

Board of Education
High School Library
January 23, 2017

President Mark DeAmico called the regular monthly meeting of the School District of Howards Grove to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. DeAmico noted that the meeting had been posted as prescribed by law and the news media notified.

Board members present: Mr. DeAmico, Mr. Dehne, Mr. Pearce, and Mrs. Plass. Administrators present: Tracy Bandt, Jason Cole, Dawn Laboy, Scott Fritz, Andy Hansen, and Chris Peterson. Also present: Students- Dustin Eilers, Travis Eilers, Emily Grunwald; and Lori Carstens, Jane Cole, Sara Demmon, Matt Last, and Lisa Schultz.

Motion by Mrs. Plass, second by Mr. Dehne, to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried, 4-0.

Motion by Mr. Dehne, second by Mr. Pearce, to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2016 regular board meeting. Motion carried, 4-0.

Motion by Mr. Pearce, second by Mrs. Plass, to approve the treasurer's report as presented by Mr. Dehne, along with the following vouchers payable for the month of December:

#10 - General Fund	}	\$ 832,257.34
#27 - Special Education Fund		
#50 - Food Service Fund		
#30 - Debt Service Fund		\$ 0.00

Motion carried, 4-0.

There were no amendments to the 2016-2017 adopted budget this month.

The Board acknowledged and extended their gratitude and appreciation to the following individuals and/or organizations for their support of the school district and the students through their generosity of the following donations:

A \$30,000 donation was received anonymously, to be used for costs associated with the Auditorium project.

The Howards Grove PTO donated \$194.96 toward costs associated with the Breakfast and Books event held at Northview Elementary School on December 8th.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence to the Board this month

ADVISORY MEMBER REPORTS:

There were no Advisory Member Reports this month.

STUDENT LEARNING PRESENTATION/STUDENT ADVISORY REPORTS:

Student Council representatives Dustin and Travis Eilers reported that Student Council purchased 2 microwave ovens for student use in the commons. Several Student Council members will be meeting with the teachers this week regarding students bringing backpacks to class. A contest was held to design a new "Super Fan" t-shirt for students. Upcoming events include the sale of Valentine candy grams, and students are planning activities for Spring Fling.

Emily Grunwald and Jane Cole provided a presentation on the process and the software that is used to create the yearbook. Using the software program provided by Jostens helps students create a professional document using the basic functions of the program, page layout, photo shop, and proofing methods.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Motion by Mrs. Plass, second by Mr. Dehne, to approve the guideline regarding available open enrollment spaces for the 2017-2018 school year as presented. Motion carried, 4-0.
2. Motion by Mr. Pearce, second by Mrs. Plass, to accept the letter of retirement received from Mrs. Joanne Wesener, with regret. Motion carried, 4-0.
3. Motion by Mrs. Plass, second by Mr. Pearce, to approve the change in our practice of allowing teacher retirees on our insurance plan. Effective July 1st of 2018, teacher retirees will no longer have the option to stay on the district's insurance plan. Motion carried, 4-0.

OTHER REPORTS:

1. Building Reports

Northview Elementary – Submitted by Jason Cole, Principal

The Winter Sing-a-long was a huge success; wonderful community support.

Mr. Cole shared a thank you letter received by Josselyn Gauger and her parents. The letter was sent from the Sheboygan County Department of Children's Services thanking Joselyn for the "Santa Sack" toy collection that she initiated at Northview in November and December.

High School Community Service Projects at Northview on December 23rd. Fifteen high school students participated.

APTT parent meeting #2. Kindergarten January 30th, 4th grade January 31st, Junior Kindergarten and 3rd grade February 7th. Come on out and check it out. I'll be visiting two schools on January 30th Appleton and Fond du Lac to meet with their principals, leadership team and teachers to discuss what they do, how they do it, and why they do it.

Courtney Mashin and Nicole Jacques are piloting a couple of ideas in their classrooms that focus around incorporating technology into the classroom for 1st grade. Thank you to Dave Richart and Casey for their assistance.

Pupil Services – Submitted by Tracy Bandt, Special Education Coordinator & School Psychologist

We will be having a special education staff meeting on Wednesday, and Lisa Gartman and Deanna Milz will be sharing some specific strategies they have learned at their conference in New York for addressing student needs in reading and writing through the Readers'/Writers' Workshop model. They will be following up with middle school special education staff for more in-depth training.

We are revising our Child Development Days format to make it more kid-friendly to three- and four-year-olds. Some of the screening methods being used are outdated and we would like to start using a play-based observation format. Child Development Days is scheduled for March 2 & 3.

Kristin Menart has been working with the administrative staff to set up a playgroup at Northview. This is addressing a community need that has been brought to our attention from parents. Kristin has communicated with area child care providers and has received a positive response. She has also surveyed parents and will be setting up sessions in the very near future.

