

Regular Meeting – March 26, 2018

Unapproved

The Charles City Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 26, 2018, in the 7th grade learning studio, Charles City Middle School (MS). President Walker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Board members Dight, Freund, and Macomber (arrived 6:06 p.m.) and Student Director Knecht. Absent: Board member Mack. Staff members present included Superintendent Dr. Cox and Board Secretary O'Brien. Also present were approximately 22 visitors and staff.

The Mission statement was read by Director Freund.

(Dight/Freund) to approve the agenda with the addition of the Superintendent's resignation to item 14a. Motion carried 3-0.

Public comment was heard from two individuals. Brandy Mutch and Lisa Nelson spoke in support of retaining the kindergarten teacher position and keeping 5 sections at the K-2 level which is being considered for reduction in 2018-19.

Board member Macomber arrived at 6:06 p.m.

Dr. Cox reported the Charles City High School (HS) Soccer team is scheduled to play its first match as an official school activity this Thursday at Mason City. The first home match is set for Monday, April 2nd versus Clear Lake. Next Monday, April 2nd is parent teacher conferences. Parents of elementary and middle school students can sign up for times at our website.

Marilyn Buttjer, HS German teacher, reported that she has a location for our new exchange school in Germany. Our new partner will be Freie Schule Anhalt in Kothen, Germany, in the former East Germany. She read information about the new exchange school. Fourteen of their students will come to Charles City/St. Ansgar Schools from October 10th – 26th.

Marcia DeVore, Lincoln elementary principal, shared that this summer the District has scheduled a literacy and math summer school which is funded thru federal Title I money. It will be offered June 4th – June 28th, Monday thru Thursday, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. at Washington elementary, which is also the location for the summer lunch program. They will have preliminary conversations with families at the upcoming parent teacher conferences.

No one spoke during the public comment on the 2017-18 cost reduction recommendation. Dr. Cox stated his is continuing his work on operational sharing with other districts which could generate additional funding and reduce the amount of reductions necessary. Official action on the 2018-19 reductions is scheduled for the April 9th board meeting.

(Freund/Macomber) to terminate the Northeast Regional Academy agreement with the Iowa School for the Deaf effective June 30, 2018. We received notice from the superintendent of the Iowa School for the Deaf that they will be discontinuing the Northeast Regional Academy in Charles City at the end of the current school year. The three-year grant that had led to the program was not renewed by the Iowa Department of Education. Additionally, the Iowa legislature did not appropriate funding as requested by the Iowa Board of Regents. Motion carried 4-0.

(Macomber/Dight) to direct that the 2018-19 certified budget be published at \$12.74554 property tax rate and 6% surtax as presented. The new property tax rate is .00351 cent per thousand increase. The surtax rate is the same as fiscal year 2018. Motion carried 4-0.

(Dight/Freund) to set the public hearing concerning the 2018-19 certified budget for Monday, April 9, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the MS 7th grade learning studio. Motion carried 4-0.

(Freund/Dight) to set the public hearing concerning the 2017-18 certified budget amendment for Monday, April 9, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the MS 7th grade learning studio. The budget areas for instruction and noninstructional programs is being increased to allow for the possibility of spending carryover categorical funds and additional food nutrition expenses respectively. Motion carried 4-0.

Dr. Cox shared a sketch and cost of an addition to the HS modernization design for wrestling and weight rooms as prepared by Jean Underwood, BLDD Architects. The estimated cost for the two spaces is \$2,251,500 for 7900 square foot and \$2,978,250 for 10,450 square foot. The plans include the cost of some new equipment but will also reuse some of our existing equipment. The Board stressed the importance of public input since we may not be able to afford all the additions however nice to have. It may come down to what is the most used space and/or the space used by most students. It will take alot of community support for the plan to pass the bond.

Public comment regarding the HS modernization plan was heard from:

- Maddi Fank who supports the new weight room and shared how the existing one is too small for the whole volleyball team to work out at once.
- Linda Brant asked several questions about the architect's experience designing theaters, the dimensions of the stage area and progress with the offer of free consulting from an alumni. She also questioned the \$125,000 cost to convert the lower-level locker rooms into drama storage.

Dr. Cox answered several of the questions. The same architect who designed the Western Dubuque Community School's theater was consulted on our plans and is the same size. BLDD architects will be present at a future board meeting to answer other questions. The Board will continue to take feedback on the design at our website. The Board hopes to finalize the plan in the near future.

Board member Dight requested item 14a, personnel resignations, be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion.

(Macomber/Freund) to approve the consent agenda minus the resignations.

- Approval of the field experience and student teaching agreement with Wartburg College for a 4 year period August 2018 to July 2022.

Motion carried 4-0.

(Dight/Macomber) to approve the personnel resignations from Angie Holzer as HS Spanish teacher effective at the end of the school year and Dr. Dan Cox as Superintendent of Schools effective June 30, 2018. Dr. Cox recommended meeting next week to hear presentations from

search firms to conduct the superintendent search in the hopes of having someone hired by the end of May/beginning of June. A special meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 3rd at 5:00 in the 7th grade learning studio to hear presentations. President Walker thanked Angie Holzer for her contributions to the District and Dr. Cox for his efforts the past five years and wished him the best. Motion carried 4-0.

The Board discussed other important upcoming dates.

President Walker adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

Terri O'Brien, Board Secretary