberg and Morse.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-President Schroeder led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

STUDENT REPORT

Hello my name is Kathryn Alderman and I am a senior at Sandwich High School. Next year I am planning to attend Illinois Wesleyan for Music Theater BFA. And now for news from Sandwich High School:

April 7-9 Mr. Pajor and the cast and crew put on our Spring Musical *Little Women* and sold out two of the nights.

On April 12, seniors received their cap and gowns and Freshman received information on the option of purchasing class rings.

On April 13, Freshman and Sophomores took the PSAT while the Juniors took the SAT.

The plans for the April 25th 3.6 luncheon are being finalized and we have a speaker scheduled.

We are returning to doing our prom walk in the front of the high school. Prom will take place at Whitetail Ridge Golf Course.

We will be hosting an entrepreneurship breakfast and have several school districts that will be participating in the breakfast with business leaders from several different fields.

Spring Sports have started and unfortunately, due to the spring weather many games have had to be re-scheduled.

BOARD SALUTES

The Board of Education saluted Mr. Kevin Pajor and the cast and crew for the spectacular performance of the SHS spring musical, *Little Women*.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, EXPENDITURES, PAYROLL & INVESTMENTS

Dr. Englehart moved, seconded by Mrs. Scharenberg to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2022 board meeting and the current expenditures, payroll and investment plans.

Ayes: Saitta, Englehart, Schroeder, Scharenberg Morse Abstain: Wilson Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVE HEALTH/DENTAL/VISION INSURANCE COVERAGE

Health insurance increased by 6.8% and dental and vision insurance rates remained the same for 2022-2023.

Mrs. Scharenberg moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson to approve health insurance coverage and rates with BCBS; dental insurance with Metlife and vision insurance with VSP for the 2022-2023 school year as presented.

Ayes: Saitta, Englehart, Wilson, Schroeder, Scharenberg & Morse Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

REPORT ON DeKALB COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION / ROE PROJECT

Ms. Cary Allen with the DeKalb County ROE office was present and reported that with an emphasis on having every child ready for kindergarten, the DeKalb County Regional Office of Education (ROE) is highlighting early learning education - from birth to kindergarten.

Because of this focus, Basics DeKalb County Toddler Gardens are being built throughout the county and one happens to be in Sandwich located at Knights Park. The Garden will provide an age appropriate area for families with preschool children, even infants. There will be interactive learning stations as well as free weekly programming classes for parents/caregivers with young children with the emphasis on nature and gardening.

Superintendent Schmitt announced that through the DeKalb County Community Foundation, the Jack E. and Norma E. (Rex) Norling endowment was created to honor the legacy of Jack and Norma and note the importance of education in their lives. The fund will provide annual support to Sandwich CUSD 430 to continue the work of educating students, and \$1000 will be allocated toward this valuable community project.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT REPORTS

In written reports:

Dr. Darnell – Sandwich High School

Staff, student and parent Cognia surveys were completed. Administrators have met with staff regarding mid-point student growth data. All junior students participated in the practice SAT exam on March 16. We are in the process of reviewing the data with students. All junior students participated in the Illinois Science Assessment on March 17. The High School Cognia committee continues to work with the District Cognia committee to complete work for District Certification. SHS is in the process of completing a plan for summer school and credit recovery.

Mr. Heilemeier – Sandwich Middle School

April has been a busy month here at SMS. We are currently wrapping up our IAR and ISA testing. At the end of the month we will be transitioning to our 3rd and final benchmarking for Fastbridge. Students still take the Math and Language Arts benchmark test along with the SEL screener. We will be breaking down the data and are going to use this information to look at interventions for the 2022-2023 school year.

We are also in the process of wrapping up for our Cognia review. The Cognia team is putting the finishing touches on our buildings plan and meeting with the staff as we prepare for the upcoming visit.

On Saturday, March 26th teacher Kat Sgiers, with help from teachers Charles Rhodes and Elise Kotalik, had the pleasure of taking 92 middle school students and parents on a one-day trip to Springfield, Illinois. While there, students saw Lincoln's home, the Old State Capital where Abraham Lincoln practiced, The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, and Lincoln's Tomb.

This is normally a 6th-grade only trip but Mrs. Sgiers opened it up to any students at the middle school in an attempt to make up for the trip being Covid-cancelled last year. Talking to the students, they enjoyed the trip and would like to add a 7th-grade trip since the 6th grade has Springfield and the 8th graders have Washington DC.

