

BOARD OF EDUCATION
The School District of Independence

12384

The Board of Education met in regular session Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Board of Education Office, 201 North Forest Avenue, Independence, Missouri.

Members Present: Mr. Eric Knipp, President
Mr. Blake Roberson, Vice President
Mrs. Carrie Dixon, Treasurer
Mrs. Jill Esry, Director
Mr. Greg Finke, Director
Mrs. Denise Fears, Director
Mr. Anthony J. Mondaine, Director

Also Present: Dr. Dale Herl, Superintendent
Dr. Lance Stout, Dr. Cindy Grant, Dr. Randy Maglinger, Dr. Anthony Robinson, Mr. Dean Katt, Mrs. Leslie Hochsprung, Mrs. Megan Murphy, Mrs. Sherry Potter, Mr. Todd Theen, Mr. Salum Stutzer, INEA, PTA, interested patrons, reporters, staff, and Ms. Annette Miller.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Eric Knipp, and minutes of the meeting were recorded by the secretary, Ms. Annette Miller. Mr. Knipp welcomed those in attendance.

Denise Fears made the motion to approve the October 11, 2022 Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Blake Roberson and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Mr. Knipp said that a patron had requested to address the Board of Education this evening. He read Policy 0412 regarding the process when addressing the Board of Education.

Jennifer Clark, 18804 Hanthorn Drive, Independence 64057. She talked about their son and his diagnosis that requires special assistance. He attended early childhood education at Hanthorn School and transitioned well into kindergarten but he struggled with transitioning to Summer School the following summer. She stated that they struggled everyday as the child care was not structured well. Mrs. Clark said he had difficulty this year adjusting to school and suffered anxiety attacks and displayed negative behaviors. She said the school staff has gone above and beyond in providing services. She expressed concerns of special needs students transitioning to a four day instructional week from the current five day school week. She said it is important that the School District focus on services for special needs students when considering the exploration of the four day school week

Mr. Knipp thanked Mrs. Clark for her presentation regarding her concerns and suggestions to the Board of Education this evening.

Dr. Herl said bills total is 15,855,809.76 as compared to last year which was just under 18.3 million due to capital projects and the Bond Issue projects.

Jill Esry made the motion that the Board of Education approves the October 11, 2022 Consent Agenda as printed.

1. Minutes – September 13, 2022
2. Approval of October 11, 2022 List of Bills totaling \$15,855,809.76

The motion was seconded by Anthony J. Mondaine and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Herl shared information on several issues: 1) The Children Services Fund was approved in 2016 through voter approval of a 1/8 cent sales tax designated for improving mental health and social emotional well-being. The District has been receiving funds for six years which has allowed the District to provide additional Family School Liaisons and Spanish speaking case managers. The tax issue is coming up for a renewal vote. The Independence School District does not take a position on ballot items. 2) Four day instructional week – the calendar committee has met twice with over 30 members. He said that 4 and 5 day calendars will be proposed at this time. At the November Board of Education meeting, both calendars will be presented for the Board's consideration. He said that the fifth day could offer college classes, Saturday School for students needing extra tutoring, and providing child care options. He said three surveys were sent out to: students, parents, and staff. A reminder e-mail was sent out to parents and staff that the surveys close on Wednesday, October 12. 3) The special Legislative session in Jefferson City approved the income tax drop to 4.9% with triggers and additional revenue cuts could occur. Dr. Herl said that school districts are the number one expense in the state. Currently, the State has a cash a balance of approximately \$4.5 billion largest surplus in the history. He said that at some point the cash balance will be depleted and then spending cuts will occur if additional revenue is not accessible. Dr. Herl said he anticipates

bringing these options to the Board of Education at their November 8th meeting. He also said there is still a lot of planning to do in regards to the 4 day instructional week exploration

Several items under New Business were presented for the Board of Education's consideration.

Mr. Stutzer shared information on the remaining Bond Issue projects. He said the projects are still being impacted by supply chain issues. Storage facilities - Nowlin site phase 1 and phase 2 on the west end are completed and forms are in place for concrete work. The Van Horn cafeteria expansion work has wrapped up exterior work which has added 3,000 square feet in this expansion. Randall - The front office remodel is completed as well as an additional storage facility was constructed at the building. Hanthorn - The new front office renovation and staff work space is completed as well as an ADA restroom. Mill Creek - The new office area, constructed on the original stage of the all purpose room, is completed.

Dr. Patti White, Director of Head Start, shared an overview of the District's Early Education Programs. She quoted Bill Gates "The first five years have so much to do with the next 80 years." The goals are to serve children birth to 5 years in high quality settings, continue to support curriculum alignment Pre-K through 12th grade, provide early education sites to support the feeder system, and continue to access funding through the Foundation Formula. She explained the difference of Head Start Funding and Foundation Funding. Head Start funds are federal dollars that flow through a grantee (Mid-America Regional Council) and have additional requirements. Foundation Formula fund is through State dollars and has more flexibility in decision-making. She explained that some parents also qualify for the Child Care Reimbursement plan that helps cover costs. Dr. White provided a breakdown of which programs (Early Head Start, Head Start, Foundation Formula, and Child Care Reimbursement) are at each of the schools. She said that the Missouri Parents As Teachers Program is a curriculum partner and Early Education has four parent educators. Dr. White said the Early Education Program is still receiving enrolment requests.

