

INTERSTATE 35 COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 25, 2021

The Interstate 35 Community School District Board of Education met in regular session, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25, 2021 in the Auditorium in Truro, Iowa.

President Jeremy Maske called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Directors Roger Cannoy, Cindi Cassady, Sara Hughes, and Eddie Vonnahme were present. Student Council Representative Will Borseth was absent. Also present were Superintendent Mrs. Sharon Dentlinger and Board Secretary Ted Bauer.

Motion by Cassady, seconded by Vonnahme to approve the agenda; motion carried 5-0.

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Maske read I-35's District Mission Statement and the District's Priorities.

Education Spotlight: Teacher Leadership—Cognitive Coaching and/or Student-Centered Coaching. Instructional Coaches Mrs. Stephanie Good and Dr. Stephanie Brown updated the board on the progress that has been made in this program and where the program is headed.

Open Forum: Nathan Gibson addressed the Board regarding questions he has about SEL (social and emotional learning) and Andy Boyce expressed his concern regarding SEL and Second Step Curriculum and his opposition to vaccine mandates.

Student Representative Report: No report this month.

Secondary Principal Steve Kaster shared the upcoming state requirement that the district offer Computer Science in the High School for the 2022-2023 school year and in the Middle School and Elementary for the 2023-2024 school year. An endorsement will be required in this area to teach computer science. Kaster expressed concerns regarding the shortage of instructors in this area. Kaster gave an update on professional development at the Secondary level including the recent professional development which included guest speaker Nathan Wear, coauthor of "Making Grades Matter." Kaster explained that the shout-out board which is located outside of the District Office in the High School hallway now reflects the Code of Conduct and expressed his appreciation to students and staff for supporting this. FAST testing results from the Fall testing are being analyzed and the interventionists are using this information to help students who need the additional assistance to help close the achievement gap.

Elementary Principal Geoff Tessau shared that the interventionists at the elementary are continuing to analyze data to help students. The AEA has been working with staff during professional development. Parent-teacher conferences will be held on November 1 and 4. This is Red Ribbon Week at the Elementary. The high school band is playing for the elementary students on Friday. The Fall play will be held on November 12 and 13 in the auditorium.

Superintendent Mrs. Dentlinger reminded everyone that the School Board Elections would be held on Tuesday, November 2 and showed where information could be found on the district website. Dentlinger shared that the Tri-Corner Express continues to have information regarding Interstate 35 Schools each month. Dentlinger gave an update on work that is being started by the wage group to find ways to increase staff wages to be more competitive. Dentlinger presented information that explained how the district's property tax rates and revenues for FY22 compare to FY21 and showed how the tax rates remained the same each year. She shared that more information would be presented on November 8 at 6:00 p.m. and the public is invited. Dentlinger gave a brief update on the Education Foundation and shared that SIAC had recently met.

Maske called for discussion and approval of the following consent agenda items: minutes of the regular board meeting on September 27, 2021; monthly bills and financial statement; contracts for Oliver Sinclair (special education teacher), Jeni Smith (daycare associate), Sara McDonald (associate), Mary Strickler (associate for 2-3 days/week). Motion by Cannoy seconded by Hughes to approve the consent agenda items as presented, motion carried 5-0.

Dentlinger started preliminary discussion with the board whether or not to offer early retirement this year to certified staff. The requirements of prior years have included a minimum of 15 years of service and be age 55. Last year, the district paid out \$30,000 each to an HRA to four employees who accepted the plan. Dentlinger shared that the board has the discretion to continue with an early retirement plan, change the one used in prior years, or not offer anything this year.

Dentlinger presented the enrollment data as of October 1 for the district which was certified on October 15. The certified enrollment increased to 843.34 students which is an increase of 31.25 students from the prior year. The actual number of students served increased to 815.24 which is an increase of 22.35 students.

Dentlinger shared that a requirement of using ESSER funds to improve air quality by installing air conditioning in the classrooms is to hire a mechanical engineer to prepare specifications and drawings to put the project out to bid. We have started working with the engineering firm ISG to begin this process with an anticipated completion date prior to the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for November 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Auditorium in Truro.

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Vonnahme to adjourn; motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Jeremy Maske, Board President

Ted Bauer, Board Secretary