



## Mokena School District 159 Board Highlights for June 16, 2021

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### **Galaxy Award Presentation**

Dr. Cohen recognized the following winners of the 2020-21 Galaxy Award in celebration of their truly exceptional efforts that positively changed the life of a student, employee, family or community at large in a positive and deeply meaningful way: Jennifer Diamond, Jennifer Macie, Sandra Berndt, Eileen DeRosa, Taylor Blyth, Craig Martinus, Katie Rodriguez, Jackie Schoenecker, and Don Shaughnessy. Each recipient received an award from the District and a gift from MEF and PTA.

### **Communications**

**BOE:** Mr. Everett asked if the MJH band will march in Mokena's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Dr. Cohen responded that due to the pandemic, they will not be participating this year.

**Public:** Joy and Andrew Kokolus shared their concern about students wearing masks when returning in the fall.

**MTA:** Ms. Rodriguez congratulated teachers for ending the 2020-21 school year strong. She also asked Administration and the Board to please keep the best interest of students when staffing for the 2021-22 school year.

**MCSA:** None.

**PTA:** New PTA President Samantha Tunney shared if anyone is interested in becoming a member or renewing their PTA membership to do so through the new PTA website at [mokena159pta.org](http://mokena159pta.org) (which should be up and running within the month). The new PTA email is: [PTA@Mokena159pta.org](mailto:PTA@Mokena159pta.org). Ms. Tunney thanked the outgoing Board for their time and commitment to staff and students and she is looking forward to a great 2021-22 school year. She mentioned that there will not be a Fall Fling again this year but the PTA is looking into possibly a "Spring Fling" with more information to follow.

**MEF:** None.

### **Information Reports**

#### **Superintendent – Dr. Cohen**

- Dr. Cohen compared Covid-19 numbers from November to current. There were 30 cases reported each day in November and to date there is less than 1 case per day. Vaccination has helped tremendously! For now, there is little change in procedures. With summer school starting, staff will continue to wear masks until the mandate is lifted.
- MES Playscape Update – A representative from Leathers & Associates was on site recently to assess the Imagination Station playground and give the district options for repair and/or replacement. Dr. Cohen would like to recommend a town hall meeting in the Fall to discuss options with the community and conduct a survey about where the district will go from here.

#### **Assistant Superintendent of Instruction – Dr. Wilkey**

- 26 students have applied for the Kindergarten Dual Language program and 18 students have been accepted. As the district gains additional Kindergarten registrations, we will begin adding students from the waiting list.
- As of June 7<sup>th</sup>, the district has 123 students enrolled in Kindergarten compared to 120 enrollments last year at this time. The District anticipates 6 sections that create an average of 17-18 students per section in addition to the Dual Language class.
- As the Dual Language program moves into the junior high, the district has been in communication with the high school to determine the course sequence for the dual language students if they choose to continue with learning the Spanish language.
- Will County Book Drive – On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the district donated over 200 boxes of books that had been approved for disposal. A huge "shout out" to all the following people who made this possible: Cheryl Sorley, Dina Fugett, Connie Umgelder, Lori Mosel, Donna Guca, Pam Sanders and Mary Ann Ornelas for boxing of old books from their buildings and the Summer Workers for hauling all the boxes to the drop off center.
- Summer Program Planning – On June 8<sup>th</sup>, all the Summer Program teachers joined together to create the vision for the Summer Programs along with daily lesson plans. A big thank you to the following staff who will be working the Summer Programs: Rachael Aguirre for arranging

transportation, Mary Essary, Kathy Arduino, Esther Dare, Lori Meehan, Erin Potter, Sarah Borlee, Megan Horsch, Sharon Horvath, Therese Tabor, Marissa Banowski, Jackie Schoenecker, Michelle Gurgone, Candy Williams, Emily Knutson, Therese Dydo and Megan Conway.

- Dr. Wilkey shared graphs with the final FastBridge results for the school year.

