



HOCKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Preparing all students for lifelong success

DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WORK SESSION

APRIL 8, 2024

6:00 P.M.

LOCATION: VIA ZOOM ONLY

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: [HSD Calendar](#) HAS A LINK TO JOIN THE ZOOM MEETING

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Teresa VanNatta, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

A. Establish a Quorum

A quorum was established with three members, Gordon Smith, Pat Carter and Teresa VanNatta present. Anne-Elissa Carter & Kat Stupka were absent; with prior notification and excused.

II. School Board Self-Evaluation

Teresa VanNatta identified three items that were rated low (in ascending order with "Never" responses by the School Board:

Item #8...Annual assessments of its performance. Gordon Smith said that the Board does not evaluate its performance, but it does hold itself accountable to the Calendar at a Glance. Teresa felt that the retreat was a reflection opportunity. Patrick Carter agreed and added that the Strategic Plan was a roadmap that also provided the Board with a form of an evaluation template.

Item #9...Set Goals for improvement. Teresa VanNatta mentioned that the Strategic Plan does create a roadmap as well as the assessment itself. Patrick Carter elaborated that the Strategic Plan and the School Improvement Plans give the Board a built-in assessment tool. Teresa said that the assessment will help level awareness among newer and more experienced Board members. She said that the assessment creates a lens through which Board members will look at key aspects of the school district (eg, communications). Patrick pointed out that the assessment reveals "deficiencies" especially for novice members because the deficiencies will prompt corrective action.

Item #57...Communicate performance expectations of the superintendent and the community. Gordon Smith said the evaluation conversations do happen, but they happen

Steven Marshall, Superintendent

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in Executive Sessions. Teresa VanNatta said that it would be more transparent and helpful if Superintendent Marshall mentioned leadership standards and district goals whenever he delivers his superintendent's report. Superintendent Marshall agreed. He said the report, his evaluation, and Strategic Plan already happen, he would just be connecting and tying them together in a more deliberate way.

III. HSD RoadMap - Priorities/Planning

Superintendent Marshall informed the Board that the evaluation conversation was relevant to tonight's Work Session because he included a check-in progress relating to the district's Strategic Plan. He said the plan was translated into a district-wide initiative called Upward Together in 2023. The three goals of the plan relate to academics, facilities and school culture, community and communications. Superintendent Marshall illustrated each with examples, including the school's recent efforts to increase student performance on the SBA, school culture efforts and measures, and community outreach and communications. The latter led into a larger discussion of responses to the communication survey.

IV. HSD Communication Survey

55 parents responded to this year's survey, compared to 56 in 2023. Superintendent Marshall reviewed each of the survey questions/responses for the Board. Teresa VanNatta requested a survey summary that included 2023 information for comparison as well as information broken out by school (HHES, HMS and HHS).

V. Budget Projections

Superintendent Marshall said that this is an important and timely topic. The ESD 112 Superintendents met today and reported on their financial situations for the 2024-2025 school year. This preview is intended to keep the School Board up-to-date and aware of our finances. Our current enrollment as of April 8, 2024 is 1,970 students and Business Manager, Aaron Villanueva projected that the lowest enrollment model would be 1,962 students. At that level, when our expenses are considered, HSD will likely face a deficit of \$300,000 or more dollars, again, using a conservative enrollment/revenue projection. For a time frame reference, WSD is estimating a \$3 million shortfall for the 2024-2025 school year. That would equate to \$2 million for HSD.

Teresa VanNatta asked how the HSD would account for any shortfall. Aaron Villanueva explained that school districts use reserves to absorb deficits. Superintendent Marshall added that school and program budgets could be reduced. However, personnel and programs would not. According to Superintendent Marshall, HSD staffing is close to the prototypical funding model and we simply could not make reductions without impacting morale and service to students, which Teresa agreed should not happen. Teresa, Patrick Carter, and Gordon Smith said it was a priority to maintain opportunities and supports for students.

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