

## Andover Board of Education Notes

June 13, 2022

**Good News:** The Board honored several Andover High School students who took first place at the state Future Business Leaders of America competition. They were:

- Dylan Basinger (Help Desk)
- Lauren Brown, Annabelle Tantemsomboon and Sophie Ramsey (Business and Financial Systems)
- Caitlin Reilly, Raegan Brotsky and Elise Brown (Introduction to Event Planning)

Their teacher is Holly Avalos.

The Board also recognized the AHS girls swim team for winning the 5A state championship. Individual race champions included:

- 200-meter medley (Mari Griffin, Kiersten Elliott, Sophia Mandanis and Natalie Neugent)
- 50-yard freestyle (Natalie Neugent)
- 100-yard backstroke (Mari Griffin)
- 400-yard freestyle relay (Mari Griffin, Sophia Mandanis, Kiersten Elliott and Natalie Neugent)

Finally, the Board recognized Becky Wolfe, who is retiring as president and CEO of the Andover Area Chamber of Commerce. She received the Gold Key Award from the Board for being an outstanding community partner.

**Bond update:** Jeff Hohnbaum of Hutton updated the Board on remaining bond construction projects. District Office staff have moved into their new offices and work is nearing completion. Other major projects this summer include new HVAC controls at Andover Central High School, Cottonwood Elementary and Sunflower Elementary; carpet replacement at AHS; new parking lot at Cottonwood Elementary; new gym windows at Sunflower Elementary; and a remodeled culinary arts area at ACHS.

**Budget update:** Sherame Kneisel, chief financial officer, provided an [update on budget projections](#) for the 2021-22 year.

**Project ECHO:** Brent Riedy, principal at AHS, and Amanda Grier, principal at ACHS, provided updates on Project ECHO, a pilot program that aims to address usage of tobacco and drugs among students. Recommendations from the program include:

- Pilot requiring a drug assessment as part of a 45-day probationary condition.
- First-time offenses for possession and use at school: Recommend 10-day suspension if a drug assessment is completed within the first 5 days or a long-term hearing will be scheduled.
- Students with a second and/or continued offenses would either return to a new hearing or would result in remainder of probation reinstated.
- For students caught distributing drugs: 10 days OSS with a long-term hearing.
- Possession of tobacco: Continue new practice, 3 days OSS, but may return to school within 2 days if they complete ASPIRE.
- No change to the activity/athletic policy regarding students not in good standing.

**Communication update:** Terry Rombeck, director of communication, provided an [update on the district's communication initiatives](#).

**Committee assignments:** The Board discussed committee assignments for the 2022-23 year. They will be brought back in July for approval.

- Orion Service Center representative – Jill Hodge
- BOE Scholarship Fund representatives – Susan DeVaughn and Melinda Fritze
- BOE Outstanding Service Awards – Jill Hodge and Tim Brunson
- Liaison to Foundation – Susan DeVaughn (alternate Jennifer Seymour)
- Liquidated Damages Appeal Board representatives – Josh Wells and Andrew Chaney
- Interlocal Board Member representative – Andrew Chaney (alternates Jill Hodge and Tim Brunson)
- District Site Council – Josh Wells, Melinda Fritze and Jennifer Seymour

**Funds for Prairie Creek HVAC:** The Board approved using contingency reserve funds of up to \$450,000 to upgrade HVAC controls at Prairie Creek Elementary School.

The district is working with our insurance adjuster and Hutton to complete repairs at Prairie Creek Elementary School. While this project is in process, there is an opportunity to complete HVAC system upgrades and painting that would otherwise have needed to be done through capital outlay funds within the next 2 years. These items include:

- HVAC controls that need technology upgrades to the new control system to ensure operation
- Painting of classrooms and hallways throughout the building that needs to be updated for aesthetics of the school

Some cost savings can be achieved by completing the HVAC controls while the ceiling is already open. New system controls will then be upgraded in all of our schools except Wheatland and Robert M. Martin. The system controls updates at Wheatland & Martin will be part of capital outlay improvements in the next couple of years.

Painting will also need to be completed not only for storm-affected areas at PCES covered by insurance, but most of the building in order to have a consistent appearance and update to the original paint coating. Timing is important as this work really needs to be completed before flooring installation.

The use of contingency funds requires Board approval. The current fund balance is \$2,173,605.44. State aid is not received or based on contingency reserve funds, which allows for greater flexibility if actual expenditures are less than encumbrances (there is no loss of state aid, unlike the general fund). The Board has the ability to approve transfers back to contingency next year in order to restore any expenditures.

Due to the needs, timing and budget constraints given the time of year, administration is seeking approval for the use of contingency reserve funds up to \$450,000 in order to move forward with the HVAC control upgrade and painting of the interior walls at Prairie Creek Elementary through Hutton Construction, with the stipulation that any funds used from contingency reserve will be replenished by the district no later than June 30, 2023.

**Property/casualty/liability insurance:** Board members voted to approve [a bid of \\$936,936.73](#) for property, casualty and liability insurance with the Kansas Educational Risk Management Pool LLC. This is

an increase of \$209,057.46 over the past year, primarily because of location. Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas are the hardest hit areas for wind and hail, and carriers are continuing to decrease and/or decline coverage for entities with large values.

**Wellness report:** The Board approved the [Elementary](#), [Middle School](#) and [High School](#) wellness reports from the district.

**Curriculum materials:** The Board [approved curriculum materials](#) for middle school and high school history, government and social studies; and high school English language arts. English language arts teachers at the middle school level have requested additional time to pilot materials and plan to make a recommendation to the Board in the fall.

**Superintendent's report:** Superintendent Brett White provided an update on donations made toward Prairie Creek tornado relief, administrative transitions and the importance of partnerships with the Andover Police Department and Andover Fire-Rescue in establishing safety procedures.