



# Mokena School District 159

## Board Highlights for October 16, 2019

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### Communications

**BOE:** Board President Everett thanked those who came to the meeting seeking more information about the status of the MTA Negotiations. Mr. Everett expressed his appreciation for their support of our schools, teachers and students.

**Public:** Raeann Racine, Katharine Hannigan, Brian Shanahan, William Sullivan and Michelle Fadeley expressed their support on behalf of D159 teachers regarding the MTA Contract.

**MEF/PTA:** Kris Okoskey and Kelly Chlebek spoke about Fall Fling on November 15<sup>th</sup> and mentioned that this is the biggest fundraiser and invited all to attend this fun event. Mrs. Chlebek also mentioned that PTA will eventually go to a cashless system; Annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest coming up; Halloween Dance on October 25th; Coupon Books coming soon for an additional fundraiser.

**MTA:** Jennifer Macie spoke on behalf of all certified staff to the Board regarding the ongoing MTA Negotiations.

### Action Items that were approved include:

- Previous Month Minutes
- District Bills
- Personnel –Classified-New Hire: Trish Sullivan. Classified –Retirement: Cheryl Sorley. Certified-Long-Term Sub: Lauren Bullington. Certified-Resignation: Elizabeth Bedolla.
- Consent Agenda –Disposal of Surplus Books; Appointment of Members Briscoe and Zielinski to the Special Education Attorney RFQ Review Team; Approval of Stage Curtain purchase at MES and MJH; Approval to seek RFPs for District-Wide Roof Inspection and Solution; Approval to seek RFPs for MJHS Boiler Burner Replacement; Approval to seek RFPs for MJHS Chiller Unit Repair.

### Discussion:

- IASB Resolution: Student Safety – Board President Everett will represent D159 Board of Education's vote on the Resolution during the 2019 Joint Conference Delegate Assembly on November 23rd. This will be an action item on the November Agenda so that Mr. Everett has guidance on how to vote at the IASB Delegate Assembly.
- Multi-Function School Activities Bus – The district realizes there is a need for an activity bus due to the shortage of bus drivers. This type of bus does not require a CDL license so it can be driven by a Coach or Sponsor of the sport or club; cost is approximately \$55,000 and a three year old bus would be approximately \$41,000. The Board asked Dr. Shaw to gather some additional information as she prepares her recommendation on this topic.

### Information Reports

#### Superintendent – Dr. White

- Dr. White provided information from neighboring school districts with their Residency and Registration processes. Dr. White is recommending residency verification be required for each individual student when first enrolling in the District and/ or at Grades K, 2, 4, and 6. Residency proof process to begin on or about April 30; District will continue to host a day-long residency verification event on the last Wednesday of April; an online, anonymous residency concerns reporting process to be implemented; students will not receive their class assignment/teacher or bus assignment until residency is proven. Registration of students must be done each year for all grades; current families will be asked to register/re-enroll their child(ren) and request transportation services beginning on or about April 30; new families can register their child at any time for current school year; new families registering for the following school year will be asked to wait until July 1; registration and payment of fees processes are going to be two separate processes; payment of fees will begin on or about July 1.
- Right At School enrollment continues to increase; currently 74 students enrolled (55 at MES, 18 at MIS and 1 at MJHS).

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

- Tentative timeline for ELA/Reading Curriculum between October 25, 2019 and June 2020 – Identify committee members; review of research (what type of programs exist); observations in high performing districts; analysis of observation findings determine programs to pilot; roll-out pilot programs; staff training on ELA/Reading program structure; staff survey on reading program pilot; feedback on pilots; informational report with reading program recommendation to Board of Education; anticipated Board approval of new reading program; ELA/Reading program observations; Reading teachers receive reading program teacher materials; summer book study.
- Eureka Math Implementation Update – Regular opportunities for coaches, administration and Dr. Wilkey to gather feedback from math teachers on the successes and challenges with the program.
- Shared an overview of both the Fast Bridge and IAR trend scores; continuing to see aggressive growth as a district in the area of math; reading scores have seen an overall district increase in IAR reading, while Fast Bridge results have maintained.