If you have not had the opportunity to go to the Presidential Museum personally, please consider it! It is rated as one of the top five Presidential Museums built. All 92 of our participants got to see the live performance of "Ghosts of the Library" and the interactive film "From Lincoln's eyes" presented by the man commissioned to make a portrait of him explaining how events in Lincoln's life impacted his appearance. In addition, there are two large areas to see. The first one starts with a reproduction of Lincoln's childhood log cabin and continues up to his election. The second begins with students entering a mock-up of the White House entrance. This one starts with his presidency and concludes with everyone walking by to pay their respects in a reenactment of his funeral that took place in the Old Capitol Building. It was nice to see the reenactment having just seen the actual place where his wake took place.

Mrs. Ford – Herman E. Dummer School:

IAR and ISA testing is underway. Just like with FastBridge, testing is much easier since having the Chromebooks. Teachers are able to schedule the tests within familiar surroundings and at a time, that works best with their schedules.

Our MTSS/DATA Days continue to help us to find the best placement for students in interventions and how best to help our students learn and grow. Data is gathered from FastBridge testing, progress monitoring of students in interventions, and teacher information. 504 and IEP meetings are being held in preparation for a smooth beginning to next year. All admin completed their CPI training recently and all other required staff will be completing their training April 28.

All certified staff are on various committees, both school and district, and they continue to meet and share their ideas and notes with all of our Dummer Staff.

Our teachers are working very closely together to continue to create and refine academic rubrics and assessments for the standard-based grading report cards. This is a work in progress as grades K-5 are all working on this task. We will continue to receive professional development in this area, as it is an ever-changing piece to our job.

Ms. Greenacre - Lynn G. Haskin

The "end of the year wrap up and next year planning" has begun! We will be benchmarking students and reviewing the data in the next month, setting goals for next year, making adjustments where we need to and evaluating the needs of our building. We always strive to utilize our resources and personnel effectively based on what the data shows. The staff is very open-minded and wants to do what is best for students. We look forward to the month ahead and passing this on to the new principal!

Our building committees have been busy discussing and reviewing our goals and activities for this year. We have assisted in the preparation of our District Cognia Review and are looking forward to the feedback and developing future goals.

Our building SEL/Character Counts committee has coordinated activities throughout the year. One area that we would like to continue addressing is a school wide program, such as CHAMPS. The other buildings have been utilizing components and we would like to investigate the program further. That information will be passed on to be addressed next school year.

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) testing is completed for our 3rd graders! We spread out the testing sessions (2 ELA and 3 Math) over a two week window in order not to create burnout for the students. We look forward to the data and consider this one piece of the 3rd graders educational puzzle.

Mr. Ryan – Prairie View

The Prairie View third graders have recently finished their state-required Illinois Assessment of Readiness tests. Over the last few weeks, the students completed three math assessments and three reading/ELA assessments. Each day of testing, our third graders came to school with a positive attitude and worked hard to put forth their best efforts. Mr. Steimel and Ms. Jordan worked diligently during February and March to work with students on IAR-provided practice assessments, which helped students feel more comfortable during the official tests. Later this month, the entire school will be completing its final round of Fastbridge benchmark testing. This data will be used to drive instruction over the last weeks of school, but it will also be utilized to create intervention groups to start the 2022-2023 school year.

As the weather begins to turn and spring sports creep back into the lives of our students, we've been focusing on maintaining their healthy and productive habits each evening at home. Physical healthy habits include a nutritional snack and dinner after school and getting 8+ hours of sleep. Similarly, we've been encouraging our students to finish the year off on a solid note academically. Parents/guardians have been encouraged to prioritize nightly reading, fluency boxes, math fluency practice, homework, and asking their student(s) to share their day with their families.

Mrs. Kern - W.W. Woodbury

We enjoyed a wonderful spring break in March and look forward to warmer months ahead. As we head into the final months of the school year it is our aim to continue making each day and moment count. Our students get busier with outdoor activities and sports and we hope that we can continue to prioritize the importance of our time as school so that we maximize our days and learning together. Other April events include field trips as well as the spring concert. We look forward to celebrating being together with our Woodbury families.

