

Business Services Committee
Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Members Present

Jim Bowman, Edward Ruffolo, Gary Jahnke

Meeting called to order at 7:30 am by Jim Bowman

1. Virtual Meeting Notice

A. This meeting will be conducted as a virtual meeting due to the active COVID-19 public health emergency situation, meaning that multiple Board members may be participating in the meeting from remote locations through the use of communications technology and/or that public access to the meeting may be arranged through the use of technology. The District discourages the public and/or media from attending the meeting in person at its noticed location due to concerns with health and safety and encourages use of the alternative method(s) of access that the District is providing.

B. Members of the media or general public may access the meeting via the live stream broadcast on the Appleton Area School District YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChO-l09YGgt4uKnCWYvt8Pw>. For remote attendance via telephone, please dial: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 965 5449 2140

C. Any special needs or any requests for accommodations related to accessing this meeting should be sent to Kelly Vandenberg at vandenbergkell@asds.k12.wi.us or (920) 997-1399 ext. 2032, at least 24-hours in advance of the meeting. This would include any person for whom it would be burdensome or infeasible to use the primary method(s) of remote access established by the District.

D. With respect to the gravity of the current public health emergency, we have made every effort to streamline this meeting as much as possible while still focusing on items that are essential to the current and future operations of the District. As such, there will be no opportunity for public comments. If you have comments relating to any item on the agenda that you wish to share with the Committee, you are welcome to submit them in writing. Comments can be submitted to Kelly Vandenberg at vandenbergkell@asds.k12.wi.us (preferred) or mailed to 131 E. Washington Street, Suite 1A, Appleton, WI, 54911. All written comments submitted will be distributed to all members of the Business Services Committee. We appreciate your understanding during this unprecedented time.

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Business Services Committee Minutes from May 25, 2021

Recommendation to Approve Minutes

Motion by Gary Jahnke, second, Edward Ruffolo

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Jim Bowman, Gary Jahnke, Edward Ruffolo

3. Discussion Agenda Items

A. School Fees

Each year we consider fees for texts and materials. We have not raised fees for several years and don't intend to raise them this year. In addition, we consider co-curricular activities, yearbooks, admission passes, and individual course fees. This year we are not asking for increases in any of those areas either.

B. Student Meal Prices and Student Debt

The AASD looks at meal prices every spring. What we charge for meals has to be close enough to the Federal reimbursement we get for free and reduced meals. We are recommending no change in meal prices for 2021-2022. We have applied for a waiver to provide free meals to all students all next year. We anticipate that will be approved. Next spring we will revisit a price increase.

Back in April we discussed writing off student debt regarding meal accounts. We have been continually trying to collect these dollars. We feel now we are in a good position to pay off these meal debts and everyone would start clean with a zero balance. Students have accumulated a total of \$62,126 in meal account debt over the past 18 years. Julie Bargholtz contacted Community members and was unable to find any donors to cover this student debt.

C. Community Schools Funding

Discussion on the expansion of Community schools and how we finance them. Greg Hartjes explained that Grants support the work and the remainder of expenses are funded through Community Fund (Fund 80) taxes at a rate of \$.50 on \$100,000 of property. This is revenue that we can raise from property taxes. We just have to be able to justify that it is

used for community type events, thus occurring after the school day.

Julie Bargholtz and Pa Lee Moua shared a presentation on Community Schools. Pa Lee defined a Community School as a strategy that coordinates purposeful partnerships and resources to enhance access and equitable outcomes for students. It was established in 1998 in Washington DC. There are 5,000 reported Community Schools across the nation. Locally they are in Madison, Milwaukee and Racine.

The mission is to ensure equitable access to essential resources and services; stronger connections with students, families, and neighborhoods; academic preparation and persistence; and a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment. The AASD's framework consists of an application, scoring rubric and handbook.

The timeline for this is as follows:

- April 1st – Application open
- Virtual Information Session – March 22nd and April 7th
- May 1st – Application close
- Community Advisory Team Meetings – May 10th and May 20th
- June 1st – Announced Lincoln as the 2nd Community School
- July 15th – Hire Community resources Coordinator
- August 1st – Establish Community resource Center
- September 2021 – Welcome Back Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Pa Lee Moua discussed the Jefferson Community School Needs Assessment Survey Results from 2020-2021. They surveyed all families willing to give feedback. Out of the 101 family responses, they received the following results.

1. Organized After School Programs
2. Family Nights
3. After School Care
4. Tutoring
5. Counseling Resources

Pa Lee also discussed some highlights of Jefferson Community School. There were a lot of strategies they needed to embed due to COVID. Even though there wasn't in-person learning, they were very successful with creative outreach to meet the basic needs of the students and families. Some specific goals and outcomes are to utilize the Panorama Survey, comparing last fall's data to this spring's data. One of the focuses was teacher-student relationships. Also, the Family Engagement Survey launched Community School Kits. 180 kits were distributed as of April 2021. 90% indicated they would participate in future kits if they were offered. Pa Lee also went over the measured outcomes from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion scorecard including establishing Community Schools, after school programming offerings and the establishment of the Community Schools Advisory Team, which includes representation from three diverse organizations.

Some funding sources they were able to secure are \$11,000 from the Community Foundation Dohr Fund for the Community School; \$25,000 for three-years from the Community Foundation Basic Needs Fund; \$25,000 from the Community Foundation Nelson Fund; and \$25,000 from the Appleton Education Foundation.

D. State Budget Update

Greg Hartjes discussed the Legislator meetings that occurred regarding the State Budget a number of weeks back. Ultimately what we thought we heard was that we didn't need to get too concerned about the State Budget having no increase to Education. Our local representative felt like there would be some give and take between the Governor's Budget and what was proposed by Joint Finance. Unfortunately there will be a vote this week that will most likely approve what came out of Joint Finance and that will be a zero increase to our revenue. We are at a dire point right now.

Legislators also expressed to us that the State is increasing equalization aide, which they do intend. That won't help us unless the revenue increase is there. Increasing aide to school districts doesn't give more revenue, it just creates less property tax burden. With no increase in the revenue limit and the equalization limit going up, we do anticipate that property taxes will go down a little bit. Unfortunately for us, we need 4 million dollars in new revenue every year just to pay our operational increases. Holly and Greg feel we will be okay this first year of the Biennial Budget. We have some insurance savings and carry-over dollars that we didn't spend. We also plan to use some ESSER dollars. The second year of the Biennial Budget is the concern if the Budget passes. Greg discussed a letter sent to Governor Evers on behalf of the 1,400 members of the Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials (WASBO). It expresses the concern with

the lack of effort to fund public education over the past decade. Greg stated that the concern is the 4 million dollars we will need to find elsewhere in our Budget. In 2022, it will be an additional 4 million. In 2022-2023 there will be an 8 million dollar gap that we have to close. The biggest worry is finding that money to meet operational costs.

4. ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

A. 2021-2022 Authorized Depository Resolution

This must be approved annually. We must approve the Financial Institutions that we may use as a District for deposits. We do not use all of the institutions listed, but we keep them on just in case. This allows us to use an electronic signature for financial reasons, rather than having every check signed individually.

Recommendation to approve Authorized Depository Resolution

Motion by Gary Jahnke, second Edward Ruffolo

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Gary Jahnke, Edward Ruffolo, Jim Bowman;

An Item for Consideration will be presented to the Board of Education on Monday, July 26, 2021.

5. Adjourn Meeting

Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Motion by Gary Jahnke, second by Edward Ruffolo

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Edward Ruffolo, Gary Jahnke, Jim Bowman

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 am