

Arcanum-Butler Local School District
REGULAR
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING UPDATE
December 10, 2020

All present

APPROVED:

- Minutes from the regular board meeting held November 12, 2020, and the agenda for the December 10, 2020, meeting. (vote – all yea)
- Financial report, as presented by the Treasurer. (vote – all yea)
- Acceptance of donations in the amount of \$3450.02 from various donors for the Agricultural Multi-Use Building Capital Campaign. (vote – all yea)
- Amended appropriations and estimated resources for FY21, as presented by the Treasurer. (vote – all yea)
- To schedule the annual organizational meeting, budget hearing, and regular monthly meeting of the Board of Education for Thursday, January 14, 2021. (vote – all yea)
- One year service contract with Aramark. (vote – all yea)
- Purchase obligated prior to the certification of the purchase order: \$123,130 to Darke County ESC for Special Ed Preschool form invoice #21-25 dated 12/15/2020. (vote – all yea)
- Payment of classified staff their regular rate of pay/hours during a “rolling closure” during the 2020-2021 school year as determined by the Superintendent. A rolling closure is designated as a short-term closure of no more than two weeks at a time. (vote – all yea)
- Ed Everman as President Pro Tempore to start the January meeting. (vote – all yea)

PROGRAM:

- Lifewise presentation by Jeremy Laukhuf and Tara Schwartz

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- Vision, Continuous Improvement and Focus of District Work
 - ◆ COVID Update
 - Active cases
 - Quarantines
 - Notes of interest – December 21-22 consideration and consideration of learning remotely for the first week of January due to the potential surge after the Christmas Break.
- Communication and Collaboration
 - ◆ There is a group looking to implement “Lifewise Academy” into the Darke County Schools. “It is a local movement to reach unchurched students in public school with the gospel during school hours.” This program exists in northwest Ohio. A portion of the school day is set aside to allow students to participate in the program. It is constitutional because it is provided as a choice.
- Policies and Governance
 - ◆ OSBA policies (draft review in December)
 - BDC Executive Sessions – Better clarification on disclosure of confidential information. ORC 102.3(B) prohibits disclosing confidential info.
 - DH Bonded Employees and Officers – Position bonds are not in use by many districts. The updates allow for flexibility district liability insurance.
 - DM Deposit of Public Funds – Auditor issued an update for “best practices”. While there are quite a few changes on the policy side, our procedures closely align with the recommendations.
 - DJB Petty Cash is updated to reflect the changes in DM.
 - EDE (EDE-R) Computer/Online Services – With remote learning, this further strengthens the use of district-owned equipment and software policies.

- ◆ Calendar considerations for next year. The district welcomes feedback from families and A-BCTA
 - Thoughts on graduation date/times
 - Christmas and Easter breaks
 - Use of PD days
- Instruction
 - ◆ CTC will move to remote learning from Nov 30-Jan 19
 - ◆ Remote learning update for 2nd semester
 - ◆ Remote learning and hybrid plans – We have had the remote learning for rolling closures ready to go for some time. We are looking at having a hybrid plan ready that would have students coming on scheduled days with 50% at a time. This plan would be helpful for social distancing if we continue to see cases within the school that requires a lot of kids to quarantine because distancing.
- Resources

PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS:

- **Elementary**
 - Continuous Improvement and Vision (CIP Goal #1)
 - ◆ Thank you to all the teachers who have balanced in person and virtual learning for the elementary students who have been in quarantine. Many students have joined their classrooms while at home during their extended time off.
 - ◆ The elementary staff continues to have students practice and use many different instructional technology resources that can be accessed at school and at home
 - Instruction (CIP Goal #2)
 - ◆ Congratulations to the 4th grade Spelling Bee winner, Carson Miles. Sadie Waldo was the runner-up. Thank you to Mrs. Julie Eldridge and Mrs. Brooke Clevenger for organizing this year's virtual contest.
 - ◆ Several grade levels held Thanksgiving activities to mimic the history of the holiday for their Social Studies lessons.
 - ◆ Thank you to Ashley Matheson and Kelly Harrison for facilitating lunch groups for students that focus on social, emotional, and behavioral health.
 - School Operations, Resources, and Learning Environment (CIP Goal #3)
 - ◆ The third grade students were rewarded with a treat from Kona Ice for their perseverance through the last month to complete state and gifted identification testing.
 - ◆ Congratulations to the November Trojans of the Month: Norah Gilbert, Nora Koenig, Ivan Rausch, Luke Wooten, Grant Pohlman, Harper Koerner, Victoria Hutchinson, Navie Moore, Nora Baumle, Kinley Leeper, Ben Noe, Kendall Hobbs, Tim Johnson, Skyler Urlage, William Schwartz, Aliyah Riffell, Evan Wilson, Jakob Harrison, Corbin McMillan, Halle Bennett, and Payton Chrysler. The students celebrated their award with a pizza party with Mrs. Pechie during lunch.
 - Collaboration (CIP Goal #4)
 - ◆ Thank you to the Stelvideo Grange for once again donating dictionaries to all third grade students through their Words for Thirds program.
 - ◆ Thank you to the Darke County Arts in Education for providing virtual links of programs for students to watch and learn about different performers and art forms due to assemblies being limited.
 - ◆ Thank you to the Ohio State Extension Office for continuing to provide our teachers with hands on science lessons and resources to continue learning about plants and animals.
 - Parents and Community Engagement (CIP Goals #5)
 - ◆ The PTO will once again be putting on our annual Santa Shop the week of December 7 for students to purchase gifts for their families. Thank you to Erin Tegtmeyer, Jill Etherington, and all the parents for volunteering their time to make this event possible.
 - ◆ Thank you to Mrs. Becky Hootman for planning and organizing the annual 3rd and 4th grade Christmas Concert. The students are practicing the performance of the Nutcracker, which will be recorded and a virtual link will be available for families to watch the week of December 20.

