

## BOT Meeting Thursday July 10, 2025 Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: Jim Sander, Robert Ansbro, Thomas Gorrell, Sean Blackwell, Ted Francavilla, Christopher Brignola, Lucas Doe

Administrators in attendance: Norma Hurwitz, Eddie Kubina

Not in Attendance:

Meeting Called to Order by Jim Sander 6:34 pm

### I. Approval of Minutes

Robert motioned to approve the minutes, Thomas seconds, all in favor

### II. Election of Officers

Chair: Jim Sander

Co-Chair: Christopher Brignola

Treasurer: Lucas Doe

Secretary: Christopher Brignola

Ted makes motion to accept roles, Robert seconds, all in favor, none opposed

### III. Budget

The budget was discussed with Paul. It was optimistic, the school is in good shape. We still have a balanced budget with a small surplus. Bottom line, we have a lot of cushion, so we are in good shape to handle any unforeseen costs.

Ted motions to approve the budget, Robert seconds, all in favor, none opposed

### IV. Education

Students did well on their last period assessments. There was a slight dropoff for some of the 8th grade students which is normal at the end of the school year and they are focused on graduating. Seventh grade students did well. Mr. Berg's class had a dropoff due to him being out for paternity leave. Sixth grade students also did very well. Topal's class showed a good improvement throughout the year. They went from a low percentage above 70% in the first period to above 70% passing in every subject area. Both fifth grade classes did well, as did fourth grade. Third grade classes also showed good progress throughout the year and did well during the last period. As for the state exam, it seems that most grades did well. Looking at the June Instructional Report, every grade level showed improvement over the previous year. This suggests that our results will be the same or better. We are hoping to have 90% passing in

math and over 80% passing in literacy. The K-2 students did not take the state exam, but did well on their assessments at the end of the year.

According to Chris for the JIR an accurate projection would be a few percent higher than last year. ELA should be near 80% and Math should be around 90%. There are differences in how constructed responses are weighted. Everything is averaged together so we are dealing with a larger sample size.

Science we need to do better. We were higher than the city average, but we still need to improve. By comparison we did better, however, we still need to improve the science scores. The test is more about the social implication of science rather than the science itself. We are set to make changes in order to improve our students' ability to deal with tangible material through experiences and experiments. We need to help students figure out whether things work or don't work. When the students have to actually do an experiment, that will make a difference. Our science has been around 85% ELA based, but not really knowing how things work. The classroom teachers have to become more relaxed with science. We have some teachers that feel more comfortable with science than others. It would be good to have someone who takes more of a leadership role in science. When we look at the resumes, we are going to try to find someone who has a science background. It seems reasonable to have someone who works across the grades. We will become more proactive in finding someone who can teach the teachers and help them become more well versed in science.

## V. Evaluation

We are outperforming the district by at least 10%. We have had positive growth. Everything looks good.

The way teachers handle students helps them adjust to our school. The goal that we are trying to achieve is get the lower grades to experience a richer experience because it will attract more families to our school. We have Pacheco and Paola to help the elementary school make the change and improve our recruitment efforts because the word on the street will improve. We need to become more hands on, more experiences, more engaging activities that take place in the classroom where students are learning but also enjoying being in the classroom. It is something we have been trying, but it is very hard. Especially when there are people in the school who have been there for a while and are resistant to change. We are looking to improve recruitment and also have more hands-on and science based projects. That coupled with continuing to push academics so that we continue to show good results, especially in our high school.

We have some of our classes at 90% in constructed responses, but others at 70%, so we need to have a way to close the gap to get our students to a higher level.

For our high school, we need to have goals for what we will accomplish, college visits, and career development.

Norma has done a great job of looking out for the financial best interest of the school. We have a surplus, we operate at a gain each year. Things are more conservative now, but the school is still in great shape. The students are lucky to have someone like Norma.

Norma feels we are lucky to have the school and to have such a wonderful staff. Jim agrees we have an extraordinary staff.

## VI. Committee Reports

Building Committee: Plaques are ready, just a matter of where they will go and how they will be placed. The plaques look good. We can see about having a day of dedication.

Education: We can track our assessments the same way the JIR. The process is automated so it is easy to get done if the data is given. You can graph out by standard how our school has done against the state and year over year. It is good to see visually.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:57 pm.