



Mokena School District 159

Board Highlights for September 18, 2019

Communications

Public: Mokena residents, Kathy Rae and Billy Hollems, expressed their concerns to the Board of Education regarding the noise level coming from the HVAC unit on the roof of MJH.

MTA: Kim Truffa thanked all the teachers for their efforts getting the school year off to a great start!

BOE: Board President Everett made mention he recently attended a commemoration honoring a fallen Revolutionary War Veteran by the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution organization. He encouraged teachers to reach out to this organization to help educate students about the American Revolution.

Special Student Recognition – The top students who completed the most lessons in their grade level during the Zearn Summer Math Challenge were recognized with a certificate and a Creamery gift card. There were a total of 178 students who participated in the challenge!

Auditor Presentation – Lauterbach & Amen, LLC- Auditors did not have any findings against the district and issued a clean report; total fund balance as of 6/30/19 was \$15,314,996; thanked business department for their hard work.

Action Items that were approved include:

- Previous Month Minutes
- District Bills
- Personnel –Classified-New Hire: Michelle Jaber; Lisa Madigan; Frank Lewandowski; Kathryn Richardson. Classified-Resignation: Catherine Antis. Classified –Retirement: Debra Kappel; Connie Umgelder. Classified-Dismissal of Support Staff: Kathleen Taylor. Certified-New Hire: Karen Musial. Certified-Resignation: Meghan Lause; Ryan Bell.
- Consent Agenda –Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes; Destruction of Verbatim Closed Session Minutes; Approve Hazardous Walking Routes; Annual Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefit Reports; Disposal of Equipment; Request for Qualification for Special Ed Legal Services; Approve FY19 Audit.
- Approval 2019-20 Budget
- Resolution: Settlement of 2014 Tax Rate Objection for the amount of \$2,000.

Information Reports

Superintendent – Dr. White

- Superintendent's Staffing Study Team has two primary goals: 1) Inform the Superintendent's 2020-2021 staffing recommendation and 2) provide an opportunity to learn from high performing school districts with similar demographics. Three of the high performing districts have agreed to participate in a three hour conference call with the team to learn their staffing levels as well as what they are doing to achieve such high student achievement.
- Dr. White will have an update next month on the possible recommended changes to the residency and registration processes.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction – Dr. Wilkey

- Dr. Wilkey provided the Board with a 10-Day enrollment comparison for the past five years and an updated five-year curriculum cycle.
- Eureka Math Implementation Update-Math teachers were given a guided document to walk them through the preparation steps for their first module; Instructional Coaches and or Dr. Wilkey attended grade level team meetings with math teachers to gather feedback and help answer questions; Administration attended grade level team meetings to discuss the standards based report card reporting in Skyward using the math standards as the foundation.
- Reading Training Sessions –During the 2018-19 curriculum process assessment, it was determined the district does not have a method for determining reading text levels to help drive instruction. Staff is trying out a benchmark system that will allow the District to define student instructional reading levels to better inform our instruction.

Director of Student Services – Ms. Cirone

- Professional Development-Special Education Teachers and Instructional Coaches attended Leveled Literacy Intervention training which provides small group instruction with engaging literature based on student levels. Early Childhood and Early Start staff will attend Pyramid Training on early dismissal days throughout the school year to supports the healthy development of young children’s social emotional development.
- Mokena Elementary School will again be hosting a Special Olympics Young Athletes program on May 15th. Student Services department is expanding its relationship with Special Olympics by coordinating a Unified Partners program at both MIS and MJH. The program works to ensure individuals with disabilities have opportunities to compete with their non-disabled peers.

Chief School Business Official – Dr. Shaw

- Finance Committee met on September 9th and topics included the auditor presentation, a presentation from McKinstry and an update on the FY20 Budget.
- Budget – District spends the majority (59%) on salary and benefits for staff; 20% for purchased services; other objects line include SPED tuition and bond payments.
- Finance Report – Posted on website.
- District reviewing ways to transition to cashless system.
- District in early stages of a larger recycling program.
- Food Service – Sold 1,309 lunches in August; most popular lunch was popcorn chicken and breaded cheese sticks. Two staff members attended sanitation class for recertification; replacing 3 food servers and 1 assistant cook.
- Transportation – Total ridership is at 1,175 students; will be conducting bus evacuations at all buildings; drivers provided with information about creating and maintaining a healthy bus culture.
- Buildings and Grounds – Building Principals to submit weekly reports on custodian progress. Completed projects: Spring landscaping, commissioning of MES Chiller, Asbestos inspection for MS Univent project, commissioning MIS fan condenser, MES roof drain and piping repairs, MES Commons AHU#2 repair, Annual fire extinguisher inspection, MIS power/conduit installation for printer, recoating of gym floors, painting, summer cleaning and waxing, MJH parking lot repairs, re-lamping of bulbs in Commons and Gyms at MES, water fountain replacement, concrete removal and replacement at MES.

Director of Technology – Mr. Smith

- Created/modified roughly 20,000 accounts across a dozen different systems.
- Transferred email and calendars to Gmail
- 1,300 Chromebooks deployed; 1-1 from 2nd grade through 8th grade.
- Created several new classes at MES for District 843 students because their grading system does not align with our district’s standards based grading; with the new program at MJH, all new classes were created for D843 students.
- New copiers were installed and staff is picking up on the new system very quickly.
- Using SysCloud to back up all Google Drive files to protect against accidental deletion; scanning all drives and Gmail for security breaches both intentional and unintentional.

Principal Reports - Dr. Rolinitis shared that Girls Softball lost in their championship game but had a great season! Mrs. Chorley shared that the Eureka Math rollout has been a huge success amongst the MES students! Mr. McAtee was not present to share updates for MIS.

For the Good of Mokena

- Dr. Wilkey shared that the Aaron Toppen 5K Run will be held on September 28th.
- Dr. Wilkey gave a shout out to Megan Horsch for planning to take Student Council to the 5K run to run the water table.
- Mrs. Riedl mentioned that Student Council is sponsoring a Dine and Donate at the Mokena Creamery on September 26th.

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