- **Middle School**

- Standard 1: Continuous Improvement – Principals help create a shared vision and clear goals for their schools and ensure continuous progress toward achieving the goals.
 - ◆ Congratulations to our November Students of the Month: *5th grade* – Laney Riffell & Roy Baumle; *6th grade* – Eliana Fessler & Henry Weiss; *7th grade* – Grace Psczulkoski & Cole Kessler; *8th grade* – Morgan Weaver & Dustin Williams
 - ◆ Congratulations to our T-Shirt Tuesday Winners: Jace Mote, Kaleb Kutter, Sapphire Marcum, Abigail Heatherly, and Kymmeri Joslin. Each of these students was nominated for exemplifying the character trait, *service*.
 - ◆ Congratulations to Moxon Gilpin, Madison Schwartz, Kaleb Kutter, and Austin Carlise, our quarter 1 Kona Ice Kids, who were provided with a free Kona Ice during lunch. These students were nominated by their teachers for showing true grit in the classroom.
 - ◆ Congratulations to all of our MS Spelling Bee contestants. This year 32 students competed against one another in a round by round competition. A special thank you to Emily Eilerman for organizing the event, Mr. Hootman for pronouncing, and Ashley Matheson and Kelly Harrison for judging. The following students finished in the top 3: *Champion*: 7th grader Grace Psczulkoski (winning word – hilarious, a fitting word for 2020); *Runner-Up*: 6th grader Hunter Eley; *Alternate*: 8th grader Mora Menzi
 - ◆ On Friday, November 6, students and staff participated in our Quarter 1 assembly. Students were recognized for achieving merit roll status, honor roll status, and staff recognized Q1 Growth Mindset winners. We also recognized outstanding fall athletic achievements and awarded the 5th graders the Spirit Shield.
- Standard 2: Instruction – Principals support the implementation of high-quality standards-based instruction that results in higher levels of achievement for all students.
 - ◆ Thank you to Mrs. Carroll and her Intro to FCCLA class for putting together a Crosswalk Safety video for all MS students. The National FCCLA was able to give seventy-five \$1000 grants out to the first 75 Ohio FCCLA chapters that applied and were willing to conduct a traffic safety project.
 - ◆ Mr. Grote's new Career Connections course finished up the first quarter by focusing on a project-based learning (PBL) assignment. Students focused on a career of their choice which resulted in PBL's centered on the following topics: Crime Scene Investigation, Agriculture, Education, Health Science, Architecture, Information Technology, and Photography. This hands-on course has been instrumental in guiding students in obtaining necessary information which will be helpful in assisting them in selecting college majors or careers in the future.
 - ◆ 6th graders in Mrs. Byers' science class recently completed their cell unit by creating edible cells. Students used various food items from their homes to create these cells in class. Students were then able to enjoy a "light snack" following the completion of the lab.
- Standard 3: School Operations, Resources, and Learning Environment – Principals allocate resources and manage school operations in order to ensure a safe and productive learning environment.
 - ◆ Arcanum-Butler Local held our monthly fire drill on Thursday, November 12. We were able to successfully evacuate the entire building in just over one minute and fifty-two seconds.
 - ◆ Thank you to Heather Marsh for putting together an outstanding MS band concert which provided parents the opportunity to hear the phenomenal sounds of our 6th grade and combined 7th and 8th grade bands.
 - ◆ On Wednesday, November 11, students across the district participated in recognizing Veteran's Day. Thanks to our HS Leadership Team, Roger McEldowney, and Jason Stephan for organizing a video tribute. In addition, MS and HS students placed yellow ribbons on their lockers with the names of any Veteran they personally knew as a way of honoring our Veterans. MS students also wrote thank you letters to the Dayton VA.
- Standard 4: Collaboration – Principals establish and sustain collaborative learning and shared leadership to promote learning and achievement of all students.
 - ◆ Middle School staff met on November 18 and December 2 to discuss topics such as the importance of maintaining accurate seating charts, the MS Spelling Bee, the Q1 movie

