Cochrane-Fountain City School District Board Meeting in Committee September 11, 2023

Call to Order

Don Baloun called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the high school board room #335. Board members present were Don Baloun, Larry Cyrus, Lynn Doelle, Darrin Dillinger, Allen Bollinger, Niki Secrist, and Michael Ayala. Also present were Troy White and Tom Hiebert.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Mission Statement was read by Don Baloun.

Don Baloun attested to the publication of the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

Allen Bollinger made a motion to approve the agenda. Lynn Doelle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Information Items

Policy 491 and 491-Rule

Troy explained the policy and rule pertaining to children of divorced and separated parents. The policy and rule were recommended by the WASB. The policy and rule will be voted upon at the regular meeting.

Open house information

Troy and some board members shared that open house was well attended. The bussing with new routes was handled well. Thank you to Karen Pehler and the office staff for an organized and efficient process.

Start of school update

Troy shared that the first days of school were great, lots of smiling faces and excitement. However, starting with a five-day week would not be recommended in the future as students and staff struggled with the full week. Troy also shared a bill is being proposed to allow schools to start as early as the Monday prior to Labor Day with the Friday before Labor Day designated as a non-instructional day to accommodate travel plans taken over the holiday weekend.

Action Teams update

Troy explained the 4 groups progress.

- 1. ES Portrait of a Pirate Have established social-emotional indicators about character. Staff have dedicated 15 minutes daily to teaching and will be measuring these for the report card. They have started shout out Fridays and a lunch bunch to meet with Ms. McKay.
- 2. MTSS (Multi-Tier Systems of Support) Creating a capacity of staff and services to support students. Created a flow chart of these supports and services. Started to identify the specific content within the portrait of a pirate.
- 3. JH/HS Portrait of a Pirate Established benchmarks per grade level. Identified 3 pillars being attendance, GPA, and co-curricular involvement that should be non-negotiable for all students with the other benchmarks being career or college path. Looking to create and report by the semester the indicators for each grade with a video for students and parents to view explaining the portrait of a pirate.
- 4. JH/HS engagement and expectations The rules were laid out to students, staff and parents that focused on cell phones in caddies during class, dress code enforcement, and staff being consistent with enforcement. Students struggled with the first week but have started setting into the rules.

Discussion Items

School Board conference attendance

Larry Cyrus will attend the fall conference including the pre-conference at G-E-T on October 5th. Micheal Ayala, Don Baloun, Lynn Doelle, Larry Cyrus, and Troy White will attend the State conference in Milwaukee January 17-19.

• School Board ad-hoc Committees

- Human Resources

Committee meetings are to provide the principals direct contact with the school board for any concerns that arise they feel cannot be or have not been addressed by the superintendent. Agendas will be posted. Darrin and Nicki will represent the board on this ad-hoc committee.

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Head Start Partnership

This committee was tabled until the cooperative agreement with WDEOC has been reached.

Cooperative agreement with Western Dairyland Economic Opportunity Council

Don and Troy attended a meeting with the three board members from WDEOC. It was shared that Head Start students are continuing as always in the building, the new space is working with the twelve 4-year-olds and eight 3-year-olds. It was shared that if other families need care that the district has room for them at no cost if they qualify for Head Start. The cooperative agreement is close to being agreed upon but in draft form due to referencing the memorandum of understanding versus including it. Niki was concerned that the board wasn't informed about a meeting taking place and felt a bit blindsided that an agreement is being presented without the board being prepared. Don responded that the board discussed reaching out to Head Start. Troy explained that the agreement was in draft form and not ready to be shared yet. He also needs to move the discussion with Head Start back to the superintendent level respecting the roles of both the superintendent and the board.

• Front entrance remodel and septic system issues

Troy shared the wood in the front entrance is rotting and maintenance has started to work on repairs. The septic systems have recently been struggling and the board should be aware that the septic system may need to be moved up on the timeline of repairs. This could include the possible use of fund balance and/or Fund 46.

• School Events/School Pride (National Anthem, Announcing etc.)

Niki expressed her praise on the increased involvement and school pride being displayed, stating we have come a long way in a year. She also asked if we could work on the National Anthem and announcing so they don't detract from the enthusiasm created. Troy explained Mr. Nelson has rectified the playing of the anthem and has been working with Mrs. Feltz on recording our students singing the anthem. There is also discussion about having students sing the anthem as well as a goal to have a pep band ready for the final home football game.

Closed session and open meeting reminders

Troy explained the laws and regulations are posted on the WASB website with link on the district website under the school board heading. Troy also explained that there may be some doubts about meetings that have taken place and explained he has been in contact with Ben Richter, a legal counselor from the WASB, Jon Bales, the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators Executive Director, and Dean Dietrich, the district's attorney. They all agree that our closed session meetings were legal but could be more specific in their description. Troy explained that any scheduled meetings that may come close to the definition of a "meeting" will be posted to eliminate any doubts going forward.

Future Agenda Items

District savings
2022-2023 Preliminary Actuals
2023-2024 Preliminary Budget

Review Timelines and Items for Future Board Agendas and Meetings.

Wednesday	September 20 th , 2023	Regular Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Monday	October 2 nd , 2023	Committee of the Whole	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	October 18 th , 2023	Regular Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Monday	October 23 rd , 2022	Budget Hearing & Annual Meeting	6:00 p.m.

Special Board Meeting Immediately following the Annual Meeting

Adjourn

Darrin Dillinger made a motion to adjourn the committee meeting. Michael Ayala seconded the motion. Motion carried at 7:18 p.m.