#### **Director of Student Services – Ms. Cirone**

- Extended School Year begins June 14<sup>th</sup>. Mokena School District has 46 students attending ESY through LWASE 843. Two additional students will be receiving individualized ESY services as well based upon student need.
- The district is in the process of hiring for the following positions: 1:1 nurse for specific student supports per individualized medical plan; 2 paraprofessionals at MES; 1 paraprofessional at MJH; .6FTE speech language pathologist; part-time physical therapist.

#### **Chief School Business Official – Dr. Shaw**

- Finance Committee met on June 14, 2021 and topics included: 1) Reviewed the amended budget for questions; 2) Discussed non-union salary increases and consequences of minimum wage increases; 3) Reviewed the MJHS parking lot options and summer 2022 projects; 4) District architects were at the meeting to discuss the projects.
- Finance Report – Posted on website.
- The following information items will be action items at July board meeting: MJHS parking lot repairs; MES roof top unit; Architect Fee for Summer 2022 project work; Summer 2022 project work.
- Food Service Report – 8,346 lunches were served in May. The district will be receiving \$36,033 from the government. The USDA may be extending the free lunches for the 2021-22 school year; more to come.
- Transportation Report – Year in Review: Transportation transitioned through various scenarios throughout this past year from delivering lunches during remote learning and driving only SPED, Early Childhood and St. Mary's students; adjusting to a hybrid schedule for MJH; delivering homework packets during the December remote learning and changing from remote to in-person learning.
- Maintenance Report – Upcoming/Ongoing projects: MIS uninvent/condenser unit project; board room/kitchen HVAC project; MES emergency generator removal; MES office HVAC project; district-wide painting; MES concrete project; MJH concrete and civil project; new floor runners for MJH; MIS parking lot lights; district-wide mulching; MJH emergency light replacement; district-wide bleacher repairs; MJH parking lot patching.

#### **Director of Technology – Mr. Smith**

- Summer Projects – TV installs are ready at MJH just waiting for mounting hardware; all Chromebooks have been collected with 126 being sent out for repair; the new website content creation process has begun; Subnet clean up; SOPPA list collected and agreements are being signed; initial onboarding for Classlink; staff updates will begin mid July; Skyward rollover will begin on 6/21/21.
- The district decided on CrowdStrike as the new endpoint protection product. This is the top of the line product with several extra features to support the district's network. The Tech team will be fine-tuning settings to be as restrictive as possible without being overly disruptive to our end users.
- Disposal of Assets: Dell All-in-One PC's; HP All-in-One PC's; Lenovo All-in-One PC's; Lenovo teacher laptops; MIS/MJH classroom projectors. The Tech team will hold a district garage sale of used assets; more to come.

#### **No Principal Reports this month**

#### **Action Items that were approved include:**

- Previous Month Minutes
- District Bills
- Personnel – Classified – New Hire: James Rebersk. Classified – Retirement: Cathy Hite, Luann Lodes, Sandy Simester. Classified – Resignation: Lauren Cernak. Certified – New Hire: Nicholas

Ruiz, Jaclyn Leffelman, Mallory Huddlestun. Certified – Resignation: Sarah Margalus.  
Information Only – Certified - Reassignment: Lindsey Neff, Marlo Wooge.

- Consent Agenda – 1) Revision of Policy 7:345; 2) Authorization to approve bills to close FY21; 3) disposal of materials; 4) approval of RFP for MES flooring projects; 5) RFQ for construction manager; 6) Transportation salaries; 7) painting projects in an amount not to exceed \$19,985.75; 8) MIS parking lot lighting repairs in an amount not to exceed \$16,794; 9) approval to purchase Kubota for MJH.
- Adopt FY21 Amended Budget

**For the Good of Mokena**

- Mr. Andresen shared that the Fire Cracker Dance which is run by the Lions is back this summer! The date is July 17<sup>th</sup> and tickets are \$10 each. Mr. Andresen also wished all dads a Happy Father's Day.

**Respectfully,**

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