

WORK SESSION MINUTES

Board members met in a work session on February 24, 2020.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Zach Bessett welcomed those in attendance and called the work session to order in the Board Room of the District Administration Center at 4:40 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

Board members present included Chair Zach Bessett, Lisa Barrager, Dr. Emilio Hernandez, and Todd Mann. Vice Chair Naomi Raven was excused from the meeting.

Others in attendance included Superintendent Todd Hamilton, David Collins, Brett Yancey, Brian Megert, Judy Bowden, Suzy Price, Whitney McKinley, Mindy LeRoux, Jeff Michna, Jenna McCulley, Charlie Clark, Dustin Reese, and Lydia Dysart, minutes recorder.

2. STUDENT INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

Superintendent Hamilton thanked everyone for being there. He said they would go through the Student Investment Account (SIA) plan and break out into small groups for additional information.

Superintendent Hamilton informed the board that their application would be presented to the board for approval on April 13, 2020. Dr. Hernandez asked how much staff time the application would take up. He also wanted to know what they should say to people about it when they received questions. Superintendent Hamilton replied that they were not presenting the application at that meeting, but they could send it out to the board so they could study it once it was completed.

The SIA was one of twenty-eight programs that made up the Student Success Act (SSA). Superintendent Hamilton stated that the SSA was focused on student outcomes. The SIA was supposed to meet students' mental and behavioral health needs, increase academic achievement and reduce academic disparities.

Superintendent Hamilton explained that there were four parts to the SIA. The first was a well-rounded education. They needed to increase early literacy, middle school programs and supports and broaden curricular options. The second was increasing the number of adults in classrooms to address class size and caseloads. The third was to increase instructional time. There needed to be more hours/days of class, summer programs, and before/after school programs. The fourth was to increase health and safety in their schools. They needed to focus on social emotional learning, mental and behavioral health and hire more school health professionals. Dr. Hernandez stated that staff had to be included when talking about mental health. Superintendent Hamilton informed him that they were, but the focus of the SIA was on students.

Superintendent Hamilton shared that they had a community discussion to address the question, "How do we describe a student walking across the graduation stage who is ready to successfully transition and navigate the world beyond high school?" The responses that surfaced the most frequently were: self-confidence, hard-working, perseverance, life skills and empathetic.

They also asked, "What areas of investment do you believe directly support a life-ready student?" They had 751 participants, 1,692 thoughts, and 52,935 ratings submitted to the online forum. Superintendent Hamilton mentioned that the responses helped staff understand community interest and focus. Dr.

Hernandez asked if this included recent engagement. Superintendent Hamilton responded that all this data was from the Fall, but they would include recent feedback soon. The two topics that surfaced the most frequently were increasing the number of adults in their system to address class size and caseloads and supporting the health and safety of students. Mr. Collins mentioned that they had spent the last several weeks going over those topics. They had a meeting with over eighty staff members and two community meetings that included over seventy families. He noted that they also had a meeting with district staff from elementary schools, middle schools and high schools. They received information specific to each school and the impact programs would have.

Mr. Collins said they would now break out into groups so that board members could receive more information. Superintendent Hamilton explained that they were breaking up into groups so they could go over more information and have the board ask questions. The board reviewed data for regular attenders, 3rd grade reading, 9th grade on track and graduation rates. Mr. Collins added that all decisions for the SIA application would reflect an equity lens. He shared five equity questions that he would like the board to keep in mind while reviewing the data and asking questions.

The board broke out into groups from 4:55 p.m. to 6:21 p.m.

Superintendent Hamilton thanked everyone for their input and explained that they would have more time to discuss these issues in the future before submitting the application to the state.

Dr. Hernandez said that the department was doing an amazing job. He emphasized that the board acted as messengers to the community and had to make sure that the public was informed. They had to make sure that the community was involved and attended board meetings.

3. SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD WORKING AGREEMENTS

Chair Bessett said that this was the final version of the working agreements. He added that Vice Chair Raven had worked very hard on them. They would vote on the agreements at their next meeting when everyone was able to attend.

4. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Chair Bessett adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Lydia Dysart)