

Unofficial Minutes
MUSCATINE SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION
January 23, 2023

The Board of Education of the Muscatine Community School District, in the County of Muscatine, State of Iowa, met in a work session on Monday, January 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Muscatine Community School District Administration Center, 2900 Mulberry Avenue. The Work Session was held in the Muskie Conference Room. President John Dabeet called the meeting to order. Directors Karen Cooney, Ken LaRue, Mike Morgan were present, Director Lindsey Phillips attended virtually. Directors Matt Conard and Denny Schuur were absent. Also present was Superintendent Clint Christopher, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Joelle McConnaha and Director of Human Resources and Equity Jaime Kroeger.

The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Dabeet welcomed visitors and Media Representatives.

Director of Human Resources and Equity, Jaime Kroeger presented the 2023-24 Draft Calendar. The main difference is that the first semester will end before winter break. This is based on feedback from the 2023-2024 Calendar Draft Feedback survey completed by parents, staff and students. Conferences will again be held in February and we will have a consistent start date for all students in grades Pk-12. The first day of school for students will be August 23rd. August 21 and 22 will be used for Muskie Transition Days. Director Kroeger reviewed the professional development days and other non-school days for students. The board discussed the aspects of the calendar, including changing the name "Winter Break" to "Christmas Break". The draft calendar will be on the February 13 agenda for board approval.

Superintendent Christopher presented the results of the fall DDE (Daily Desired Experience) survey data stating that the comments section had been previously shared with board members. Mr. Christopher reviewed the process of getting the survey out to parents, students and staff, noting that Communications and Community Engagement Director, Tony Loconsole worked hard to get the message out about the survey through social media and through the community newspaper and radio. This fall, there was an increase of over 900 responses from the survey last spring. The student surveys had the largest increase in survey responses, in part to Susan Clark Junior High which incorporated the survey into classroom lessons and gave students time in class to complete the survey. Mr. Christopher reviewed the breakdown of responses by parents, students and staff, comparing each question to the number of responses last spring. Superintendent Christopher stressed that the survey results matter and will be reviewed by the district and building staff to set goals. Executive Director of Teacher and Learning, Joelle McConnaha shared that all building staff will have the opportunity to review the DDE results with staff in their buildings on Thursday. Last year the district added employee social events as a response to survey responses and focused on administrator visibility in the schools and the secondary schools created parent advisory groups, as a way to increase better communication in the schools. Superintendent Christopher said we will continue to use the survey information to get better. President Dabeet thanked everyone for working to put together the DDE Survey. The next DDE survey will be in October of 2023.

President Dabeet reminded the board of the resolution they approved last spring that stated the Iowa Legislators should not enact voucher programs. Superintendent Christopher reviewed information from the 2023 Legislative Session about Education Savings Accounts/ Vouchers. Superintendent Christopher stated that the resolution was shared with district staff and suggested that the board could share the resolution with community members and legislators. The board discussed vouchers and communicating with legislators to share the message of the resolution including; public funds requiring accountability and transparency, public schools welcome all students, and that private schools are not held to the same standards as public schools. President Dabeet encouraged everyone to reach out to their legislators and to share our resolution with them.

A second reading was held for policy 900.2 Distribution of Material in the Schools.

A motion was made by Director Cooney and seconded by Director LaRue to adjourn.
All ayes; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

John Dabeet, President

Daphne J. Donald, Secretary