

Current Board Summary

Board Business Meeting: February 12, 2018

[\(Please click here to access the meeting agenda and all reports in Board Docs\)](#)

In this issue:

- School Board discusses budget cuts
- Amended Acceptable Use Agreement approved
- Final 2018-19 calendar approved
- 1:1 computer deployment revised and approved

Board of Education discusses the projected 2018-19 deficit

Faced with an estimated deficit of nearly \$1.5 million next year created by a multi-year need to repair facilities throughout the District to the tune of nearly \$2 million a year for the next 10 years, the Board of Education began a formal discussion of potential cost reductions aimed at balancing the budget. In recent years, the District has deferred maintenance including a new roof for The Lane School (approximately \$700,000), completion of a new roof for Elm School (approximately \$500,000), and a new chiller at Clarendon Hills Middle School (\$300,000). “The longer you wait, the bigger the problem is going to get,” said District CFO and Treasurer Mohsin Dada. Board President Jennifer Burns echoed Dada’s comments saying the work must be done so students have a safe and supportive place to learn. “Cuts are going to be hard,” she said, because salaries and benefits comprise 82 percent of the District’s operating budget. Neither deficit spending nor the use of reserves (estimated to be only \$5 million at their low point in May) are viable solutions because the shortfall is not a one-time occurrence.

◦After reviewing recommendations from the Administration, the Board supported the implementation of a list of efficiency measures recommended by the administration that totaled \$690,100. Board members discussed and were in support of the following cost reductions identified by the administration:

- Elimination of the SELAS consultant
- Elimination of middle school Content Leaders
- Reduction in summertime professional development
- Elimination of the Central Office reception position
- Elimination of 1 TOSA position
- Reduction in cost of the Community Relations position
- Changing hiring practices in an effort to improve the balance of new graduates and veteran teachers.
- Managing art teachers’ time more efficiently
- Starting orchestra in 5th grade rather than 4th
- Finding a new location for the District Office

◦The Board was undecided on:

--Reduction of physical education classes District wide to three times a week from five times.

--Achieving transportation efficiencies by changing the middle school day to 8:40-3:30 and the elementary school day to 8:05-2:40.

--An increase in transportation eligibility to 1.5 miles (currently it is 1.0 miles)

--An administrative salary freeze

--A certified staff salary freeze

◦The Board does NOT want to:

--Reduce the number of Differentiation Specialists

--Eliminate 5th grade Spanish

--Reduce the number of school psychologists by .5 FTE

--Reduce the number of part time secretaries in the schools

--Eliminate middle school Academic Strategies, Reading Lab or Math Lab

--Eliminate MRC IA staff

--Put in place minimum enrollment policies for various middle school courses

President Burns asked Dr. White to look into the possibility of surveying parents on some of the issues. Dr. White indicated he would do more research and bring back any personnel reduction recommendations for board approval at the next board meeting, as well as additional information on possible cost reductions identified by the Board.

(Podcast recording approximately 30:00)

Language added to Acceptable Use Agreement

Based on parent feedback and advice from Board attorneys, the Board approved changes to the D181 Acceptable Use Agreement. Parents and students will be asked to sign the agreement electronically in Skyward during the online registration process. The agreement is designed to inform parents and students about their rights and responsibilities for the use of District-owned devices, software and digital services. (5-0 vote, Leslie Gray and Nathan Lucht absent)

(Podcast recording approximately 4:15:00)

2018-19 school calendar approved

Board members formally approved the 2018-19 school calendar. Classes will begin Aug. 27 and, barring snow days, will end June 7. Spring break will be March 25-29. Winter break is Dec. 24-Jan. 4. (5-0 vote, Leslie Gray and Nathan Lucht absent) ([Click here to view calendar](#))

(Podcast recording approximately 4:17:00)

1:1 device deployment plan revised

Board members okayed a restructuring of the 1:2 deployment plan beginning with the 2018-19 school year that will save the District an estimated \$100,000. (5-0 vote, Leslie Gray and Nathan Lucht absent)

(Podcast recording approximately 4:20:00)

Superintendent's Report

◦Preschool registration for new 3-and-4-year-old students began Jan. 16, kindergarten and new student registration begins Feb. 14 and registration for current students in grades 1-8 will take place in the spring. On-line registration will be through Skyward and fee payments will be through SchoolPay.

Upcoming events: Feb. 22—Young Writers Night at Hinsdale Middle School, March 1—Parent event: Technology to Support Academic Success (5:30-6:30 p.m.) at Monroe School, March 8—Summer Expo Camp (6-8:30 p.m.) at Prospect School
(Podcast recording approximately 27:00)

In other business, the Board:

- Reinstated the 5th grade Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test (IAAT) for the 2017-18 school year (5-0 vote, Leslie Gray and Nathan Lucht absent) ([To view the revised assessment calendar, please click here](#))
- Heard an overview of the new ECRA Data Dashboard (which is now in beta form) from Dr. Gina Simieniec
- Discussed the renewed progress of the Hinsdale Middle School parking garage Inter-Governmental Agreement
- Heard a report on Hinsdale Middle School construction which is nearing the end of the bidding phase
- Approved 2018-19 school year placement criteria for 3rd-5th grade math; 6th grade math, Enriched Language Arts and ACE social studies; and Summer Bridge (5-0 vote, Leslie Gray and Nathan Lucht absent)
- Approved an addendum to the Canvas contract that will provide enough subscriptions for D181 to continue working on the implementation with middle school teachers and students while reducing the cost over the next two years from \$71,306 to \$29,060 (5-0 vote, Leslie Gray and Nathan Lucht absent)
- Approved the “routine” transfer of \$488,763 from the Education Fund to the Debt Services Fund for the payment of principal and interest on the 2009 Debt Certificate (5-0 vote, Leslie Gray and Nathan Lucht absent)
- Heard public comments on potential budget reductions from Maura Fagan, Mandy Knicker, Lori Andrioli, Cristina Sisson, Eliza Stern, Gail Vasco and Nancy Harper...and on math placement criteria from Jillian Mackey
- Approved payment of bills and reimbursements ([For the detailed check listing, please click here](#))
- Approved the Personnel Agenda as presented (5-0 vote, Leslie Gray and Nathan Lucht absent) ([For the Personnel Agenda please click here](#))

Upcoming meetings:

- Board of Education Facilities Committee meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 20 (6 p.m.)
- Board of Education business meeting: Monday, Feb. 26 (7 p.m.)
- Board of Education Academic Success Committee meeting (9 a.m.)
- Board of Education Finance Committee meeting (5 p.m.)

