September 23 2024, BOE Recap
Marcie Pfeifer-Soderbloom
September 24, 2024

Board of Education meetings can be viewed live, and previous meetings can be reviewed here.

Superintendent's Report

Restorative Practices
Relevant Policy: Results (R) 3: Well-Being, Operational Expectation (OE) 10: Learning Environment/Student Behavior

Executive Director of Student Services Dr. Angela Hawkins and Restorative Practices Team Member serving districtwide Zeeland Walsh shared information about Restorative Practices with the Board of Education (BOE). Restorative Practices comprise a framework grounded in indigenous wisdom and teachings, embracing the actions we take to build, maintain, and repair relationships. This approach is supported by research, affirming that a balance of high accountability and high support creates an equitable environment where everyone feels empowered and brave. Restorative practices represent a way of being that honors all cultures and identities, ensures every voice is heard and strengthens meaningful connections within the community.



According to Darling-Hammond (2023), the benefits of well-implemented restorative practices include the following:

- Reduced suspension rates and durations
- Positive academic outcomes for all students with strong outcomes for Black and Latinx students
- Reductions in discipline gaps and achievement gaps
- Improved student behavior and school safety

Members of the Verona Area School District (VASD) Restorative Practices team include, from right to left, Curtrel Robinson at Badger Ridge Middle School, Zeeland Walsh serving Districtwide, Lamark Shackerford at Verona Area High School, and Sylvia Suggs at Savanna Oaks Middle School.



Teams from six more schools will complete restorative practices training during the first semester of 2024-25. Training for school teams lasts 2.5 days and focuses on the following:



Member Murphy asked how many people per school participate in the training. Ms. Walsh clarified that school leaders have selected 10-15 people per school to participate. The training is delivered to school-based cohorts to build community among the training participants. Member Medina asked about the approach to training participants around examining and identifying their biases, pointing out that there are years of learning behind implicit and explicit biases. Ms. Walsh stated that the first day of training is devoted to examining identity and biases and that training participants are encouraged to recognize that the depth of the work extends beyond what can be covered in the training. Dr. Clardy articulated the difference between restorative practices and restorative justice, and that restorative practices are a prerequisite to create and sustain an environment where restorative justice can be effective. When schools develop high accountability and high support, thereby creating an equitable environment where everyone feels empowered and brave, they have the structures and culture needed to engage in restorative justice, which is an approach to justice that seeks to repair harm by providing an opportunity for those harmed and those who take responsibility for the harm to communicate about and address their needs in the aftermath of a crime. Member Murphy expressed gratitude for the training opportunity for staff, knowing that people are interested in facilitating a restorative environment and that this will be very useful for them.

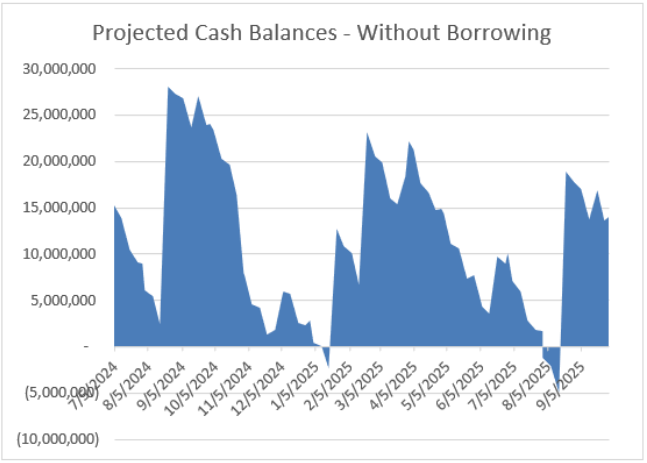
Discussion Regarding the Resolution Authorizing Temporary Borrowing in an Amount Not to Exceed $5,000,000; Issuance of Tax and Revenue Anticipation Promissory Notes; and Participation in the PMA Levy and Aid Anticipation Notes Program

Relevant Policy: Operational Expectation (OE) 5: Financial Planning, Operational Expectation (OE) 6: Financial Administration

Deputy Superintendent Wiese and Director of Finance Pete Grender shared the recent VASD history and reasoning behind short-term borrowing. Over the past five years, VASD has engaged in short-term borrowing every year except 2023-24 as follows:

- 2019-20 $10,945,000
- 2020-21 $8,000,000
- 2021-22 $9,500,000
- 2022-23 $9,000,000
- 2023-24 $0

Director Grender explained that short-term borrowing is necessary because, in school districts, expenses flow evenly throughout the year, whereas revenues are received later in the year, thereby creating a situation where school districts need funds before they have revenue. Every school district throughout the state faces this scenario annually. VASD will not receive approximately 25% of our 24-25 revenues until August 2025. VASD's cash reserves are not able to cover expenses prior to receipt of revenues. VASD's projected low points will fall in mid-January 2025 (~$2,400,000) and mid-August 2025 (~$4,900,000). Director Grender explained two options VASD can employ to cover expenses during those times, a short-term note or a letter of credit. A short-term note offers better financial advantages than a letter of credit based on interest rates and the negotiating power of PMA Financial Network, the entity that handles VASD's short-term borrowing. The short-term note maximum allowable limit is $5,000,000. VASD can still enter into a Letter of Credit with Lake Ridge Bank to cover any unforeseen expenses.



Board Action

Approval of the Resolution Authorizing Temporary Borrowing in an Amount Not to Exceed $5,000,000; Issuance of Tax and Revenue Anticipation Promissory Notes; and Participation in the PMA Levy and Aid Anticipation Notes Program
Relevant Policy: Operational Expectation (OE) 5: Financial Planning, Operational Expectation (OE) 6: Financial Administration

Member Hanes motioned to approve the resolution authorizing temporary borrowing not exceeding $5,000,000, issuance of tax and revenue anticipation promissory notes, and participation in the PMA Financial Network's Levy and Aid Anticipation Notes Program as presented. Member Medina seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Operational Expectation (OE) 2: Emergency Superintendent Succession Monitoring Report
Relevant Policy: Operational Expectation (OE) 2: Emergency Superintendent Succession

Dr. Clardy presented the OE 2: Emergency Superintendent Succession Monitoring Report to

the BOE He reviewed the line of succession of district-level decision makers if the Superintendent were unavailable. He shared evidence of compliance with indicators 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3.

Approval of Operational Expectation (OE) 2: Emergency Superintendent Succession Monitoring Report
Relevant Policy: Operational Expectation (OE) 2: Emergency Superintendent Succession
Member Peguero motioned to approve the Operational Expectation (OE) 2: Emergency Superintendent Succession Monitoring Report as presented. Member Porco seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Board Updates

General Board Updates

Greater Dane County School District Governance Consortium Meeting
The Greater Dane County School District Consortium meeting on October 8, 2024 at 5:30 - 8:00 PM. VASD will be the host site. All BOE members are welcome to attend. The agenda was sent to BOE members. Please RSVP to Lorrie Jensen.

Click this link for the most recent expanded agenda/past agendas/minutes

Directions to access agendas and minutes:

- Click the link above
- Select "meetings"
- On the left-hand side, you will see a display of all of the meetings
- Select your desired meeting
- Once you have selected the meeting, select "view agenda"