

October SCN Meeting Minutes

10/15/24 at 11:30 am

Introductions

Financial Report (CFO Kurt Subra)

- Fundraising- School board has authority to determine which fundraisers occur during the school day, on school property, or during school activities. May decide whether to accept donations from the booster club to support the activity program. Booster clubs are required to have board approval to use the district's name in any fundraising activities. There is a board policy 904.01- fundraising activities must receive the approval of the site administrator. Fundraising is often times for co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, which is accounted for in the Student Activity Fund (SAF). All funds collected are under the control of the school board unless another organization collects and deposits into their own bank account. Booster clubs and parent-teacher organizations are separate non-profit entities. Public funds cannot be given to another entity to control. Individual fundraising must be divided equally among students. Students cannot be required to raise funds as a condition of participation in an extracurricular activity or program. Q: When someone donates money to the district, PTO or WDMCS Foundation, where does it go? A: If provided directly to the district, the money is credited to to the appropriate account in our financial system. If provided to the Foundation, money is overseen by them. Dillon's Rule: A school district can exercise authority to do what's expressly stated or necessarily implied.
- Nutrition- Currently have historical \$193,000 in meal debt. That's active and inactive students. 98,444.90 is for active student lunch debt. Any donation towards lunch goes to "free" students first and honors any wishes. Kids are still fed a lunch regardless of account status. There are annual general donors. Students in the state of Iowa have to feed their students regardless but schools were not given any funds to pay for it. Have switched systems to School Cafe. Can set up an auto deduction but will have to pay a fee. There is no fee is you use InTouch but there is no auto pay. Will work with parents to set up a payment plan if they call in. Have yet to send anyone to collections. 40% of budget is food cost, 40% is payroll and 20% is equipment.
- Enrollment- Enrollment has been declining over the last few years. DMPS, Urbandale, and Waukee are the top three of where students are open enrolling into. State funding- low percentage growth in per student funding. Averaging 2% per year for the past 10 years.

- State funding/ESAs- State funding formula is providing \$7,826 per student for regular program in 2024-25 (includes Talented and Gifted program funding). ESA vouchers funded 293 students who reside in WDMCS in 2023-24. \$7,635 per student and \$2.24 million for 293 students. Statewide, about 60% of the ESAs were provided to students who were already attending a private school (\$107 million and 54% went to 10 counties). For 2024-25, over 30,000 students were approved statewide.
- Non-public transportation- provides busing for residents attending Sacred Heart. State funding in 2023-24 was approx. \$227,000. About \$176,000 was paid to parents who transported their children to nonpublic schools. District retained about \$48,000. Remaining portion was paid for transportation to a private elementary school outside of our boundary.
- Facilities Plan update- most recent board-approved plan is for 2021-30. Crossroad Park and Hillside are two primary projects that remain. Updating plan to include standards and to ensure viable learning spaces exist for all programs.
- Budget-Related Q & A-
 - Top 3 priorities for WDMCS financial health?
 1. Spending within our means. Requires accurate financial info, responsive budgeting and financial planning, insightful info for decision-making, and prudent investing of cash balances.
 2. Staffing: recruiting, developing, and retaining. Offering attractive compensation and benefits.
 3. Providing programs and activities that cause families and students to choose WDMCS
 - Biggest opportunity to reverse/counteract declining budget trends? See previous response.

School Year Kick-Off-

Open Discussion-

Adjourn at 1 pm.