

School Board Meeting Recap

12/12/23

Personnel Items	<p>A motion was made and passed to approve the following personnel item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Employee             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kenneth “Kenny” Amstutz – Network Apprentice/Communications Coordinator</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Reports</p> <p>Facilities/Construction Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The flag donated for the Stardome has been installed.</li> <li>• Two cell phone boosters have been installed in the hallway near the commons in the high school and in the hallway near the Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> grade wing in the elementary.</li> <li>• A new steamer was installed in the kitchen over fall break.</li> <li>• Some water leaks have been noticed off the K-8 building and has been on the hot water side. The water softener may be contributing to this issue and is being looked in to.</li> <li>• Plexiglass has been added in the pool viewing area.</li> <li>• The heating/cooling unit went out in the Machine Trades area. The new unit will be put in tomorrow. Electric heaters have been put in place in the meantime.</li> <li>• Jeremy from PSI stated the masons have been working on the walls for the multi-function building. Andy Jones has been on-site to complete metal stud framing and drywall, starting in the areas that will receive roofing first. Within the next 30 days, framing will continue. Some steel welding to attach plates to the walls and miscellaneous structural work is needed, but the project is moving along right on schedule.</li> </ul>
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A survey was distributed to middle school and high school teachers regarding student laptops, specifically how often they are used in the classroom, what they are being used for, feelings toward them, benefits and frustrations, etc. Feedback will be brought to the tech council for review at their next meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• South Adams will be hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual robotics tournament on January 6<sup>th</sup> in the middle school gym, with 24 teams registered so far. Indiana has the largest amount of robotics teams in the country, and it is amazing to see how much the kids know about their robots. Each student builds and programs the robots themselves.</li> </ul>
Safety/Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quotes continue to be sourced for the bus ridership/routing software. If a decision is made by spring break, the software should be able to be in place and implemented by the start of next school year.</li> </ul>
Policy Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A motion was made and passed to approve the second reading of ISBA 5051 – Challenges to Library, Media and Other Supplemental Materials.</li> </ul>
<p>Old Business</p> <p>Tennis Court Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A signed contract has been received from Brooks Construction. Dave continues to work with Brooks to set up the first construction meeting.</li> </ul>
<p>PD Day Shift – Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> to Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> – Solar Eclipse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A motion was made and passed to change the Staff PD day currently scheduled for Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> to Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> due to the solar eclipse. Staff PD will be virtual, and there will be no sporting events or practices on April 10<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>
<p>New Business</p> <p>Turf Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As quotes were received for the tennis courts, it appeared additional funds would be available within the GO bond to do some additional things on the campus. Something that has continually come up is replacing the black mulch on the playgrounds. Dave looked into some other options that proved to be very costly. Mrs. Clouser-Penrod has looked into the</li> </ul>

	<p>possibility of turf for the playgrounds. It is a little different in requirements compared to the turf used for athletic fields. There is a crucial fall rule and additional cushion required below it. With the quotes received, it does appear playground turf could be in the realm of possibility. Mrs. Clouser-Penrod will continue to look into this.</p>
<p>Potential Stipends – Classified Staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last week, the Teacher Appreciation Grant stipends were approved for certified staff members. Many other districts give a stipend called Staff Appreciation Grants (SAG) to their classified staff members also. Mrs. Clouser-Penrod and Heidi Sprunger have looked through the budget and balances in the Education, Operations, and Lunch funds and are confident to recommend the approval of a stipend for classified staff. All of the fund balances have increased and are over the 15% threshold for this time of year. It is proposed that the stipends vary in amount based on varying categories of employment. The proposed stipend categories and amounts are as follows: Full-time year-round employees - \$300, Full-time school-year employees - \$250, Full-time year-round employees - \$200, Part-time year-round employees - \$150. It is recommended that the stipends be paid out on the December 22<sup>nd</sup> payroll. A motion was made and passed to approve the classified staff stipends as presented.</li> </ul>
<p>Insurance - ESCRFT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2024 pricing sheet received from ESCRFT was provided for review. There was a substantial increase, although it was noted insurance has gone up everywhere. Cyber liability premiums went down, which is a testament to the great work our technology department has done. A motion was made and passed to approve the pricing increase for ESCRFT for 2024 as presented.</li> </ul>
<p>Approval – Superintendent Contract</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the completion of the required public hearings, a motion was made and passed to approve the contract for the Superintendent.</li> </ul>
<p>Other</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some questions have been asked regarding FFA expenditures and clarity behind the accounting for the FFA program. A few years ago, the School Board made a shift in the school farm revenue, moving the revenue from an ECA account to a corporation account. This is because funds deposited into an ECA account are required to be generated by students through fundraising, donations, or work completed. These funds could continue to support FFA in part but would also be used to benefit all student programs. Patrons have also had questions regarding the ECA report uploaded to the transparency portal on Gateway. Every receipt and expenditure is listed on this report and is broken down by each fund/program. The portal has a public-facing side and school-facing side. With the change in our software over the last few years, the public-facing side looks a bit different. Someone shared with members of the Board that it appeared there were expenditures listed in the FFA funds that did not belong to the FFA program. One could see an expenditure listing that contained multiple items in the description. For example, it could read “Field Paint/FFA Convention/Prom Supplies/Concession Stand.” This description represents expenditures/purchases from a credit card. The Gateway portal is combining the descriptions for all of the expenses paid on that Visa statement and posting the combined description on all of the accounts that were included, which makes it appear like funds were inappropriately charged. On our side of the software, the descriptions are not combined. All expenditures are broken down by fund and include only the description relative to the expenditure for that account on both the reports and checks. Looking at the portal, the amounts listed for the expenditure on each</li> </ul>

	<p>account is correct for that fund, but it is misleading to see the combined description associated with it. Reaching out to other schools, we have found their reports also contain combined descriptions. Some schools have rectified this issue by making their descriptions very vague like “Visa Charges” or “Amazon Purchases”, but this makes our ECA treasurer very uncomfortable because she wants to be able to show exactly what is incorporated in any amount that is listed. We are very thankful this issue was brought to our attention. We have reached out to and are continuing to work with our software vendor, and Heidi has submitted a ticket to Gateway/State Board of Accounts to discuss this issue with them to see what options we have for resolution.</p>
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