Throughout the month of April, our third-grade students will be completing multiple assessments. During the weeks of April 4th and April 11th, third grade students will be participating in the (IAR) Illinois Assessment of Readiness Assessment. The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) is the state assessment and accountability measure for Illinois students enrolled in a public-school district. IAR assesses the Illinois Learning Standards Incorporating the Common Core and will be administered in English Language Arts and Mathematics. These assessments are simply ONE measure of our students' performance, and aide us in reflecting on our current practice and being responsive to the academic needs of our students. We are proud of the hard work of our students and know they will do their very best! At the end of the month, all grade levels will be completing the Spring Fastbridge benchmarking assessments. The information gained from these assessments will be used to help our staff adjust their instructional planning for the remainder of the school year and begin planning for next Fall.

April is National Stress Awareness Month. A healthy diet, exercise, and getting enough sleep will always be 3 things to look at first. These healthy habits are correlated to stress. Eating a balanced diet with fresh food will help your body fight stress naturally. Stay away from caffeine as it blocks a sleep-promoting chemical called adenosine. Getting a good amount of sleep each night is critical to your brain! Poor sleep

can increase your risk for serious medical issues. Inadequate sleep can lead to memory issues, poor motor skills, attention problems, and mental health issues. Make sure to turn off all electronics at least 30 minutes before going to bed. A nighttime routine is also important. Some ideas include reading, listening to calm music, and/or deep breathing exercises. Lastly, as a general goal, try to get 30 minutes of exercise each day. Rhythmic exercises such as walking or jogging are great ways to get active especially with the improving weather!

We are wrapping up our kindness and empathy unit in Second Step. Students have done such a great job of identifying other people's feelings given various situations and thinking about different ways to show kindness. We talked about how kindness isn't just doing something like writing a letter or giving a gift, it can also be something simple such as using kind words or giving a fist bump. We talked about the importance of showing kindness to everyone, even when they are different from you. It's the Woodbury Way, "be safe, BE KIND, and be responsible."

We are rolling into our fourth and final unit of Second Step. We will be learning about problem solving. Students will be learning how to apply their emotion management and communication skills to solve interpersonal problems and demonstrate strategies for effectively dealing with interpersonal conflicts that arise. Third grade specifically will be using the STEP model; S-Say the Problem, T-Think of Solutions, E-Explore the outcomes, and P-Pick the solution. Across all grades we will be talking about removing "blame words" from our conversations. Blame words such as "you always" or "you never" can be hurtful and make our problems worse. I look forward to this unit because problem solving skills will follow students for the rest of their lives!

Mr. Bloemker – Director of Technology

The Technology department remains quite busy, from August 1st through April 12th, we have closed over 1917 tickets which is over 100 more than last year during the same period. As of this writing, we have 45 open issues ranging from a few printing issues, chromebooks repairs (18/45), a few computer issues, a couple of SOPPA requests waiting on the vendors and a few project requests.

Team members continue to make daily visits to buildings to retrieve any devices with issues and to return devices that have been repaired. Since August 1st, there have been 478 chromebook repairs where 76 have been worked since the last report. Chromebook repairs consist of replacing screens and/or other internal parts, reseating of internal cables, power-washing devices are among the resolutions being performed. While repairs are being made, students have a loaner device to continue their learning and studies.

All applications seem to be operating normally, at this time. The ISBE Spring EBF March 1st enrollment verification process has been completed. The only item left to do is to check the box on the ISBE website. IAR testing has begun and should be completed by April 22nd. Once the IAR testing has been completed, I will be sending a report to the buildings to verify the student demographic data. All ISBE state reporting continues to be updated on a weekly basis with any errors being corrected asap.

SOPPA compliance is an ongoing process for the district. I continue working through the list obtained from late last school year as time permits and seeking approval for new requests that are received through the ticketing system. To date, the district has 97 approved vendors with signed agreements and 3 additional vendors where we are awaiting their signed agreement before allowing access by students.

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year has begun. Parents were able to begin this process on January 25th. To date, we have had 936 student registrations submitted from parents for approval. This number of submissions is about 20 more than last year at this time. Based on the current year enrollment of 1865, the current number of registrations completed represent about 50.2% of the district students have been registered for the next school year.

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We filed a Form 471 to use ERATE category 2 funds to purchase a replacement UPS unit for the server room at the High School. We are hoping to gain their approval soon while funding is being located in district for the district's portion of the costs.