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

- Professional Development – All social workers for the district attended McKinney-Vento training so the district meets its mandate in identifying and providing services for homeless students. Student Services Department is hosting Pyramid training on October 16 as well as Crisis Prevention Intervention refresher training for staff. The department also hosted observation and feedback sessions with our literacy consultant regarding the use of Leveled Literacy Intervention in special education classes.
- Current Staffing Needs – the district recently had an influx of students who qualify for special education services in a self-contained classroom. The district is opening a second Early Childhood classroom to accommodate these and future children; a substitute teacher will get the new classroom up and running until a new teacher is hired. The district currently still has two vacancies for paraprofessionals at MES; exploring using a contractual agency to hire these candidates.

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

- Levy 2019 timeline (2019 Levy generates fund for the 2020-21 school year) – October 7, Finance Committee first review; October 16, Board meeting information item; November 4 Finance Committee review of details; November 20, Board approval of tentative Levy 2019; December 8, Publish Truth in Taxation Notice; December 9, Finance Committee review of tentative levy; December 18, Truth in Taxation Hearing and Board approval; December 20, Submit Levy request to County Clerk.
- RFPs –Boiler Burner replacement; Chiller repair; Roof Inspection and Solutions.
- TRS Penalty (\$3,785.76) – When an administrator is paid in an amount greater than the Governor’s salary of \$177,500, the school district is assessed a penalty rate of 9.8% on the difference.
- Audit – Auditors will submit final copy of the ISBE Annual Financial Report and Audit to the state board by deadline of October 15; Mokena will once again receive the highest designation of Financial Recognition from ISBE.
- Cashless Systems – Reviewed the written cash handling protocols and procedures from other school districts; will review with building leadership and support staff along with food service to identify and clarify those cash handling procedures; anticipate moving to cashless system in 2020-2021 school year.
- Recycling – Administration is building a model to include support and direction from the multiple student council organizations; Food Service; O&M and the cafeteria will participate in single stream recycling.
- Finance Reports – posted on District Website.
- Food Service – Sold 6,870 lunches in September; district sold 508 satellite lunches to Trinity Schools; most popular lunch was mini pancakes.
- Transportation – October 21-25 is National School Bus Safety Week; drivers will reestablish the rules of the bus and go over common safety practices for safe ridership.

- Custodial/Maintenance – District continues to hear and receive concerns regarding custodial services; personnel changes as in replacement of staff members.

**Director of Technology – Mr. Smith**

- Out of District Training – Mr. Smith attended E-Rate Training which is a program to help schools and libraries meet the demand for internet connectivity. There are 2 major funding portions of this program: Category 1 is funding for our direct connection to the internet; based on a percentage of the districts free and reduced lunch population. Based on this number, the district is credited back 40% of the internet bill. Category 2 is additional funding for all internal network equipment; final announcement of funding for this category portion of E-Rate will greatly affect the scope and speed of the next technology infrastructure refresh.
- Google Summit – As we commit more and more data and usage into the Google ecosystem, it is getting more and more important to stay on top of every change that is made.
- Fitness Center – The new Fitness Center update at MJHS is now complete and ready for use.
- Threat Mitigation – With several high profile ransomware attacks recently, including our website provider, the district is currently working on threat mitigation.
- Ed Tech Fun – Mrs. Ritter’s SI class made 3D printed name tags; students got to work on spelling their names and seeing how the machine worked; students left with a fun souvenir.

**Principal Reports - Dr. Rolinitis** shared that Girls Cross Country is going to State! The girls representing MJH are Gabriella Bush, Marissa Culver and Taylor White...Congratulations ladies! **Mrs. Chorley** invited all to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veteran’s Day Assembly to honor and recognize family members of MES students. She gave a huge SHOUT OUT to Mrs. Arduino for all her efforts in organizing this wonderful event!

**Mr. McAtee** invited all to the Fall Concert at MJH on October 22<sup>nd</sup>; 6:00pm for MIS students and 7:30pm for MJH students.

**For the Good of Mokena**

- Mr. Andresen mentioned the Fall Fling and expressed what an amazing event this is; hoping everyone will consider coming to this fun-filled night!
- Halloween Hallow will be held at the Mokena Park District on the weekend of October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Respectfully,**

**Submitted on behalf of Dr. Don White, Superintendent**