Dr. Herl said the Administration is recommending approval of the Bank Services Extension with Commerce Bank through June 30, 2023. He said the District will put an RFP for Banking Services out for the 2023-2024 year.

The motion was made by Carrie Dixon that the Board of Education approves extending the Commerce Bank agreement for depository and other banking services through June 30, 2023. The motion was seconded by Denise Fears and approved by the Board of Education as follows: (Page 12386)

Ayes: Eric Knipp	Abstain: Blake Roberson
Carrie Dixon	Greg Finke
Jill Esry	
Denise Fears	
Anthony J. Mondaine	

Dr. Herl explained that the District is needing to purchase more Chromebooks due to additional needs. He said the middle and high schools are up almost 200 students and Glendale, Mill Creek, and Sycamore Hills Elementary Schools have requested additional carts of Chromebooks. He said the District has a policy regarding breakage and a company that takes care of disposals.

The motion was made by Greg Finke that the Board of Education approves the purchase of 500 new Chromebooks through the quote from CDW under the Education Plus (Missouri Schools) (022-G) contract for a total cost of \$140,770.00. The motion was seconded by Blake Roberson and unanimously approved by the Board of Education

There being no further information to come before the Board of Education, Jill Esry made the motion, second by Denise Fears, to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session for legal, real estate, and personnel issues at 6:54 p.m. The motion was approved as follows:

Ayes: Eric Knipp	Nays:
Blake Roberson	
Carrie Dixon	
Jill Esry	
Denise Fears	
Greg Finke	
Anthony J. Mondaine	


Secretary


President



October 5, 2022

Molly Johnson, Chief Financial Officer
 Independence School District
 201 N. Forest Avenue
 Independence, MO 64050

Dear Ms. Johnson:

The purpose of this letter is to extend Commerce Bank's contract pricing through June 30, 2023.

The only changes will be to the Earnings Credit Rate. Commerce Bank will increase the Earnings Credit Rate for Independence School District from their current 0.30% to 0.50% through June 30, 2023.

All other terms and conditions of the original agreement which began September 1, 2014, remain unchanged. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 816-760-1502 or by email at trevor.wescott@commercebank.com.

Commerce Bank appreciates the opportunity to continue our partnership with Independence School District for an additional year.

Sincerely,

Trevor Wescott
 Business Banking Relationship Manager
 905 SE Third Street
 Lee's Summit, MO 64063

Independence School District

By: _____

Signature and Date

Title: _____

Superintendent

Commerce Bank

By: _____

Signature

Title: _____

BUSINESS BANKING RELATIONSHIP
 MANAGER

BOARD OF EDUCATION
The School District of Independence

The Board of Education met in a special session Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. at Three Trails Camp and Retreat Center, 16200 East U.S. 40 Highway, Kansas City, Missouri 64136.

Members Present: Mr. Eric Knipp, President
Mr. Blake Roberson, Vice President
Mrs. Carrie Dixon, Treasurer
Mrs. Jill Esry, Director
Mr. Greg Finke, Director
Mrs. Denise Fears, Director

Member Absent: Mr. Anthony J. Mondaine

Also Present: Dr. Dale Herl, Superintendent
Dr. Cindy Grant and Ms. Annette Miller.

Mr. Knipp stated the purpose of this meeting was for a Board of Education Retreat and minutes of the meeting were recorded by the secretary, Ms. Annette Miller.

Several presentations were made,

Mr. Brad Black and Dr. Jim Finley with *Humanex Ventures* presented a team building session.

Mr. Black shared information from a survey that Board members participated in which provided a composite report for each member. This measured the team's chemistry through relationships, performance, values, and engagements.

Dr. Jim Finley reviewed the Board of Education's Goals, Norms and Ethics statements. He said that a Board member is impacted daily through being engaged in District business, continuously learning about educational changes, staying informed on academic and career learning, and improving skills and knowledge as a Board member through ongoing training.

Mr. Anthony J. Mondaine joined the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Jon Turner, Missouri State University Professor, shared information on the *Four Day instructional Week*.

Dr. Turner presented a slide program showing over 140 Missouri schools districts (mostly rural) that have been utilizing the four day instructional week for several years. Other states using the four day week include Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Oregon, Montana, etc. He discussed the pros and cons of the program and that school districts focus for the four day week is to save money and/or to retain staff. He pointed out how school districts utilize the fifth day by providing additional professional development for staff and incentive/academic programs for students.

Mr. Drew Marriott, EdCounsel Law Firm, shared information pertaining to legal issues: Board of Education Policy/Regulation changes due to state and federal statutes, book challenges (SB 775), dealing with disruptive parents/patrons, and protection of pupil rights. .

There being no further information to come before the Board of Education, Jill Esry made the motion, second by Greg Finke, to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session for personnel issues at 4:05 p.m. The motion was approved as follows:

Ayes:	Eric Knipp Blake Roberson Carrie Dixon Jill Esry Denise Fears Greg Finke Anthony J. Mondaine	Nays:	
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Secretary

President

