



Mokena School District 159 Board Highlights for February 17, 2021

Communications

BOE: Mr. Everett mentioned he attended the Illinois Association of School Boards' Three Rivers Division virtual meeting on February 13th. Mr. Everett shared conversations that were had between six legislators who presented at the meeting.

Public: None.

MTA: Heather Sullivan expressed her gratitude to the district for agreeing to host interns during these difficult times. Ms. Sullivan gave a "shout out" to the following certified staff who have taken on student interns: Jenna Parente, Craig Martinus, Don Shaunessy, Jackie Schoneker, Taylor Blythe, and Katie Rodriguez from MJH; Kelli Mena and Kelly DiFiore from MIS; Nicole Stec, Katherine Barr, Kathleen Arduino, Carrie Balantine, and Heather Sullivan from MES! Ms. Sullivan also thanked teachers for supporting one another while fellow co-workers were off for quarantine. Lastly, Ms. Sullivan thanked Silver Cross Hospital for providing the Covid vaccine to all staff!

MCSA: None.

PTA: (Mr. Everett read a statement on behalf of Kelly Chlebek, PTA President) Mokena PTA is happy to announce that they have received nominations for the PTA Board positions for the 2021-22 school year! Ms. Chlebek would like to thank all the parents who came out to the last meeting and a special thank you to those who are stepping up to keep the PTA going!

MEF: Mrs. Kornmueller mentioned a grant request was approved for Mrs. Bussean's upcoming play. She also mentioned MEF will be giving away scholarships for Lincoln-Way Seniors and the Fall Fling planning is in the works, more to come!

Discussion – TRS 457 (b)-Supplemental Savings Plan (SSP)

Dr. Cohen stated that Illinois law requires Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) to offer an optional contribution benefit to eligible active members. To comply with this law, TRS has contracted with Voya Financial to develop and offer the TRS Supplemental Savings Plan. A resolution will be presented for formal Board approval at the March Board meeting.

Information Reports

Superintendent – Dr. Cohen

- Covid-19 Update - Schools reopened for in-person instruction on January 19th. The district has also been cleared to begin athletic competitions. Vaccination for school staff is underway. The positivity rate for Mokena continues to drop.
- Budget process for 2021-22 - The state of Illinois is looking at a 3 billion dollar deficit for FY22. For the second year in a row, Governor Pritzker is proposing a budget that would fall short of the spending requirements in education funding. It is not anticipated that state funding would drop, but the district does not expect any new revenues from Springfield.
- Assistant Superintendent of Instruction – Dr. Kristen Johnson has accepted the position which will start on July 1, 2021. She is currently the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Assessment for Troy CCSD 30C. Dr. Johnson has spent her entire career at Troy, beginning with student teaching. Welcome Dr. Johnson!

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction – Dr. Wilkey

- IL State Testing Dates –The state is anticipating being able to file a waiver again under the new federal administration requesting to waive state testing for this school year. With testing windows opening in March, the district felt we needed to begin preliminary planning to be prepared in the event the waiver does not go through.
- February Institute Day Activities – Grades K-5: IL Social Studies Learning Standards Overview & Background; Guided Reading using Fountas & Pinnell Assessment Levels; Dual Language – Resource Review for new Spanish Literacy program; ELL – Leveled Learning Inventory (LLI) Resource Training; Grade Level Data Analysis & Planning for Tiered Supports. Grades 6-8: Math/SS-Review of current status on scope & sequence; ELS-Finalizing fourth quarter anthologies materials for student packets; Science-Planning for new upcoming science units; Exploratory/PE-Review of current stats on scope & sequence.

- Fast Bridge Results – 1). aReading Winter Trend: Second grade winter score is the lowest since the district has been testing, but this group was also the lowest in first grade last year prior to the pandemic. Cohort data have shown gains/no change in percentage of students meeting benchmark from winter 2019 to winter 2020 for current second, third, fourth, and sixth grade. There are three grade levels that have 80% of the students at benchmark: fourth, sixth, and seventh. Fourth grade had highest percentage at benchmark this winter 2021 since inception of testing. “Shout out” to Mrs. Coltri, Mrs. Kearney, Mr. McGreal, Ms. Horsch, Mrs. Hernandez, Ms. Hentsch, Mrs. Berndt, Mrs. Reif, Mrs. Studzinski, and Mrs. Uva for their focus and commitment to student achievement this year! 2). aMath Winter Trend Results: Winter 2021 scores for each grade level are higher that they were in winter 2016, 2017, and 2018. Cohort data have shown gains in percentage of students meeting benchmark from winter 2019 to winter 2020 for current second and sixth grade. Cohort data have shown gains in percentage of students meeting benchmark from Winter 2019 to Winter 2020 for current second and sixth grade. There are four grade levels that have 80% of the students at benchmark: second, third, sixth, and seventh. The following grades had the highest percentage of students meeting benchmark in Winter 2021 since we started administering Fast Bridge: first, fourth, and sixth.

