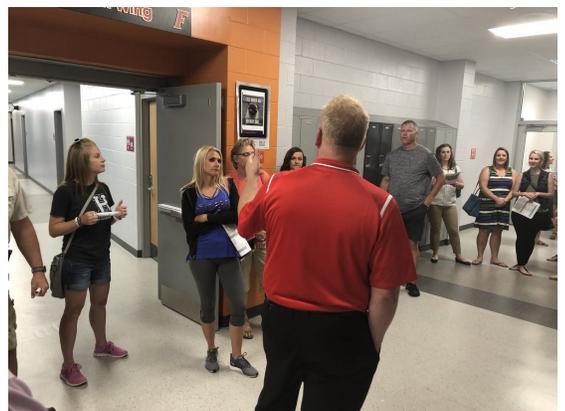


Board of Education meeting highlights: June 21, 2018

- Junior School handbook - Assistant Superintendent Corinne Hayes shared the current edition of the Junior School, handbook, noting updated language, inclusion of new policies for use of technology and the Internet and State changes to attendance standards.
- State test scores - Crosby Elementary was the only school to hit all of their indicators on the spring State tests. Assistant Superintendent Hayes noted that she looks at the scoring trends and how the district and each school is doing over the long-term for continuing improvement. Individual school strategic plans have been created to address the specific shortfalls on the indicators. She shared that, for the first time all components of the spring state tests were graded by machine, including the writing section. One concern is the rigid grading of the writing section, with some students receiving a zero if they incorporate too much of the question into their written answer. Ms. Hayes will continue to monitor feedback to the state and if any changes to the testing and scoring will be considered.
- Shawn and Misty Sowders update - Superintendent John Hamstra shared the various ways in which the district and community are supporting the family, who recently lost their home due to a house fire. He shared the family's appreciation for all the support that has been shown.
- Facilities update - About 60 people toured two Fairfield schools last week, accompanied by representatives from SHP. Members of the Middle School and Elementary School Design teams, along with general public, toured the Fairfield Freshman School and Compass Elementary. Future tours are being scheduled; dates will be shared once confirmed.
- "State of the Schools" - This inaugural event will be held Tuesday, August 7 at 7 p.m. at the Activity Center. This fun, informative event will feature entertainment by the high school band plus updates on technology and curriculum, district finances, and progress on the four new schools and high school renovation. Parents, students, and the general public are encouraged to attend.
- Elementary Safety Resource Officer - Superintendent Hamstra shared that adding an elementary SRO is being considered. This position would be shared among the elementary schools, at each approximately one day a week. More research and discussion is needed and will be shared with the Board.
- Trees by the high school tennis courts - Superintendent Hamstra noted that the trees by the tennis court are scheduled to be removed beginning next week. This is a



About 60 people toured several Fairfield City Schools in early June as a way to generate ideas for SLSD's facilities for the future.



necessity as the trees are destroying the courts and the falling acorns and leaves make the surface unsafe for players.

- 2018-2019 School Year Student Fees - The Board considered new fees for the upcoming school year. General fee for elementary students is \$50, with an additional instrument use fee of \$50 for students who use a district owned band instrument. Junior School and high school fees vary by subject. There is a general technology increase of \$5 per secondary student, which will provide students a sturdier case for the laptops as compared with the cases used last year. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunches have their student fees waived, with a reduction of the AP fee. The Board voted to accept the fees as presented.
- Parent survey results - More than 582 responses from parents were received, reflecting a 15% response rate. Overall, the responses were favorable. In the school climate section, the average score was 3.87 on a scale of 4; major themes were safety, bullying, and the desire for high school busing. In the curriculum and instruction section, the average score was 3.99; common themes were to remove common core and to reduce state testing, the inconsistency of homework among classes and grade levels and the use of technology. In the communication section, the average score was 4.01; major themes were inconsistency of Progress Book updates and the need for more timely information from the schools and teachers. Results will be shared with parents through district publications. The Board discussed the survey findings, especially the need for educating parents and students about bullying—what it is and isn't and what the school can do to help prevent bullying. It was noted that if something happens outside of the school day, such as on social media, it is not really a school-related issue.
- Resolution to suspend classified staff contracts - Due to the district's budget cuts, a resolution to suspend the classified staff contracts was discussed and approved by the Board. During the general public comments portion of the meeting, local businessman Al Schlemmer questioned the reasoning behind the reduction in force of the maintenance personnel. Superintendent Hamstra responded that the cuts to personnel were done for budget reasons and that outsourcing the work is expected to save the district significant dollars.
- New Whitewater Elementary School principal - The Board voted to approve Mia Neckel as the new principal at Whitewater Valley Elementary School. Ms. Neckel thanked the Board, the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for their past support and this new opportunity.
- Sports Medicine Services agreement - The Board discussed and voted to approve the Sports Medicine Service agreement between the high and junior schools and Mercy Health-West Hospital LLC. Superintendent Hamstra shared that the district is very pleased and excited to continue our partnership with Mercy Health.
- Resolution No. 16-2018 - The Board discussed and voted to approve the construction manager at risk (CMR) agreement with Skanska for the construction project for the four new schools and renovation of the high school.



The Board of Education approved Mia Neckel as the new principal of Whitewater Valley Elementary School.