



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING RECAP

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

HONORING

Departing School Board members recognized

School Board Chair Laura Oksnevad and Superintendent Dr. Renee Corneille, honored departing School Board members Barry Kinsey (32 years) and Leah Slye (16 years) for their combined 48 years of service and commitment to the district and the entire school community. Fellow board members and Dr. Corneille shared their own experiences with Kinsey and Slye over the years, focusing on their caring leadership, wealth of knowledge and advocacy to the children of St. Anthony-New Brighton. Both Kinsey and Slye spoke about their time spent on the board, sharing highlights of their experience. They thanked staff, community members and family who have supported them along the way. In addition, they shared some final reminders on why someone chooses to serve on the board—the children. They reminded fellow board members to stay true to the purpose, the mission and vision of the district..

GUEST SPEAKERS

Commitment to K-12 public education

Distinguished guests Senator Mary Kunesh and Representative Sandra Feist, shared with the board their commitment to funding and supporting K-12 public education. The board shared the district's Legislative Priorities Platform for 2022. Superintendent Dr. Renee Corneille discussed the challenges that families, staff and the school system have encountered the past two years due to COVID-19. Dr. Corneille reminded Senator Kunesh and Rep. Feist of the AMSD legislative session on Jan. 7, 2022.

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GUEST SPEAKERS

As a former educator and SANB parent, Senator Kunesh's priority is education. She thanked the board, administration, superintendent, teachers, staff, students and families for their dedication and work over the past two years of navigating COVID-19. Senator Kunesh shared her commitment to education and her priorities. She is dedicated to finding ways to fully fund public education. Rep. Feist provided a list of bills she is personally working on to support education. Both fielded questions and comments from the board, and were thanked for their service to the St. Anthony-New Brighton Community.

ACTION ITEMS

Financial audit [Strategic direction: high expectations](#)

Senior Manager Bonnie Schwieger from the accounting firm of Abdo (previously known as Abdo Eick & Meyers), presented the results of the 2020-21 District Financial Audit. Board Chair Laura Oksnevad thanked Director of Finance and Operations Phan Tu and her department, for their dedication and work during COVID-19. Motion carried, 6-0, to approve the financial audit findings. Highlights from the audit included as follows:

- 2020-21 was a clean year- no compliance issues to report.
- Reviewed trends of the General Fund.
 - COVID-19 expenses specifically focused on technology needs.
 - \$23.4 million budgeted; received \$23.8 million.
 - Variances from Federal Aid related to COVID-19 were over budget; state aid was under budget (enrollment decreasing offset). More funding was received from the federal government than budgeted.
 - Transportation costs and building improvements were lower than budgeted. Capital outlay was \$540k under budget due to the timing of capital projects.
 - There was a positive change in Fund balance. Revenues per student shifted with COVID-19 funds (more than \$200/student) along with state funding per student. *(continued on next page)*

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ACTION ITEMS

- General fund current expenditures- most of the budget is for instructional salaries and benefits.
- The district's spending as compared to other districts in the state is typically in the 20-25 percentile; it has increased due to COVID-19.
- The food service budget is fairly consistent with revenues with an overall positive increase in fund balance (which is difficult to do).
- The Community Services (CS) budget was difficult to predict in the 2020-21 school year. Overall, there were more charges for services collected by CS, and placed into the restricted fund balance to be used in the future. CS is on the higher end in comparison to other districts.

Levy certification Strategic direction: high expectations

The 2021 Payable 2022 Property Tax Hearing (Truth in Taxation) was conducted in person and via ZOOM teleconferencing at 6 p.m., on Dec. 7, 2021. Information on the 2021 Pay 2022 Levy and current year budget was presented to the School Board and community members. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, the St. Anthony-New Brighton School Board is authorized to make the following proposed tax levies for general purposes:

- General Fund: \$5,698,139.85
- Community Services: \$186,883.62
- Debt Service: \$1,993,858.43
- Total Proposed Tax Levy: \$7,878,881.90

The levy levied in 2021 to be collected in 2022 is set at \$7,878,881.90. Motion carried 6-0.

IDEA Full Funding Act Strategic direction: high expectations

The district and the School Board remain committed to provide students with disabilities and their families the support they need. The funding is a crucial part of the district's legislative priorities platform, and will be shared with the Minnesota School Board Association and the federal and state legislature. Motion carried, 6-0.

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DISCUSSION ITEMS

ADSIS, TITLE, A&I & WBWF Strategic directions: *high support & high expectations*

Director of Student Services Hope Fagerland, Director of Community Services and Communications Wendy Webster, and District Assessment Coordinator Kari Bodurtha, presented to the board the district's annual report on Achievement and Integration; ADSIS; Title I; Title III; and the World's Best Workforce goals.

Since the district applies for and seeks out funding via grants or applications for ADSIS, Title, A&I and WBWF funding, it is a requirement to annually and publicly share the results of those goals. The data is specific to each of these programs and their requirements, and each helps us support the ability to allow for students to be successful. Dr. Corneille reminded the board that this data is not an indicator of student success (success metrics). All of these programs help support Teaching & Learning and specific needs in our district. This information and data has been difficult to gather over the past couple years due to COVID-19 and the number of students that didn't take assessments this last school year.

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). Information on cases increasing within the schools has been shared with the community. There has been an uptick of COVID-19 cases within the last three weeks (a total of nine weeks (ending Nov. 29) was reviewed by the LIT and district). This equals out to almost three-times the rate increase. To combat this uptick in cases, the LIT and district adjusted the mitigation strategies, and sought the communities commitment over the following eight weeks to focus on mitigation strategies during the holidays as we wait for our 5-11 year olds to receive their second dose of the vaccine. One of the increased mitigation strategies was to limit spectators for activities and athletics (two-spectator limits). Dr. Corneille shared a data graphic with the board that indicated the impact on learning for students that have been exposed as a close contact, but did not need to quarantine due to following mitigation strategies (vaccination, masking). This data helped put it into context why follow these mitigation measures in order to prioritize in-person learning.

DEC.7, 2021

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DISCUSSION ITEMS

Board reports Strategic directions: *strong relationships & high support*

Superintendent Dr. Renee Corneille shared that districts in the metro are shutting down school 2-3 days prior to winter break; wants to acknowledge the SANB calendar committee with built-in flexibility in the existing schedule for staff and families.

The Board engaged with the community, district and local committees, district vaccine clinics, and attended various student events and activities.

St. Anthony-New Brighton School Board:

- Chair Laura Oksnevad, loksnevad@isd282.org
- Vice Chair Dr. Cassandra Palmer, cpalmer@isd282.org
- Clerk Ben Phillip, bphillip@isd282.org
- Treasurer Lynne Penke Valdes, lpenskevaldes@isd282.org
- Director Leah Slye, lslye@isd282.org
- Director Barry Kinsey, bkkinsey@isd282.org