

BOARD ACTION REPORT
Corporation Office
October 11, 2021
6:00 p.m.

Present at the meeting were: Mr. Blaydes, Mrs. Hess, Mr. Hutson, Mr. Mason, Mr. Monts, Mr. Spencer and Dr. Greiner.

-Ms. Fadil and SJHS choir students were in attendance with their families. They were welcomed by Mr. Monts. Ms. Fadil introduced herself and the 19 members of the Scarlet Tide choir in attendance. Singers performed two songs under the direction of Ms. Fadil for those in attendance. All choirs will perform a concert together after Fall Break.

-Approved the following revision:

-FFA Livestock Skillathon Team to North Carolina State University – October 30 thru November 1, 2021.

-There were no communications to or from the board. Dr. Greiner thanked the 50th Anniversary Committee for their work and noted that many in the community have commented on the success of the events carried out for this celebration thus far.

Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

-None.

-Approved claims 104631 through 104764 and prewritten claims.

-Approved September payrolls.

-Approved the following consent agenda items:

-Retirement of Marci Huckstep – Social Studies Teacher – High School – effective end of the 2021-2022 school year.

-Approved resignation of Amy Parker – Instructional Assistant – Ladoga Elementary.

-Approved resignation of Kelley Hopkins – Administrative Assistant – Central Office.

-Recommendation to transfer Mrs. Brittany Newton, Guidance Secretary @ High School to Corporation Deputy Treasurer @ Administrative Office beginning October 18, 2021.

-Kelly Kerkhoff – Preschool Aide – Walnut Elementary.

-David Finkbeiner – 7th/8th grade Assistant Football Coach – Volunteer.

-Kristin Paris – Co-Administrative Assistant @ Ladoga - \$250.00.

-LeeAnn Thompson – Co-Administrative Assistant @ Ladoga - \$250.0.

-Approved resignation of Craig Carrell – Varsity Assistant Football Coach and 2021 basketball coaching staff.

-Rescind Krysten Kingery – JH Cheerleader Sponsor – Fall Season - \$461.00.

-Approved Jennifer Calder – JH Cheerleader Sponsor – Fall Season - \$475.00.

-Stephanie Kennedy – 6th grade Girls Basketball Coach - \$1021.00.

-Andy Stetler – 7th grade Boys Basketball Coach - \$1750.00.

-Travis Bowen – 7th grade Boys Assistant Basketball Coach – Volunteer.

-Dave Williamson – 8th grade Boys Basketball Coach - \$1750.00.

-Bob Hodges – 8th grade Boys Assistant Basketball Coach – Volunteer.

-Matt Williams – 7th grade Girls Basketball Coach - \$1750.00.

-Angie Williams – 7th grade Girls Assistant Basketball Coach – Volunteer

-Aarika McKinsey – 8th grade Girls Basketball Coach - \$1750.00.

-Brittany Carr – 8th grade Girls Assistant Basketball Coach – Volunteer.

-Rick Overfield – Varsity Assistant Wrestling Coach - \$1940.00.

-Juan Grino – JV Wrestling Coach - \$1654.00.

-Dan Chadd – Varsity Assistant Boys Basketball Coach - \$2910.00.

- Kaleb Swick – Freshman Boys Basketball Coach - \$1920.00.
- Maddie Shaver – Varsity Assistant Gymnastics Coach - \$1334.00.
- Kelsey Hughes – Varsity Assistant Gymnastics Coach – Volunteer.
- Morgan Ross – Varsity Assistant Girls Basketball Coach - \$2910.00.
- Jeff Cochran – JV Girls Basketball Coach - \$2716.00.
- Stephanie Kennedy – Freshman Girls Basketball Coach - \$1862.00.
- Approved completed stipend requests for ESSER Funded 5th Quarter Tutoring Program for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Glenna Livesay – Summer Training - \$400.00.
- Kayla Maddock – Summer Training - \$400.00.
- Reasley Thompson – IPLI Training - \$100.00.
- Kayla Datzman = IPLI Training - \$100.00.
- Approved purchase of a new school bus and a used lift bus.
- Approved FFA Livestock Skillathon Team to North Carolina State University – October 30 thru November 1, 2021.
- Approved 2022 Budget Adoption
 - Resolution to Approve the 2022 Bus Replacement Plan.
 - Resolution to Approve the 2022 Capital Projects Plan.
 - Resolution to Approve the 2022 Transfer of Funds from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund.
 - Resolution to Approved the 2022 Budget.
- Approved the 2021-2022 Master Agreement.
 - Mr. Monts thanked SMEA for their work in reaching agreement during negotiation of the collective bargaining agreement.
- Approved the School Improvement Plans for Ladoga Elementary, New Market Elementary, Walnut Elementary, Southmont Jr. High and Southmont High Schools.
- Report from Superintendent:
 - Dr. Greiner shared that after ratifying the teacher’s agreement that work on recommendations for support, transportation and administrative staff will occur. A November recommendation on these topics is anticipated by Dr. Greiner.
- Report from Director of Business:
 - Mrs. Charles shared that publicly available information will be uploaded now that it has been approved. Mr. Monts encouraged all to view this information online.
- Reports from Director and Principals:
 - Mr. Mike Tricker (Director of Operations): Disruptions to online service have been mitigated successfully this year. Mr. Monts asked about the MiFi devices purchased through WHIN grant funds; Mr. Tricker shared that distribution began this week.
 - Mrs. Anna Roth (Director of Curriculum): After school remediation will begin after the fall break.
 - Mr. Eric W. Brewer (Director of Transportation & WES Principal): Mr. Brewer had nothing to report.
 - Mrs. Brooke Busenbark (Principal, Southmont Jr. High School): Mrs. Busenbark shared information on the School Improvement Plan. She shared concerns that Covid-19 issues may have affected the rate at which families seek assistance for free and reduced meal and textbook status. Mrs. Busenbark also expressed concerns with the overall attendance rate for last year. Mrs. Busenbark went over the goals and strategies that teachers will work together to accomplish and put in place respectively. Mrs. Busenbark spoke very positively about the SJHS teacher commitment to increasing achievement and growth. Information on Study Sync

