

February 23, 2021

Adoption of

Ms. Meriwether stated there are no changes to the non-public school as was presented by the superintendent at the last meeting.

Ms. Willerup: MOVE that the Board of Education adopt the 2021-22 Non-Public School budget in the amount of \$564,650 which represents an increase of \$13,267 or 2.4%.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

D. Adoption of 2021-22 Public School Budget

Ms. Meriwether stated there is positive news related to the 2021-22 budget. The insurance estimates came back favorable which reduces the budget by \$300,000. Additionally there is an additional retirement which provides \$25,000 in savings. COVID grant funds will be utilized to offset some technology replacement equipment expenses in the amount of \$166,000. These changes bring the budget increase down to 2.12% over last year.

Ms. Salina noted that the board had good conversation about the budget at the last board meeting and during the workshop. Ms. Willerup pointed out that no public comment has been received relative to the budget. She stated that it is a responsible, thoughtful budget that connects money with students. Mr. Burrick noted the amount of work that went into development of the budget.

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Board of Education adopt the 2021-22 Public School budget in the amount of \$73,845,930 which represents an increase of \$1,534,869 or 2.12%.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

E. Cancellation of March 9, 2021 Regular Meeting

Ms. Salina noted that the presentation of the BOE budget to the BOF is scheduled at this time.

Ms. Batchelar: MOVE to cancel the Board of Education meeting scheduled on March 9, 2021.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Squadron Line Program

Meg Evans, Squadron Line School Principal, stated that it has been a challenging year and she is proud of how all have risen to the occasion to meet student needs. She noted that the work to ensure students are global citizens started two years ago and incorporates the access and equity guiding principle for the district. Ms. Evans discussed how staff and students have access to equity resources through various mediums, noting that this is aligned with showcasing specific books in the school library.

2021-22 Non-Public School Budget

Adoption of 2021-22 Public School Budget

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Squadron Line Equity in Action

Ms. Evans stated that a professional development session was led by in-house experts and Deacon Art Miller

Jacqueline Petrella, Squadron Line School Assistant Principal, presented video feedback from faculty about their experiences, how they have influenced their instruction, and their own beliefs. Additionally she provided video of students' insights. Ms. Petrella explained the Black History Museum and showed examples of how different teachers are utilizing this format with their class to focus on specific African American individuals who have made significant contributions in society.

Ms. Thomas thanked Ms. Evans and Ms. Petrella for sharing the equity work at Squadron Line School and stated that it is important to hear what is happening in the schools. Ms. Salina and Ms. Willerup also gave thanks for the work being done in the school. Mr. Burrick asked about continuing this work throughout the year. Ms. Evans responded that during the remainder of the school year classes will look at the work of other classes in the Black History Museum, and the administration will seek reflections with teachers.

B. District Intervention

Ms. Lemke provided an overview of current instructional trends and challenges resulting from the COVID pandemic. She stated that some parts of the curriculum have been held back in order to prioritize some areas. There has been a focus on classroom based interventions, although mitigation strategies limit proximity and small group facilitation. Ms. Lemke stated the schools are keeping an eye on the stamina, engagement and school attendance of their students. She noted that some students may be taking shortcuts that could translate into skill deficiency. She stated that more students are presenting as academically at risk this year.

Ms. Lemke reviewed the STAR data at the elementary level. STAR assessments are around math and literacy. Although scores demonstrated growth from the fall to the winter, it is not as much growth as in the past. At HJMS the percent of students at or above the benchmark in the 8th grade cohort compared to last year has declined slightly.

Ms. Lemke noted that the STAR assessment is not an assessment given across grade levels at the high school. She presented performance data relative to the number of students academically at risk. These students are defined by having more than one D or F. Across grades this is an average of 18%. Mr. Tindall questioned what percentage of students historically fall into this category. Mr. Sullivan responded that typically 12-13% of students. Ms. Thomas asked how parents are informed if their student is struggling. Ms. Lemke responded that teachers reach out to parents if intervention is needed.

Ms. Lemke reviewed some of the ways the district has responded to student needs. The district has prioritized curriculum with learning targets and adjusted assessment timelines. There are robust data team conversations taking place. Social emotional learning is paramount. The district has transitioned the more at risk students to more in-person instruction.

Ms. Lemke reviewed how SHS is responding to at risk students. The ESTEEM Program provides parent training and behavioral support to increase participation

District
Intervention

and is available only to those in the Open Choice program. Sidewalk Chat is another program for Open Choice families which provides socially distanced in person conversations. The Remote Learning Center provides structured support for students to participate in classes virtually while in the building. Senior Sarong provides a structured study hall to complete assignments and assist with prioritizing needs to bring grades into passing range for seniors at risk. The Distance Learning Academy provides a change in schedule and programs for students who are struggling by offering distance only instruction for general education course in core subjects.

Ms. Lemke addressed steps going forward at the elementary level for struggling students. The Summer Academies small group instruction will continue to be offered and will be supplemented with grant funding. Instructional coaches will instruct more groups in the fall of 2021 as we rebuild that program. The addition of math tutors in the budget to account for more sections at each grade level in the fall of 2021.

Ms. Lemke addressed next steps at the secondary level for struggling students. These include the modification of summer intervention structures for HJMS and SHS based upon current intervention effectiveness, development of further classroom-based interventions for 2021-22, and embedding markers into the secondary curriculum that address social and emotional learning.

Ms. Lemke reviewed the cost estimates for these intervention programs which total approximately \$150,000. She noted these programs will be funded through the ESSER grant and possibly some Title 1 funds.

Ms. Willerup stated she is impressed with the amount of information and planning that has already been done in February. Ms. Salina suggested a keep/stop/change process be utilized relative to which interventions have been implemented during the pandemic.

C. Policy Second Reading

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the four policies with revisions that will be brought forward for a vote at the next board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to enter Executive Session at 8:11 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

Jennifer Batchelar
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

Policy Second
Reading

Executive
Session

Adjournment

