

Unofficial Minutes  
Muscatine Board of Education  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, February 28, 2022

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, February 28, at 6 p.m. at Muscatine Schools Administration Center, 2900 Mulberry. President John Dabeet called the meeting to order. Directors Matt Conard, Karen Cooney, Ken LaRue, Mike Morgan, were present Directors Lindsey Phillips and Dennis Schuur were absent. Student Board Representative Dylan Metzger was present, Student Representative Gabriel Salazar was absent. Also present were Superintendent Clint Christopher, Director of Finance Tom Anderson, and Director of Operations, Ryan Castle.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

President Dabeet welcomed visitors and media representatives.

MHS School to Work Counselor, Brandon Welsch has been working with the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine, Director Anderson and district staff to establish an agreement between Muscatine School District and the Community Foundation to receive and administer funds for the Work Based Learning Program. The district will transfer funds from prior year donations to the Community Foundation. These funds will be used for students in the Work Based Learning Program and the Work Experience Program who are not being paid by an employer. The current funds were originally earmarked to be used in Special Education and will be used first for the Work Experience Program. Any additional funds will be split between the Work Based Learning Program and the Work Experience Program. Mr. Welsch and the MHS staff will be responsible for keeping track of the funds and distributing stipends to students.

Director of Finance, Tom Anderson gave an overview of the 2022-2023 Budget. Director Anderson reviewed the ESSER Funds including ESSER I, ESSER II and III budgets. Director Anderson reviewed the Claims and Fixed Costs of the Self-Funding Health Insurance for July 2021 through January 2022. The district is looking at cost analysis for a Self-Funded Dental Option. Director Anderson explained the Proposed Levies for 2022-2023 and reviewed the Management Fund. Director Anderson also covered information concerning the Budget Guarantee Resolution, the Unspent Authorized Budget, the District Solvency Ratio and shared the Board Levies and Revenue Purpose Statement Expiration Dates.

Director of Operations, Ryan Castle shared information with the board about the Facility Committee meetings and reviewed the current facilities projects. The district is considering two different areas of land close to the AG Center for the location of the Centralized Kitchen. Director Castle reviewed the revised bid for the HVAC Improvement Project that includes the buildings with the greatest needs first.

Superintendent Christopher reviewed the Overload Pay revisions. The revised proposal will include district administrators, but not district directors. The district received information about the Governor's Teacher Retention Pay and will share that with staff this week. The district Overload Pay is separate from the Governor's Teacher Retention Pay. The Governor's Teacher Retention Pay does not include all staff. The district will share the guidelines and deadlines with staff relating to who will receive the stipend from the Governor and what they need to do to receive the Governor's Teacher Retention Pay.

Superintendent Christopher reported the absent rate due to Covid is continuing to decrease (staff and students) below 5% absences related to Covid. Superintendent Christopher will be working with Director Castle regarding the updated CDC guidelines ending the federal mask requirement on buses. Superintendent Christopher shared information with the board from IASB (Iowa Association of School Boards) for advocacy to legislatures. The board discussed the IASB talking points regarding funding education with public dollars and the proposed legislation to use public dollars for non-public schools.

President Dabeet reviewed the list of board policies under the second reading.

President Dabeet reviewed the upcoming events.

A motion was made by Director Conard and seconded by Director Morgan to adjourn the meeting. All ayes: motion carried. Time: 8:08 P.M.