

Aberdeen School District No. 5
Summary of School Board of Directors Meeting
September 21, 2021

President Sandra Bielski convened the regular meeting of the Aberdeen School District Board of Directors at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 21, 2021, via webinar following guidance for conducting remote meetings in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Directors present were Bill Dyer, Jessica Jurasin and Suzy Ritter, along with student representative Austin Stucky, Superintendent Alicia Henderson and 24 patrons and staff watching remotely.

The meeting began with the Flag salute.

Minutes, Bills, Trips & Gifts

The board approved the Consent Agenda, which included:

- The minutes from the regular meeting on September 7, 2021;
- Payroll vouchers totaling \$3,876,888.13;
- General Fund vouchers totaling \$1,363,787.08;
- ASB Fund vouchers totaling \$21,318.16, and
- Private Purpose Trust Fund vouchers totaling \$9,700.00.

Comments from Board members

The Board discussed the meeting format and whether to resume in-person meetings. After discussion, given the high rate of transmission, the enormous effort taking place to keep schools open and safe for students and staff, the fact that buildings are still not fully accessible to the public, it was decided to remain remote at this time.

President Sandra Bielski provided an update on the superintendent search. She reported that the advertisement seeking proposals from search consultants is placed and the deadline for proposals is October 12.

Introduction of Student Representatives

New student representative, Austin Stucky, was introduced. Also appointed is Alexis Durr, who will join the board at its next meeting. Both are seniors at Aberdeen High School.

Comments from the Public

Kala Winter provided comment via email regarding in-person meetings.

Old Business

Excused and Unexcused Absences

The board approved an update to Policy 3122 – Excused and Unexcused Absences.

Superintendent's Report

Instructional Program: Superintendent Henderson praised staff throughout the district for operating school as smoothly as possible despite the ongoing COVID-related disruptions.

Health & Safety: Superintendent Henderson described the enormity of the task undertaken by staff to implement health and safety protocols when a positive COVID case is reported. More impactful than the positive case, she said, is the contact tracing, notifications and quarantining of close contacts. The substitute pool is depleted every day, and staffing is stretched thin, she said, with many people taking on alternative assignments to cover for absent staff members. She noted that the football team had a positive case and the decision was made to cancel the game out of an abundance of caution. In addition, because of the rate of transmission is currently very high, homecoming activities have been postponed to spring.

Superintendent Henderson also noted that the Transportation Department is impacted by absences and it's possible routes may need to be adjusted or routes closest to a school could be paused.

The Health Department continues to clarify and refine guidance for the operation of schools, she said, and additional testing options are being made available.

Teaching and Learning

Highly Capable Report

Following a presentation by Principal Bryan McKinney, the Board approved the 2021-2022 plan for the Highly Capable Program.

Financial Services

Fiscal Status Report: Executive Director of Business and Operations Elyssa Louderback presented the Fiscal Status Report for August.

New Business

Policy 3432 – Emergencies

The Board accepted for first reading an update to Policy 3432 – Emergencies, which was last updated in 2007.

Special Services Contract

The Board approved a contract with Maxim Health Care Staffing Services to place contracted staff in the district as needed.

HELLO Foundation

The Board approved two addendums for contracted school psychologists allowing additional billable hours for Jennifer Cockrell and Autumn Schreiber.

Resolution 2021-09 Emergency Authority

The Board approved a resolution giving Superintendent Alicia Henderson emergency authority to authorize placement of qualified, contracted employees in the district to address staffing shortages in 2021-2022.

Personnel Matters

The Board approved the Personnel Report and the 2021-2022 salary schedules for Maintenance and Operations and Food and Transportation.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for 5 p.m. Tuesday, October 5, via webinar.