Mrs. Swan-Gravatt – Director of Special Education

Over the last month, two of our new school nurses have completed the ISBE requirements for Designation to Complete Medical Reviews. Also, two of our nurses have received vision and hearing training. Our school health offices have continued to monitor covid in our district by testing symptomatic students or staff but covid cases have significantly decreased.

We are growing in the number of students with disabilities for the districts. Covid definitely has made its mark, many teachers and many parents have expressed and reported learning, and behavioral concerns this past year. This school year, our special education department has been overwhelmed with many initial special education referrals for a total of 53 initial special education referrals and subsequent evaluations. Seventeen of these initial referrals were parent referrals. That number of referrals are the highest number of referrals our special education department has managed since my tenure at Sandwich which began in 2013. Furthermore, we have had 99 re-evaluations for special education eligibility this school year as well.

We have also been very busy in the world of PreK! Our number of Early Intervention Referrals, PreK Child Screening Referrals, PreK Student Parent Referrals, and move in PreK Student referrals, have significantly increased this school year. We have received and are continuing to process 37 special education referrals for our youngest population. We anticipate that we will need a separate 3 and 4 year old EC/STAR classroom at LGH next school year because of the significant increase of three and four year olds that will require Autism services.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Public comment was provided regarding teachers and duties.

ENTER CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Saitta moved, seconded by Mrs. Scharenberg 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; setting of price for sale or lease of property or whether a particular parcel should be acquired. Time: 7:20 pm

Ayes: Saitta, Englehart, Wilson, Schroeder, Scharenberg & Morse Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Miller entered the meeting via cell at 7:21 pm

RE-ENTER OPEN SESSION

The Board re-entered open session at 8:29 p.m. Roll call vote indicated the following:

Ayes: Saitta, Englehart, Wilson, Schroeder, Scharenberg, Morse & Miller (via cell)

APPROVED CLOSED MINUTES

Ms. Saitta moved, seconded by Mrs. Scharenberg to approve the March 15, 2022 closed session minutes as presented.

Ayes: Saitta, Englehart, Schroeder, Scharenberg, Morse & Miller Abstain: Wilson Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

RETIREMENTS / FMLA / RESIGNATIONS

Mr. Schroeder moved, seconded by Dr. Englehart to approve the retirement resignations as presented for Jay French – WWW p/t custodian; Becky Bloemker – LGH paraprofessional; Joan Eade – LGH paraprofessional; Beverly Severson – LGH paraprofessional; and Diane Jordan – SHS secretary; the FMLA requests as presented for Melynda Poirier – SMS paraprofessional; Ashley Norton – SHS Counselor; and Nichole Devereaux – SHS Science; and the resignation as presented for Randy Malloy – SHS Head Girls Basketball Coach.

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

EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL

Mrs. Scharenberg moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson to approve the employment of Yvonne Kedzierski, Missy Hester, Jamie Johnson, Rylie Loux, Ally Ricci, Natalie Haick, Ashli Lumsden, Melissa Baggett, Shelly Tripp, Kat Sgiers, Jenai Gregory, Angie Hannig, Pam Hernandez, Randy Malloy, Chad Hicks, Shannon Clay, Joanne Minter, Lani Tocheck and Elliot Velez as 2022 summer school teachers and Savanna Anderson, Sarah Ness, Jacob Heilemeier and Kathy Grief as 2022 summer helpers.

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

OPEN DISCUSSION

The Board of Education welcomed newly appointed administrators for 2022-2023: Mr. Ryan Janisch (Assistant Superintendent) and Ms. Martha Venetucci (LG Haskin Principal).

The Board was reminded to complete and submit their economic interest statement.

The advisory committee is wrapping up their discussions regarding 2022-2023 handbook language with the goal to recommend at the May meeting.

The Board was reminded of the following dates: May 25th 3.6 luncheon; May 22nd SHS graduation; May 24th SMS promotion; and November 18-20 IASB conference.

It was noted the district will receive \$21,945 in additional EBF funding due to a calculation error by ISBE.

The district's preference remains not to allow tax rebates for commercial property.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Englehart moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson to adjourn the April 19, 2022 Board Meeting.

Ayes: Saitta, Englehart, Wilson, Schroeder, Scharenberg Morse & Miller Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED Meeting Adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

President

Secretary