

The Board of Education met in regular session Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 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
Mrs. Carrie Dixon, Treasurer
Mrs. Jill Esry, Director
Mr. Greg Finke, Director
Mrs. Denise Fears, Director
Mr. Anthony J. Mondaine, Director

Member by Phone: Mr. Blake Roberson, Vice President

Also Present: Dr. Dale Herl, Superintendent
Dr. Lance Stout, Dr. Cindy Grant, Dr. Randy Maglinger, Dr. Pam Boatright,
Dr. Anthony Robinson, Mr. Dean Katt, Mrs. Leslie Hochsprung, Mrs.
Sherry Potter, Mr. Todd Theen, Mr. Greg McGhee, MSTA, INEA,
interested patrons, 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 10, 2023 Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Jill Esry and was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Mr. Knipp said there were no requests to address the Board of Education this evening.

Dr. Herl reported that the List of Bills for the month of October is \$8,780,044.68 which is about typical for the month of October.

Carrie Dixon made the motion that the Board of Education approves the October 10, 2023 Consent Agenda as presented:

1. Minutes – September 12 and 25, 2023
2. Approval of October 10, 2023 List of Bills totaling \$8,780,044.68
3. Approval of Personnel Recommendation #7
 - A. Request to Retire (Certificated Staff) Effective End of the 2023-2024 School Year.
 1. Amanda Adkins, English/William Chrisman High School
 - B. Request to Hire (Certificated Staff) Effective Second Semester of the 2023-2024 School Year.
 1. Abigail Walters, Special Education Teacher

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

Dr. Herl reported that the first quarter ends on Thursday. He said that teacher absences are down 15% and the failure to fill (when staff is out) is down over 20%. Student aggregate attendance is up from 92.61% last year to 93.13% this year and MSIP attendance for 2023 is 83.04% compared to 79.58% for 2022. Dr. Herl reported that the School District received a Safety Grant of \$350,000 which will be used to upgrade various safety features like panic buttons, etc. He stated that the District is starting to pre-hire for teaching positions for next year. He also talked about the Raptor Program, a safety program (works on mobile phones) that will be part of the District's Emergency Preparedness Plan and training sessions for staff are being scheduled. This safety program will expand to the visitor verification system also. He reported that the District is still experiencing difficulty filling bus driver positions.

Several new business items were presented for the Board of Education's consideration.

Mr. Greg McGhee, Facilities Director, shared an update (including a slide presentation) on several Bond Issue projects. Three Trails Elementary School's cafeteria and special education classroom have been reconfigured. The teacher work room, main office, office area for traveling staff, the speech room, and the art room have all been renovated; the gymnasium has new lights, wall pads, drop down screen/projector, and the library was moved and renovated. Van Horn High School renovations include updating the corridor coming into the school, auditorium stage area, sound booth installed last week, dressing room renovations, rigging/curtain systems, but it was not necessary to replace the original stage. Christian Ott Elementary School's boiler system was replaced. Truman High School's track has been striped. Jim Bridger Middle School's track has been completed, Mr. McGhee

reported the District replaced 109 roof top HVAC units this summer and additional support beams had to be installed at George Caleb Bingham Middle School due to the weight of the units.

Laurie Cadwell, AVID Coordinator, provided information on the Advancement Via Individual Determination Program. She said there are three programs that help prepare students for the future: Leader in Me at the elementary level; the Career Academies at the high school level; and AVID at the middle school level. Mrs. Cadwell said that the AVID program is the perfect bridge between the two other levels. AVID is meant to help students prepare themselves for anything. She gave a timeline of the progression of AVID since its beginning in the School District in 2018. She said that AVID's mission is "to close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college and career readiness and success in a global society." Mrs. Cadwell said that WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading) ties in with Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) Goal 1.3. She shared how students are taught to take notes, basic organizational skills, practice reading, participate in interviews, and mock trials, etc. She said that students get to visit various sites like Herndon Vo-Tech, Metropolitan Community Colleges, and University of Central Missouri Center. Mrs. Cadwell talked about how staff are trained in the AVID Program and introduced the site coordinators for the four middle schools: Jim Bridger Middle School – Amanda Layman; George Caleb Bingham Middle School - Megan Minnis; Nowlin Middle School - Dr. Janna Martinez; and Pioneer Ridge Middle School – Diana Casebolt. Mrs. Cadwell said they are the instructional leaders and model the AVID strategies to the other classroom teachers. She expressed appreciation to the Board of Education and the Administration for their support of the AVID Program.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, Greg Finke made the motion, second by Carrie Dixon, to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session for legal §610.021(1), RSMo, real estate §610.021(2), and personnel §610.021(3), RSMo issues at 6:40 p.m. The motion was approved as follows

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

Absent: Blake Roberson


Secretary


President