

Regular Meeting – March 25, 2019

Unapproved

The Charles City Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 25, 2019 in the 7th grade learning studio, Charles City Middle School (MS). President Macomber called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Present: Board members Walker, Dight, Freund, and Mack and Student Director Tilton. Absent: none. Staff members present included Superintendent Fisher and Board Secretary O'Brien. Also present were 33 visitors and staff.

The Mission/Vision statement was read by Director Freund.

(Walker/Freund) to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

There was no public comment.

Superintendent Fisher reported District progress on the three Board/Superintendent goals: professional learning, culture & climate and facility projects.

- He is really impressed with the extra productive hours our staff is using for the flex time on snow make up days, including signing up for professional learning options in June.
- Supt. Fisher is continuing to have 1-1 interviews with staff. He really appreciates the feedback from staff on how we can improve our work around our vision and values.
- A group of students will be traveling to Nebraska to assist farmers who recently experienced flooding. This is truly passionate and committed leaders in action. There is fundraising going on right now to offset travel costs with any remainder to be sent to the Red Cross locations in Nebraska (Nebraska Strong).
- Shawn Foutch is meeting with the city council tonight to continue our journey to the sale and redevelopment the North Grand Building.

Director Dight reported the Middle School play students and staff did an excellent job.

Director Mack reported the Communications & Public Relations committee had met on 3/21/19 to discuss with Technology Director April Hanson the internal connection bids received and the recommendation to select the Heartland Business Systems bid.

Laura Walker, 5th grade instructor and Dan Caffrey, Juvenile Liaison Officer, presented a report on the Jostens Renaissance Regional Conference on November 9th in Minnesota they attended along with HS students from various leadership groups. The focus of the conference was graduation. Students need to find what they are interested in and excel. Two students, Sadie Gebel and Katie Garcia explained their experiences. They plan to implement some of the ideas from the conference.

Dan Caffrey and Karleen Sickman presented information on Project RISE, Respect, Integrity, Strength and Empowerment. This program provides a cross age group peer to peer mentoring & tutoring program. Student leaders recruit, create and help maintain the mentor /mentee relationship. Project RISE students also work within the community. "Karleen's Kloset" is a program where items maybe donated and redistributed to students to meet basic needs. Students, Koen Tibbitts, Katie Garcia and Sadie Gebel, explained their experiences.

Supt. Fisher began the Athletic Complex discussion by thanking the senior leadership team for their work collecting data and the Board for the tough decision they have to make. The locations being considered are the land purchased by the District north of town, Shadow Ave. and the site located at the 5-12 campus. The Board discussed the locations at the 3/18/19 regular meeting and a work session on 3/21/19.

President Macomber called for public comments.

- Kim Scott – She is very proud to be a Comet and feels the 5-12 site could be fabulous.
- Greg Heidebrink – He has concerns with the 5-12 site and losing trees and doesn't want to rush forward for grant money we might get. If the 5-12 site were selected where would the tennis courts and practice field fit in. He likes the idea of the Shadow Ave site.
- Dana Sullivan – After the 3/18/19 Board meeting she was notified she is one of 25 finalists for a \$250,000 grant from Prairie Meadows.
- Tyler Downing – As a baseball coach he has been impacted by flooding at Sportsman's park. 20 years is enough. They need a place to play baseball next year.

Director Walker started Board discussion. The Board has received a month by month analysis of our cash flow for both the 5-12 and Shadow sites. Piper Jaffray has reviewed this information and commented the cash flow suggests that we can "afford" to do the 5-12 project with relative ease but would come at the expense of eliminating or cutting back on other projects. Director Walker stated there is only so much land available at the 5-12 complex and we would be "settling" if we located there. The Shadow site could be a great field and a great vision for the future. This is a 75-year decision.

President Macomber stated there are only two Districts in the conference that have great fields and one took 10 years to complete and the other had a major donor. The reality is we can't always have what we want and have to make tough decisions.

Student Director Tilton stated he thinks most students favor the Shadow site and adults favor the 5-12 site. He would hate to have it completed and find out additional money is needed to fix an unforeseen issue with the property.

The Board requested student comment on the location.

- Cael Bohlen – He has experienced flooded fields and wants a place besides Sportsman's Park to play on.
- Lydia Staudt – She just wants a field to play on
- Rachel Chambers – doesn't want to wait until next year
- Sadie Gebel – there has been a lot of work put into flooded fields. She wants to play on their own field.

Supt Fisher explained his recommendation to allocate at least the 50% of the project cost was made in order that we have the basic funding requirement to apply for grants. Money will not be transferred until and if funds are needed to make a payment.

Director Mack stated he has faith in the community and team to get the work done in a year.

Director Dight explained he does not support the 5-12 site. He has seen many fields and gone to a lot of games. The original idea was not to start construction until 2020.

(Mack/Freund) to relocate the future high school baseball/softball fields to the 5-12 campus and designate half of the project costs from district funds for the purpose of grant writing. To direct the superintendent to secure necessary funding and resources to ensure play on the new fields by spring of 2020. Roll call vote. Motion carried 3-2. Dight and Walker dissenting.

(Mack/Walker) to approve the internal technology connection bid from Heartland Business Systems for \$255,188.59 as recommended. The project includes wireless access points, network switches and uninterruptible power supplies throughout the District. This project will be submitted for e-rate funding, which could mean an 80% discount. The total cost of the project is estimated \$250,465 but after our E-Rate discount our cost could be \$50,093. Motion carried 5-0.

(Walker/Dight) to direct that the 2019-20 certified budget be published at \$12.75078 property tax rate and 6% surtax as presented. The budget includes \$10.42589 general fund levy; \$0.82033 management fund levy; \$0.33 Board approved PPEL; and \$1.17456 Voter approved PPEL property tax rate. The proposed budget has no increase in the property tax or surtax rates. Motion carried 5-0.

(Dight/Freund) to set the public hearing concerning the 2019-20 certified budget for Monday, April 8, 2019, at 6:15 p.m. in the CCMS 7th grade learning studio. Motion carried 5-0.

(Mack/Freund) to approve the three-year collective bargaining agreement including \$153,421 wage increase or 2.19% with the Charles City Community Education Association for 2019-20 and approval of the list of teacher contracts. The agreement includes an increase of \$260 on the base wage plus step increases. Contracts will be sent out 3/26/19 with a return date of 4/16/19. The package increase was 2.33% including 3.5% health insurance rate increase. The Association has ratified the contract. Motion carried 4-0. Walker abstaining.

(Walker/Dight) to approve the three-year collective bargaining agreement including \$45,476 wage increase or 2.35% with the Charles City Community School District Educational Services Association for 2019-20 contingent upon the CCCSDESA ratification of the agreement and approval of the list bus driver contracts. The agreement includes an increase of 25 cents on base wages plus step increases. Motion carried 5-0.

(Freund/Dight) to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

- Approval of the list of 2019 Charles City High School and Carrie Lane graduating seniors. Motion carried 5-0.

The Board discussed other important upcoming dates. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 8th.

President Macomber adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Terri O'Brien, Board Secretary