Middle School – Submitted by Andy Hansen, Principal

The middle school staff has been working on revising the structure of Spring Parent Teacher Conferences, moving away from scheduled conferences with all homeroom students to full grade level team conferences with selected parents along with a drop-in night for all parents. Tuesday Feb. 21 will be our scheduled/invited conference night and we will have parents schedule using an online Google Form, and Thursday Feb. 23 will be our drop-in night where a parent can see any teacher. I want to commend the staff at the middle school for the collegial nature with which this decision was made.

We just finished our most recent round of AIMSweb universal screening testing. We did this for the first time using the HP STREAM devices that the students have. The testing software worked well and we saved time. The teams from Northview and the middle school also completed the oral reading fluency with all students in grades 2-8. I want to thank Dave Richart and Casey Stark for their work loading the testing icons onto the 245 devices at the middle school.

We have begun the initial planning stages of summer school. We recently polled staff about dates for summer school. With July 4 falling on a Tuesday, we are worried about attendance that week. We are looking into having both July 3 and 4 as no summer school days and studying what impact that might have on learning and on our FTE numbers. Requests for course offerings will go out soon.

8th grader, Josh Schoerer, had his photography entered into the Scholastic Art competitions and Josh received three honorable mentions for his work. Having one item receive recognition is an accomplishment. Congrats to Josh and thank you Mrs. Arneson for entering his work and encouraging and mentoring him.

High School – Submitted by Scott Fritz, Principal

Thank you to all the staff and students (and FBLA for organizing) another successful Community Service Day on December 23rd.

Congratulations to the Honors Band and Choir students for participating as part of the Big East honors band and choir concert at the Civic Center in Manitowoc on Jan 5th.

Thank you to the Guidance Staff for organizing the incoming freshman orientations or for the HS staff coming in over 2 nights to share a brief description of their departments for Parents and incoming freshman.

Congratulations to the Dance team for taking 1st place at the Freedom invitational.

8th - 11th graders are beginning the registration process for the 2017-18 school year. Thank you to Dale Nennig, Kori Thompson and each of the grade level advisers for all of their help in this process.

The school district received an Honorable Mention award for Sportsmanship at the WIAA state volleyball championship tournament.

Connor Siemers, a junior at Howards Grove High School, recently had the opportunity to meet renowned photographer David Plowden. What started as a photography research assignment, turned into lengthy emails, a long phone interview, and finally a formal meeting at the opening of his exhibit in Milwaukee.

A question was raised regarding public recognition of the accomplishments of Howards Grove students and/or their families, possibly at a basketball game or some other public event.

Chris Peterson reported that he had an opportunity to talk with various vendors regarding the auditorium project while attending the recent WASB State School Board Convention. He also received some information related to salaries and benefits.

Currently there is no update on legislation regarding a change to the September 1 school start date.

A budget summary was distributed to the Board; he's happy with how things are looking at this time.

Chris Peterson reported that he's received very positive feedback regarding the staff holiday get-together. The change in venue provided a more private gathering, and the staff was appreciative of the opportunity to select Howards Grove apparel items.

Mr. Dehne reported that he recently had the opportunity to walk through all of the schools and noted that it was great to see all of the good things, such as Readers/Writers Workshop, taking place in the schools. Mr. Dehne thanked the staff for their work with students.

2. Bryan Grunewald. From Schenck & Associates provided a summary report on the 2016 audit. He noted that there was a delay in completing the report due to the audit of the Wisconsin Retirement System. Based on the size of the district office staff, Bryan reported there are no issues related to compliance, and noted the consistency related to the fund balance.

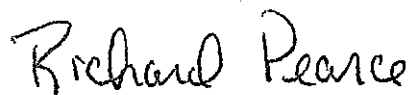
3. An update of the auditorium project was provided by Chris Peterson. He noted that there were some drawing changes made due to projected costs. Some of those changes are: Reducing the number of seats by 40; making the conference room portion as an alternative bid; considering moving the mechanicals from the "basement" to the rooftop, or have some inside the building and some on the roof. The Howards Grove Education Foundation will be sending out letters in the near future regarding naming rights and sponsorships for the project. An advisory committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24th.

Motion by Mr. Dehne, second by Mr. Pearce to convene in closed session as set forth in Section 19.85(1)(c),(f) of the Wisconsin Statutes to deliberate the employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of employee(s), and to consider personal history as it relates to specific person(s). Vote by the Board: Dehne, aye; DeAmico, aye; Pearce, aye; Plass, aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Dehne, second by Mrs. Plass, to reconvene into open session for possible board action on matters discussed in closed session. Motion carried, 4-0.

Motion by Mr. Pearce, second by Mr. Dehne, to renew the administrative contracts for Andy Hansen, Scott Fritz, Jason Cole, Tracy Bandt, and Chris Peterson. Motion carried, 4-0.

Motion by Mrs. Plass, second by Mr. Pearce, to adjourn at 9:32 p.m. Motion carried, 4-0.



Richard Pearce, Clerk