



Board Summary

Construction Projects

Caren Johnson, Director of Capital Projects, presented to the Richland School Board the final construction documents for a new Badger Mountain Elementary and renovations for the Richland High School Auditorium. Bidding for the projects will open to contractors this spring with construction beginning this summer. The Board unanimously approved the construction documents.

Boundary Committee – Revisions Fall 2021

Assistant Superintendent Brian Moore presented to the Board a report on the start of efforts to present recommendations for revised elementary attendance boundaries to the Board for the 2021-22 school year. That will be the year the new elementary located near Belmont Boulevard and Keene Road will open as its own school after previously hosting Tapteal and Badger Mountain elementary schools as their buildings were rebuilt. Mr. Moore indicated that the schools closest to the new elementary—Tapteal, William Wiley and White Bluffs—could see the most significant boundary changes but the committee will look at the district as a whole. The Board asked the committee consider the same priorities in crafting a recommendation used when boundaries last changed in 2014, with some additions.

Superintendent Search Update

Consultant Hank Harris and board members discussed the next steps in the Board's search for the district's next superintendent. Closed door initial interviews with the Board were scheduled for March 6, with finalist interviews occurring later in the month. Board members discussed potential elements of the finalist interview process, including opportunities for district stakeholders to meet with finalists informally, public forums, and a tour of district facilities. The Board unanimously agreed the process needed to be transparent and communicated with everyone in the community.

Levy Expenditures 2020-2021

Superintendent Dr. Rick Schulte presented a report to the Board on the projected revenue from the district's Educational Programs & Operations (EPO) levy and proposals on what that revenue could be used for. The district anticipates collecting during the 2020-21 school year about \$5 million above what the levy will have generated during the 2019-20 school year based on preliminary estimates. The district expects at least half of that additional funding to go toward paying bargained salary and wage increases for staff and costs of the state's new School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB) health care coverage. The district has a list of more than \$3 million worth of other program and staffing enhancements it is considering, including:

- Hiring additional staff to meet student mental/behavioral health needs
- Professional development for teachers
- Curriculum adoption efforts
- Other staffing enhancements
- Operations projects

The district also is considering using levy funds to cover the construction of a new Badger Mountain Elementary as the project will not qualify for state-matching funds as initially planned. The Board is expected to revisit the potential use of levy funds at an April 21 workshop focused on the district's budget.

Next Regular Meeting: March 10 @ 6:30 p.m.