ELA was shared; this tool is available off-line too for students who lack reliable internet at home. Information on Math PD was shared; teachers are working together to implement ideas that will help increase ILEARN achievement and growth. Mrs. Busenbark shared how Ms. Blaydes and Ms. Duncan have provided additional supports at SJHS in their new roles this year. Information on 5th Quarter was shared; homeroom remediation will begin after fall break with after-school remediation starting in the second semester. Mrs. Busenbark invited questions. There were none. Mr. Monts thanked her for her presentation.

Public Comments on All Items:

-Mr. Monts invited public comment from those in attendance. Those wanting to speak are invited to stand and introduce themselves.

-Dr. Greiner took time at this point to recognize Mrs. Marci Huckstep who has announced her retirement at the end of this year. Dr. Greiner shared his personal family experience with his children appreciating all that Mrs. Huckstep has done over her many years of teaching.

-Mrs. Maggie Woods (Southmont Parent) expressed concern about the childcare center at WES; Mrs. Woods shared that she assumes the need for childcare would be the reason why. Mrs. Woods states she supports the need for childcare facilities but is concerned by the ability to staff the facility given already existing staffing issues. Mrs. Woods believes the focus should be on educating school-aged children. Mr. Monts thanked Mrs. Woods, and Mr. Monts confirmed that exploration of childcare needs is on the table along with applying for a grant. Mr. Monts stated that Mrs. Woods has brought up good points. Mr. Monts shared that nobody wants WES to end up what was needed at Waveland. Mr. Monts stated that he agrees the focus needs to be K-5 and that the concept of a childcare center is being studied. He stated that community and teacher input would, of course, be brought on board. Mr. Monts highlighted that childcare is a need in the community. Dr. Greiner stated that the preschool currently takes six classrooms and would continue to have only six classrooms; Dr. Greiner stated that a director would be brought on board to oversee programs prior to Kindergarten. Dr. Greiner stated that we will seek input prior to moving forward if grant opportunities become available to fund the project. Current teachers would have the opportunity to work in the new childcare facility. Dr. Greiner stated the priority would remain on K-5 at WES. Dr. Greiner added that Covid-19 has been a big deterrent to “normal” school business but that our schools want to continue to move past Covid-19 and focus on success. Mr. Spencer requested that Mrs. Woods send a copy of her speech to all board members. Mr. Monts stated that we would look to see what works and address any concerns with communication as we move forward past Covid-19 and look toward any movement with childcare expansion. Mrs. Hess added that offering childcare for the community and staff is a benefit for those joining our district. Mr. Hutson encouraged Mrs. Wood’s continued attendance.

-Mr. McVay (SMEA president) expressed appreciation for the work to improve internet connectivity. He also expressed thanks to all involved in the collective bargaining process for a smooth and collaborative approach. Mr. McVay feels that we are all “one team” and that all made efforts to come together. Mr. Monts expressed that he believes we can never appreciate our teachers enough for answering the call to teach and that compensation is an extension of that. Dr. Greiner thanked SMCEA for their trust in working together.

-Mrs. McCormick (SMCEA president) expressed her agreement with Mr. McVay in recognizing collaborative efforts and the overall appreciation through increased compensation. She also thanked the board for their transparency.

-Mr. Reimondo (Southmont Parent) thanked the board, Dr. Greiner and teachers for the cooperation with one another in working together through issues related to Covid-19. Mr. Reimondo feels that Southmont Schools has been a leader in the county in dealing with the issues of Covid-19. Mr. Reimondo hopes that the quarantine policy will be reconsidered at some point in the future through reducing and/or eventually eliminating quarantine decisions. He spoke about how quarantining is

difficult for students and teachers. Mr. Monts expressed his appreciation for the perspective, and he shared that the board recognizes there are many sides to this topic and that the board continually tries to consider all perspectives as they work to keep students safe and learning. Mr. Monts believes that the role and responsibility of schools has increased and changed. Mr. Monts shared that the board is committed to continued conversation always in doing what is best for students.

-Mrs. Cornelius (Southmont Parent) thanked the board and Dr. Greiner and expressed that the last few years have been difficult for all in her opinion. Mrs. Cornelius shared appreciation for Mrs. Whalen's assistance in working with one of her children to help him prepare for this new school year as he'd struggled previously. She shared that her son was quarantined as a close contact this year and that the experience was difficult for him during and after the quarantine due to personal struggles and due to the return to play requirements. Mrs. Cornelius expressed that she is thankful for open schools and hopes that options to address concerns will be considered. Mrs. Cornelius expressed that the lack of school and available familial support while in quarantine was a hindrance for her son. Mr. Monts stated that he believes that we can work together to find a better way to address the needs of student and thanked Mrs. Cornelius for being her child's best advocate. Mr. Hutson thanked Mrs. Cornelius for sharing her story.

-Adjourned.