reward, the rolling closure plan, student progress monitoring, and RtI. This meeting time was essential in ensuring that the MS is able to operate as effectively as possible.

- ◆ On November 18, the District Leadership Team met to discuss various big picture items pertaining to the district. All building levels were represented and Superintendent John Stephens, provided all members with a summary of state funding proposals, the 5 Year Forecast, COVI-19 updates, and calendar planning (OTES 2.0, Professional Development, and In-Service).
- Standard 5: Parents and Community Engagement – Principals engage parents and community members in the educational process and create an environment where community resources support student learning, achievement and well-being.
 - ◆ The November 10 and November 12 parent teacher conference nights provided our staff and parents an opportunity to engage in conversation centered on student academic performance. Parents were provided the opportunity to attend in person or remotely. A special thanks to Lisa Parker for organizing these meetings.
 - ◆ The elementary and middle school recently partnered with SRL Insurance here in Arcanum to provide Thanksgiving meals to local families. Give Thanks was a program started last year by SRL where 200 meals were provided to those in the community in need. Their goal this year was 300 families! Give Thanks provided our elementary and middle school students and families with 33 home cooked Thanksgiving meals this past Wednesday, November 25.

• High School

- Goal #1 – Principals help create a shared vision and clear goals for their schools and ensure continuous progress toward achieving the goals.
 - ◆ Work has continued in regard to graduation and ensuring students are on track to graduate this year. Students will be able to use multiple methods for graduation so we hope to stay on track with all students graduating.
- Goal #2 – Principals support the implementation of high-quality standards based instruction that results in higher levels of achievement for all students.
 - ◆ On November 12, we had our parent teacher conferences for the high school. Overall attendance at our conferences was on par with previous years, but our communication with parents has increased overall this year. Our teachers have been encouraged to increase communication with parents prior to the parent teacher conferences. Our goal is to try and be very proactive with parents prior to the parent teacher conferences. Our goal is to try and be very proactive with parents and students. Our teachers have increased their phone calls home and their emails to parents to ensure that active communication is occurring between parents and the teacher. I also have teachers send home positive notes and phone calls each quarter.
- Goal #3 – Principals allocate resources and manage school operations in order to ensure a safe and productive learning environment.
 - ◆ I would like to thank Mrs. Brandon for working with Wright Patterson Air Force Base to provide career speakers for our students. Students were able to meet virtually with individuals in various career fields.
- Goal #4 – Principals establish and sustain collaborative learning and shared leadership to promote learning and achievement of all students.
 - ◆ We held our first Renaissance assembly for the year. Our Renaissance assemblies are used to promote the academic achievement of the students in our High School. Students were honored for the following: High Honors, Honors, Merit, Scholar Athlete, Best of the Best, and Trojan Awards. I would like to commend Mr. Matt Grote, Mrs. Lora Brandon, and Mrs. Sheryl Kramer for their assistance with this activity.
 - ◆ I want to commend Katherine Bourelle for organizing the FAFSA night for our parents. This event allowed parents to come in and work on their FAFSA with a college admission representative from Sinclair.
 - ◆ Mrs. Katherine Bourelle and I attended the Indiana East Scholarship virtual breakfast. By attending this event, Katherine and I received college scholarships that we can give to students who would like to attend Indiana University East.
 - ◆ The November Students of the Month were Madelyn Fearon and Blake Weaver.

- Goal #5 – Principals engage parents and community members in the educational process and create an environment where community resources support student learning, achievement and well-being.
 - ◆ I would like to commend Mrs. Marla Miller, Mr. Mike Henry, and the Arcanum High School Drama Club for an outstanding fall production.
 - ◆ In November, our Leadership Development students led our Veterans Day activities for the district. The group put together a video as well as created a sign that was placed on Main Street. The group also did activities at school to help recognize our veterans.
 - ◆ The Serve Arcanum committee has continued planning for this year's event. After the Christmas break we will continue distributing brochures about the event.

Adjourned at 8:34 p.m.