

MAROA-FORSYTH C.U.S.D. #2

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

August 27, 2018

HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

Minutes

1. Call to Order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Roll Call- Brandi Binkley, James Keith, Chad Ruwe, Lindsey Wise, Kristi Harjung and Brad Wilkey present
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Closed/Executive Session – Motion made by James Keith to enter closed/executive session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, dismissal, or performance of specific employees & for collective negotiation matters & for filed litigation of the public body pursuant to Section 5.0 ILCS 120/2(c) (1,2,11). Brad Wilkey seconded the motion.

James Keith made a motion to go out of closed session at 7:00 p.m., and Brad Wilkey seconded the motion.

Presentations (7:00 PM)

5. Opening of the 2018-19 School Year- Administrative Team Status Report

A. John A.—

- i. First like to mention the bags from Mary Alice Cunningham for all Board members and employees.
- ii. This year, staff had a 17% turnover with 22 new employees making 135-140 total. This includes 73 teachers, of which twelve are brand new to our district.
- iii. Enrollment in the school district this year is 1,209. This is up 19 students over last year. Middle School and High School attendance is down but Grade School is up with the addition to the Pre-K program.
- iv. The new website launched this school year.
- v. There is a survey online for parents and community members along with staff to fill out. The data will be used to create goals in the strategic planning. We still need eight to nine people from the community. Ideal number on the committee would be 36 people total, including two students.
- vi. Skyward conversion is not 100% yet as there have been some glitches we are working to resolve with them.

B. Carrie R.—

- i. Jessica Hill is our new Social Worker at the Grade School. She has been working on social and emotional learning. In the building, she has added words of wisdom
- ii. RTI—Star Renaissance Learning, more teachers are integrating RTI.
- iii. Twelve new staff members.
- iv. Pre-K program was able to add 30 new students with the Pre-K Grant.
- v. Reading Series—Jessica Patrick worked with Carrie to provide professional development to the staff to help them understand and work through all pieces of the new reading program.
- vi. Wildcard—Staff Book Club.
- vii. Safety—An Emergency Bag has been placed in each room. This is a neon bag which contains items such as a whistle and first aid kit.
 1. James K. – Do they know how to do the tourniquet provided in the emergency bag?
 2. Carrie—Yes, Jessica Hill has contacted someone to come in and do the Stop the Bleeding Training.
- viii. Parent Pick-Up—Created Cards for parents to put in the car window with the student's name on it. This helps us know who they are picking up along with allowing us to know they have been approved through the office with the parents/custodians.

C. Kris K.—

- i. PBIS Training Day—Twenty students led the stations throughout the day. The staff was able to see the confidence increase as the day went on with these twenty students.
- ii. MAP Tests—September 10th. Working with Skyward to Interface.
- iii. Baseball is undefeated and Softball is also having a winning season.