Director of Student Services – Ms. Cirone

- Professional Development – Student Services Department hosted virtual professional development through the Rush Neurobehavioral Center to all certified Student Services staff members. The professional development provided evidence-based and age-appropriate practices that target the direct instruction of executive functioning skills with students.
- Social Emotional Learning – Now, more than ever, our youth need deliberate and articulated learning as it relates to their social and emotional health. The district Social Workers, School Psychologists and Administrators are collaborating on Multi-tiered Systems of Support for the social and emotional health of all Mokena students.
- Current Staffing Needs – The district will need to provide full-time nursing services for a student with specific medical needs outlined in the student’s health plan for the 2021-22 school year.
- Planning for School Year 2021-2022 – The department continues to collaborate with building level teams and administrators to plan for the provision of Special Education services during the up-coming school year with careful attention to issues relevant to Covid-19 to develop a professional development plan.

Chief School Business Official – Dr. Shaw

- Finance Committee met on February 8, 2021; topics included: Review of student fees and property tax impact of surrounding school districts (compared to feeder districts fees, D159 was the lowest); annual report for Fund 21; schedule of monthly topics; first look at the capital plan.
- Finance Report – Posted on website.
- Will County Tax Information – Will County Board approved a due date delay for the 2020 tax bills set to go out this summer. The June payment will now be split in half and the other half of June will now not be due until August 3rd. This has the potential to delay a significant amount of tax revenue from June to August. The reporting issue for the district is that we will have a deficit in one year and a surplus in the following year.
- Custodial and Maintenance Bid Opening – The district is reviewing all proposals and will review with our attorney any inconsistencies and missing information. Next will be negotiating with low bidders with an information session at the March Board meeting followed by an action item request in April.
- Wellness Screening for Staff March 23rd.
- Food Service – 5,141 lunches were served for the month of January; district will receive \$22,196.26 from the government.
- Transportation – 913 total riders for the month of January; the district will be transporting the Girls’ Volleyball team during the months of February and March for competitions; getting ready for the positive impact of the new MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century).
- Maintenance – Upcoming/Ongoing Projects: Fixing MJH front office HVAC air handler and controls; MIS Uninvent/Condenser unit project; MIS boiler repair; MIS electrical repair; MES

emergency generator removal; MES office HVAC project; district wide contractor painting; install wireless alarms for freezers and coolers at MJH & MES; MES concrete project; MJH concrete and civil project.

Director of Technology – Mr. Smith

- Early Purchase for 2021-22 Chromebooks – The final agreed price with Y&S Technologies is \$66,738.75. This is \$56.75 less than MSRP per device!
- 2020 Chromebooks were finally delivered on January 25th. The process included unboxing, inventorying, putting stickers on devices, configuration, and assigning devices to students. We were able to receive and process all 1,100 devices in just under 3 days and get the devices into students' hands in remarkable time!
- New Student Online Enrollment (NSOE) – Due to Covid restrictions, the process the district has used in the past for Kindergarten registration will no longer work. NSOE will allow parents to enroll students and upload all necessary documents online.
- EDR Endpoint Protection - The district needs to purchase a more robust endpoint protection platform and with the cost being upwards of \$20,000 per year, the Tech Department may have to request approval for an RFP to make it easier to compare features and get competitive pricing.
- SOPPA (an extension of FERPA) – Getting the district to SOPPA compliance by July will take a lot of work and a lot of collaboration between classroom teachers, administrators, and vendors.

Principal Reports – Dr. Rolinitis mentioned the Mokena Fire Department is asking MJH and Lincoln-Way students looking for community service hours to help with snow removal around fire hydrants. He also shared that the first Boys' Volleyball game will be live streamed for parents and opponents; no spectators during games at this time. **Mr. McAtee** shared that test scores are looking good! He also shared that students have already raised over \$13,000 for the Kid's Heart Challenge! **Mrs. Chorley** also shared that students at MES have smashed records from last year by raising over \$37,000 for the Kid's Heart Challenge! She also gave a "shout out" to Nurse Therese Dydo and Health Office Aide, Candy Williams, for all they have done during these challenging times in the nurse's office!

Action Items that were approved include:

- Previous Month Minutes
- District Bills
- Personnel – Classified Resignation: Mary Ann Ornelas; Classified Reassignment: Donna Guca; Classified FMLA: Janet Walker; Certified Reassignment: Andrew Boss; Administration FMLA: Cathy Lark; Administration New Hire: Dr. Kristin Johnson.
- Consent Agenda – Semi-Annual Review Closed Session Minutes; Verbatim Destruction of Closed Session Minutes; Authorization to Prepare Tentative Budget 2021-22; Food Service Staff Wage Increase; Bus Leases; RFP for MES commons & Gym Floor Lighting; RFP for Auditing Services; RFP for MES & MIS Sealant Replacement & Tuckpointing; RFP for MES Gym Floor Replacement; Disposal of Equipment.

Respectfully,

Submitted on behalf of Dr. Mark A. Cohen, Superintendent