



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING RECAP

Official publication of the ISD282
St. Anthony-New Brighton School District

GUEST SPEAKER

Equity Alliance  *Strategic directions: high expectations, strong support & relationships*

Equity Alliance Executive Director Sebastian Witherspoon, addressed the board to provide insight and information regarding the process of the district's upcoming equity review. This follows the work the district did last year with Equity Alliance on tiered professional development sequence. The district and board developed a goal to engage in a purposeful equity review of our school system.

Equity Alliance MN helps eliminate gaps in E-21 educational opportunity and achievement. Their core values include student focused, equity, integration, opportunities, and relationships. Deep authentic relationships are at the core of student learning. And trying to create an environment for all learners to learn and thrive. The equity review (formerly called an "audit", but now using the word "review" to remove any negative connotation) provides a comprehensive scan and insight into the current practices within the district; educates on systemic and programmatic inequities; identifies a plan for equitable change; provides continuous support; and focus for change. Data will be collected via surveys, classroom walkthroughs, focus groups, and community conversations. The district's survey policy will be followed, with students and families having the ability to opt-out of participating. Data will then be reviewed and analyzed; policies, practices and procedures will be examined. A final executive summary will be presented to the district and the board upon completion of the review.
(continued on next page)

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING RECAP



ACTION ITEMS

Election Results Strategic directions: *high expectations*

School Board Chair Oksnevad read the resolution of the canvassing of the general election held on Nov. 2, 2021. The motion requested by the board was to approve the results, and that the election was dually and legally called and held. A total of 7,276 registered voters within the district voted for three School Board members, each to serve a four-year term. Candidates Mageen Caines had a total of 1,293 votes; Michael Overman had a total of 1,368 votes; and Laura Oksnevad had a total of 1,396 votes. The new members will officially begin their work on the board on the first Monday in January 2022. Following the motion, the School District Clerk can authorize the results to the Ramsey and Hennepin county auditors. Motion carried 6-0. Superintendent Dr. Renee Corneille and the rest of the board members congratulated and welcomed Caines, Overman and Oksnevad.

Principal Contract Strategic directions: *high expectations & high support*

Superintendent Dr. Renee Corneille presented the board with the June 30, 2023 Principal contract for approval as presented. District administration that were up for contract renewal during the 2020-21 school year chose to work without a contract and without an increase in their salary. When the district went to negotiations, administration was concerned about using their time during the year of COVID-19 to negotiate and chose to postpone the one-year contract and instead do a three-year contract, to eventually get to a two-year contract for 2022-23 school year. The three-year contract had no salary increase in that first year. Language was updated in the principal's contract to reflect a 2% increase in pay for the remaining two years. This increase is in-par with other district administrators and eliminates outdated language. Motion carried 6-0.

Legislative Priorities Strategic directions: *strong relationships*

Board Chair Oksnevad shared an update regarding the district's legislative resolutions to send to the Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA). The MSBA reaffirmed one resolution is already a present policy; the second resolution about transformational learning is similar to Mahtomedi's that was submitted last year, and will be submitted once again this year. (continued on next page)

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING RECAP



ACTION ITEMS

The MSBA feels that Mahtomedi's resolution, *Flexibility in Learning Solutions*, is more robust and suggested we pull our transformational learning resolution and support Mahtomedi's platform. Motion requested to approve the Mahtomedi version that will be shared with the delegate assembly by the MSBA. If approved by the delegate assembly, *Flexibility in Learning Solutions* will become one of the legislative priorities brought to the Minnesota state legislature. Motion carried 6-0.

2022 Legislative Platform Strategic direction: strong relationships

The district developed the 2022 Legislative Platform flyer to be approved as a final draft for the Dec. 7, visit from legislators to provide them with this information. Board members gave feedback on additional edits to be made by the Communication department before a final version is approved. Motion carried 6-0.

Joint Powers (916) Strategic directions: high expectations, strong relationships & strong communication

Motion to approve the updated joint-powers agreement with 916. This is the board's second review of this document. This is also the first amendment/update of the agreement since 1969. The intent is to modernize the agreement and have it better describe what happens when a member district wants to exit; need to include language in the agreement in order to allow for an exit to be done appropriately and equitably. In addition, certain geographical areas to allow for member districts to join will be implemented. Also included will be the process of how an annual review with member superintendents will take place. The goal is to make the agreement compliant with state law. Motion carried 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Board Mentorship Strategic directions: high support & high expectations

Board Chair Oksnevad addressed the board regarding the importance of a board-mentorship program for new members. (continued on next page)

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING RECAP



DISCUSSION ITEMS

This type of guidance is helpful when learning about the board and its role. Also beneficial would be for the new members to meet with district representatives throughout the year. Newly-elected board members Mageen Caines and Michael Overman will be provided with a paper version of the member on-boarding guide. Additionally, it is recommended for the board members to take part in additional training, such as the MSBA leadership conference. Regardless of who is a formal mentor, all members will be open and accessible to the new members.

COVID-19 Update Strategic direction: *strong communication*

Superintendent Dr. Renee Corneille provided the board with updated COVID-19 numbers at St. Anthony-New Brighton (SANB). SANB cases are getting higher, but many are students and/or staff due to outside of school-related activities that require mitigation strategies (car rides, at home, sleepovers, play dates, etc). One of our activities has been more affected than others. Additionally, there was a community-group outbreak which included some of our staff as well as students, impacted. As of Friday Oct. 22, the district has at least 24 (potentially 10 more due to newly known cases) in total of COVID-19 positive cases. This includes unvaccinated individuals and break-through cases.

Due to the increase in cases, the district has decided to be more precise with quarantines as a mitigation strategy in order to prioritize in-person learning. Typically, classrooms that have students who are positive haven't had to quarantine as much because they are masked. At the moment due to high-community spread, the district might look at each case and potentially do quarantines so the entire class or grade doesn't need to be shut down. Dr. Corneille is leaving that decision to District Wellness Coordinator Lori Watzl-King, with support of the district's Local Incident Team. Dr. Corneille believes it is clear from state health officials, the Governor, and the Minnesota Department of Health, that Watzl-King is seen as a leader in mitigation strategies and communication. Dr. Corneille and the board extended their appreciation for Watzl-King and her dedication to the health and safety of the entire SANB school community. *(continued on next page)*

NOV. 4, 2021

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING RECAP



DISCUSSION ITEMS

Dr. Corneille updated the board with information regarding two upcoming vaccination clinics for students ages 5-11, that will be held at Wilshire Park Elementary School (and then three weeks later for these students to receive their booster). Watzl-King is also working on a partnership with Cub Foods to provide future additional vaccination clinics.

St. Anthony-New Brighton School Board:

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