

Unofficial Minutes
MUSCATINE SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION
October 24, 2022

The Board of Education of the Muscatine Community School District, in the County of Muscatine, State of Iowa, met in a work session on Monday, October 24, 2022, at 6:05 p.m. at the Muscatine Community School District Administration Center, 2900 Mulberry Avenue. The Work Session was held in the Muskie Conference Room. President John Dabeet called the meeting to order. Directors Matt Conard, Karen Cooney, Ken LaRue, Mike Morgan, Lindsey Phillips, and Denny Schuur were present. Also present was Superintendent Clint Christopher.

Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, Joelle McConnaha introduced the ELA Adoption Team; Hannah Mackey, Randy Guerra, Shawn Larson-Walgren and Mackenzie Strouf and gave a brief background of the work being done on priorities and standards. Hannah Mackey explained the extensive process and phases of curriculum adoption and noted that during the Prepare Phase all teachers were invited to be involved in the Oversight or Selection Committee. The team has completed the first phase (preparation) and is currently working in the research phase. When evaluating materials the Oversight Committee was looking for; alignment with the standards, the usability, the text complexity, the student supports being offered in the program, teacher supports, the types of assessments, the foundational skills (in the lower grades) and the building knowledge component. Curriculum materials were evaluated using a rubric focusing on alignment to core standards, available support, and knowledge base. The selection committee will be meeting with representatives from each of the programs to review the curriculum materials. The materials will be available for teachers to review as well. The next step will be piloting the two programs the selection committee chooses. McKinley, Madison, Franklin, SCJH and MHS will pilot each program for six weeks. The committee is hoping to bring the final selection to the board in May.

Superintendent Christopher introduced Lee Marbach from Russell Construction to give a facilities update to the board. Mr. Marbach explained that he is the Project Executive from Russell Construction and that he will be working with the district on all of our construction projects. Mr. Marbach reviewed the timeline of each project from bid dates to construction dates including; softball/baseball complex, Grant & Madison and Susan Clark secure entrances, Jefferson addition, MHS wrestling room, SCJH and athletic building, Central improvements and demolition of the classroom space, and the MHS wrestling room and tennis courts. Superintendent Christopher added that this is a draft schedule and some of the schedule is determined by when the work can be done and when the construction firms are available to do the work. Superintendent Christopher also noted these renderings are preliminary, and adjustments may be made as we go along.

The board discussed the need for a delegate from Muscatine for the IASB (Iowa Association of School Boards) Convention in November. Director Phillips volunteered to be the delegate for Muscatine.

Superintendent Christopher said the last time the district gave a retirement incentive was in 2020, noting this is a great benefit, but not a guaranteed benefit. Superintendent Christopher shared some of the reasons to consider offering a retirement incentive. Early retirement incentive is good for morale, staff appreciate the offer, and there is a cost savings by bringing in newer teachers at a lower salary. Adding with declining enrollment and the ESSER funds ending, we may need to look for ways to cut costs. The challenge right now is finding teachers. Jaime Kroeger, Director of Human Resources and

Equity shared that we are working to bring in teachers mid-year and recruiting December & January graduates. Superintendent Christopher asked the board to think about the criteria for the retirement incentive including the number of years of service. The board could consider fifteen or twenty years. The district will have something ready for the board to review at the November meeting. Eligible staff would have the incentive information and could make a decision in December. Submission for retirement due in December, allows for the district to recruit. The board discussed recruiting new teachers, covering open positions and the need for substitute teachers. Director Kroeger pointed out that we can only offer contracts to substitutes that have a current teaching license.

Superintendent Christopher gave an update of the 2022 Certified Enrollment, noting that we are down about twenty-nine students, which is less than the projected fifty students and one of the lowest numbers in the last six years. Superintendent Christopher said that the number of students who open-enroll out is a little bigger this year, adding that the state guidelines for Open Enrollment have changed. There is no longer a deadline for students who want to open-enroll into another district. The number of live births in Muscatine is down by about ninety. Typically, the number of graduates is higher than the number of live births. The district will continue to monitor enrollment.

A motion was made by Director Morgan and seconded by Director Schuur to go into closed session per Iowa Code section 21.5(i) for the purpose of the superintendent's evaluation. Roll call: Ayes: Directors Conard, Cooney, Dabeet, LaRue, Morgan, Phillips, Schuur. There were no nays. Motion carried. Time: 8:05 p.m.

A motion was made by Director Conard and seconded by Director Schuur to return to open session. Roll call: Ayes: Director Conard, Cooney, Dabeet, LaRue, Morgan, Phillips, Schuur. There were no nays. Motion carried. Time: 9:02 p.m.

A motion was made by Director Phillips and seconded by Director Morgan to adjourn the meeting. All ayes; motion carried. Time: 9:04 p.m.

John Dabeet, President

Daphne J. Donald, Secretary