- iv. Building engagement with a staff book study—Innovator’s Mindset.
 - v. Stacy G. has been helping build social and emotional learning in our school.
- D. Brice S.—
- i. It was a good and different start to the school year with two days of in-service followed by a half day on Friday.
 - ii. Overall happy with how Skyward is working.
 - iii. Thank you for approving to have a second Secretary on the High School campus.
 - iv. Building Leadership Teams working with the theme: Make It Cool to Be Kind
 - v. Pepsi gave away items on the first day of school to students such as a mini fridge, BEATS headphones, etc.
 - vi. Football opened season with a win. Volleyball opens tomorrow night; should be another good season for them. Golf won their first match. Cross Country off to a successful start.
 - vii. Overall, we have a great senior class this year.
- E. John—Want to give recognition to Phil for all the work he’s done to help with the website. JTNet and Laura Hunt have been great to work with and would recommend them to anybody. Someone tweeted the School District wanting to know who we used, so they could use them.
- F. Brandi—Wants to recognize the great customer service at registration. The flow at the Grade School and Middle School was great.
- G. Lindsey—There was a definite buzz at registration. Will be great to see the buzz among the teachers transfer to the students.
6. Tentative Budget FY19
- A. John—Balance Sheet and reserves going in right direction.
 - B. Leo—Tentative budget has gone through first pass. August and September numbers are still being firmed up. \$80,000 surplus should grow during fiscal year. Always round down money received, round up expenses. Operating Funds are higher from ISBE, \$420,000. Utilizing Fund 60 instead of Fund 20, where able to. \$300-350,000 Bond issued. Levee September we’ll know more, \$375,000 Debt Service Fund. Capital Projects around \$750,000--\$375,000 Transportation Debt, rest are projects this year and next summer. Education Fund last year had a half million deficit. This year no transfers were made and only \$106,000 deficit. \$600,000 positive balance.
 - C. Chad R—Bond for \$300,000 1) Low working cash balance 2) Spring legislature freeze debt ratio. What is our future flexibility? Do we need to increase our debt ratio this year?
 - D. Leo—We want to build up the reserve in Operating Funds.
 - E. Lindsey—What are the levels of recognition?
 - F. Leo-- Financial Watch is lowest (where we were in FY 14), Early Warning (where we were in FY 15), Financial Review (3.25 number, where we were in FY 16,17,18, considered a ‘Healthy’ District), and Financial Recognition which is our goal.
7. Law Firm Presentation- David Braun from Miller, Tracy, Braun, Funk & Miller presented
- A. John—David Braun is with us from the firm, located in Monticello. Lindsey and I met David a year ago unrelated to the Board’s strong interest in searching for a firm to have a fresh start. Spoke with Bushue HR Group and they stated this would be a phenomenal pairing.
 - B. David—Long form of his resume handed to Board members. He has basically grown up with the firm as his father has been with the firm since 1984. Firm only works with school law representing school boards. The firm represents school districts all over the state from Galena to Quincy to Jacksonville, representing over 200 districts out of the 862. As a result, being centrally located is the fairest to those needing to travel to meet with any of the represented school boards. The size of a school district does not matter, there are no big or small fish. They strive to be a firm you trust. They are fully honest to get good advice, building the Board’s confidence and trust in them. They will provide their cell phone number allowing them to be available always as schools are always open. Each lawyer at the firm has an area of expertise. Jeff Funk is a financial whiz working with Bond, Tax and Referendum items. Brandon Wright work with Special Ed items, Luke works with school disciplinary items, etc. Each lawyer has their own specialties. However, you are in charge and you get the attorney you want to call. There is no assignment within the firm. No retainer fees are required. If the Board doesn’t call for six months, zero dollars are charged. It is the Board’s law firm, their lawyer, you won your District. I wasn’t elected by the taxpayers, you were. We look for ways and strategies to avoid litigation. I’m proud of the relationships I have built with the unions in the state and the representation in the state. We don’t like to make enemies because this leads to a war in which one side wins and one side loses.

- C. Lindsey—What is the rate?
- D. David--\$250/hr. Bill by quarter/hour. We don't prioritize one district over another. We strive to get back to people within 24 hours, usually within one hour. Other districts we work with include: Warrensburg/Latham, Argenta/Oreana, Decatur, Illiopolis, Meridian, Niantic, Teutopolis.
- E. Lindsey—Met David at ISBE. He did the session on collective bargaining.
- 8. Recognition of Visitors and Delegations- none
- 9. Citizens Wishing to Address the Board
 - A. Mary Alice Cunningham addressed the board and thanked the board for its hard work. Mary Alice Cunningham addressed the board and thanked the board for its hard work. Wanted to do the bags as she knows it's nice to know someone else is thinking of them. She will be contacting Troy Holthaus and Josh Jostes mid semester to see which students may need items like shoes, encore gift card type items so students have what they need.

