

Regular Meeting – February 26, 2018

Unapproved

The Charles City Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 26, 2018, in the 7th grade learning studio, Charles City Middle School (MS). President Walker called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Present: Board members Dight, Freund, Macomber and Mack (arrived at 5:20 p.m.). Absent: Student Director Knecht. Staff members present included Superintendent Dr. Cox and Board Secretary O'Brien. Also present were approximately 15 visitors and staff.

The Mission statement was read by Director Freund.

(Macomber/Freund) to approve the agenda as amended. Item 7, German American Program Partnership will be tabled until a future meeting and item 10, consent agenda has no action items. Motion carried 4-0.

There was public comment from Josh Johnson, High School (HS) principal thanking the board for the opportunity to attend the Marine Corps experience last week. He will present to the Board at a future meeting. Larry Wolfe, Assistant HS principal, commended Katie Korbel for bringing University of Northern Iowa student teachers to the meeting.

Dr. Cox congratulated the Comet bowling teams and coach Doug Bohlen for the boys' and girls' teams each taking 2nd place at the state tournament. He also congratulated Comet wrestlers, and speech students for their state tournament appearances. Good luck to the boys' basketball team that play in Denver tonight.

Director Freund commented the 5th grade entrepreneur presentations she attended went well. Director Macomber reported the Dollar for Scholars banquet was excellent and did a shout out to Comet Café that worked the banquet.

Dan Caffrey, Juvenile Court Liaison Officer and two students, Kaydon Cormeny and Katie Garcia shared information about the RISE project, students mentoring students. Currently there are 73 mentors on the list and 40 that are matched up with students. Mr. Caffrey and his students will be presenting at the Iowa Alternative Education Conference on April 5th. The Board thanked them for their time and effort and their presentation to the public highlighting the good work they do.

Dr. Cox addressed the public concerns/comment regarding the auditorium plans within the HS modernization plan. The auditorium plan was projected on the wall for those in attendance. The Fine Arts team has taken trips and has had input into the plan.

Board member Mack arrived at 5:20 p.m.

The size of the stage is as requested by fine arts staff. The plans include music practice rooms that can be used as changing rooms for performances, the office area may be used as a makeup area and there are two individual restrooms in the fine arts area. The stage has access to the loading dock. BLDD Architects will be providing an estimated cost of the fly space. There is less storage space but an alternative maybe to use the basement of the 1961 gym.

During public comment, Derek Sturtevant, HS choir and drama teacher, provided a handout to the board and explained the fine arts staff auditorium priorities. The fly space could be built now, left empty and fundraised to rig it later. He estimates the auditorium usage 184 days between August 1, 2017 to July 31, 2018 for a variety of school and community events.

Michelle Grob, MS/HS talented and gifted teacher and drama coach, highlighted the two letters from Charles City alum, Stephanie Krueger Scott and Jim Coppoc offering suggestions and expressing their support. Mrs. Grob concluded by reading a statement, “Our Auditorium is a tired and trusted friend to those who have been taught and enlightened within its walls. But it is tired, and it is time to build a new “Gem” for our growing Fine Arts Departments. We believe that incorporating the ideas we have suggested here tonight, will make a statement to our students, our city and the State of Iowa that Charles City High School is a “Destination School District” for many years and generations to come”.

The Board received a list of cost reductions for 2018-19 as recommended by administration. Dr. Cox explained that over the next month the Board will receive input on the recommendations. The list includes \$323,460 from early retirement of staff and \$174,556 from budget reductions, leaving approximately \$74,000 of cuts to reach their goal of reducing expenses \$575,000. There will be public input at the March 19th and March 26th board meetings. The budget reduction recommendations may be viewed on the Districts website.

The Board discussed other important upcoming dates.

President Walker adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Terri O’Brien, Board Secretary