Learning & Discussion

- 10. High School Parking Lot – Status- discussion of drainage issues
 - A. John—Steven from SKS is here to wrap up the parking lot project and give us a progress report. This started as a three phase project due to the budget. Phase One we thought would come in at \$150,000, but came in at \$60,000. As a result, the Board decided to go ahead and bid out Phase Two. We have had four community members with concerns about it being completed correctly. Steven has called all of those community members and fielded their questions and addressed concerns.
 - B. Steven—Handicap signs still need installed. East and North edge of the parking lot has ruts and holes. Dunn still needs to come pack and regrade and reseed this area. There are areas where rain/water has affected the parking lot. Steven suggests putting in a panel drain as a suggestion. It would collect water and move it out to drain in the ditch; it will give the water a place to go. Overall the project went really well. Water wasn't present in some of the other areas when they did the parking lot. Low areas can be corrected.
 - C. James—Did any other companies come in and identify this was an issue we'd need to correct?
 - D. Steven—No.
 - E. James—What kind of extra cost will be involved?
 - F. Steven—Patches and repairs will be fixed at their cost. The Edge drain would be around \$12,000, for a full perimeter of plot and drain into basin.
 - G. Kris—Really helped when it was done at the Middle School.
 - H. Steven—We can request money back from Dunn because the parking lot won't last as long as we expected and were told it would.
 - I. Chad—How do move forward? Does the drainage mean an upgrade?
 - J. Leo—We are also still waiting with Steven to see what Dunn comes back with for us. We could also have them extend the warranty. It should last five to eight years now. The patching is an expense on them (Dunn Co.).
- 11. District Technology and Maintenance Support
 - A. John—The School District needs to add some sort of internal technology position to help administer the basic technology needs of the school district and personnel. Met with QNS about outsourcing an employee who would be 100% dedicated to working with our School District. This person would start in December/January.

Action

- 12. Motion made by James Keith to approve the Consent Agenda. Lindsey Wise seconded the motion.
 - 1. Brandi Binkley, James Keith, Chad Ruwe, Lindsey Wise, Kristi Harjung and Brad Wilkey all voted yes.
- 13. Motion made by James Keith to approve the tentative budget for 2018-19. Brandi Binkley seconded the motion.
 - 1. Brandi Binkley, James Keith, Chad Ruwe, Lindsey Wise, Kristi Harjung and Brad Wilkey all voted yes.
- 14. Motion made by Chad Ruwe to approve the new law firm of Miller, Tracy, Braun, Funk & Miller. Lindsey Wise seconded the motion.
 - 1. Brandi Binkley, James Keith, Chad Ruwe, Lindsey Wise, Kristi Harjung and Brad Wilkey all voted yes.

15. Motion made by James Keith to approve the 2nd Reading PRESS Issue 97 (Jan/Feb 2018) & Issue 98 (May/June 2018) changes as presented. Brad Wilkey seconded the motion.
 1. Brandi Binkley, James Keith, Chad Ruwe, Lindsey Wise, Kristi Harjung and Brad Wilkey all voted yes.
16. Motion made by Brandi Binkley to approve the Resolution to Prohibit Sexual Harassment. James Keith seconded the motion.
 1. Brandi Binkley, James Keith, Chad Ruwe, Lindsey Wise, Kristi Harjung and Brad Wilkey all voted yes.
17. Motion made by James Keith the Hiring of District Personnel & Acceptance of Resignations/Personnel Report of 8/10/18. Brad Wilkey seconded the motion.
 1. Brandi Binkley, James Keith, Chad Ruwe, Lindsey Wise, Kristi Harjung and Brad Wilkey all voted yes.
18. Motion made by James Keith to go into closed session. Brandi Binkley seconded the motion.
19. James Keith made a motion to go out of closed session and Chad Ruwe seconded the motion. All were in favor.
20. Adjournment- Motion made by James Keith to adjourn. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Approved: _____

Attested: _____

Date: _____