

Board of Education meeting highlights: July 19, 2018

- HOSA annual leadership conference - Assistant Superintendent Corinne Hayes shared an update on the recent success of the high school's HOSA team at the recent International Leadership Conference that was held in Dallas. Qualifying for this level of competition alone is remarkable as these students placed in the top 3 for the State of Ohio to advance. At the national level, competition is greatly intensified as these are the top students of every state in the nation including Canada and US territories. Congratulations to freshmen Emily Davis and Kennedy Ashley, who presented their Community Awareness project on Chiari Malformation and were chosen as national finalists marking the first time Harrison HOSA has had a top 10 competitor at the national level. Congratulations also to senior Justin Mohr, who completed the pharmacology knowledge test, and junior Hayley Harmon, who completed the nutrition knowledge test. Both did extremely well falling just short of the top 10 for recognition.
- Facilities for the Future updates - Superintendent John C. Hamstra shared an update on facilities for the future, noting that the slight pause in funding from the State is now over, with the next organizational meeting to be held August 1. Another meeting will be held August 3, focusing on eco-charrette measures—that is, ways to make the new schools environmentally friendly and energy efficient. At the August 16 Board of Education meeting, the decision to include a storm shelter in the school plans will be discussed and voted upon; previously, this was a State mandate, but has recently changed to allow for local schools districts to determine whether or not to include the shelters. Superintendent Hamstra is monitoring other potential changes to the regulation, and will discuss with the design teams so that a recommendation may be made to the Board. Other discussion points were the use of courtyards and if 2 or 3 floors is preferred. The design teams will continue meeting to discuss advantages of different configurations. Treasurer Thomas Lowe and Director of Operations Adam Lohbeck are talking with representatives of Great Parks of Hamilton County regarding a parcel of land on Baughman Road which would be helpful in construction of the new northern elementary school; the advantage to the district is that it would reduce utility costs.
- The former Hooven Elementary School site - The sale process continues, with the district providing some final information as requested by the purchaser related to the deed.
- Board Policy update—Treasurer Thomas Lowe asked for several Board members to assist with a review of current policies to ensure they are aligned with State standards and reflective of current operations. This committee will work with Lowe and the OSBA to update policies, with final recommendations to be brought to the full Board for approval.
- District's financial situation—Lowe noted that although the district is doing great to provide quality education with a low cost, as compared with similar school districts, that we still operate in deficit funding. He noted that the five-year forecast indicates that the district faces additional cuts next fiscal year; the other option would be to go back to the voters, once all reductions in spending have been implemented. Information on the budget will be included in the district's annual mailer, which is sent in early August. Thomas noted that the district is facing a "significant" increase in healthcare insurance costs; while the

district participates in a consortium to help reduce costs, it is paid by performance-based, thus the district's portion is larger because of increased usage.

- Curriculum update—Assistant Superintendent Corinne Hayes shared changes to the State's school report card, which include: 1) two new indicators related to chronic absenteeism and end-of-course improvement; 2) schools and districts will be graded using up to three years of data where possible (this is the first time since 2014 that this has been possible due to the transition to new assessments); 3) four-year graduation rates using an adjusted cohort; 4) annual measurable objectives for English learners added to the calculations; 5) clarification in K-3 literacy improvement with a single measure in component grade; 6) and changes to the prepared for success component, with six additional measures now included in the calculation. The final results from the State for the 2017-18 school report card will be available sometime in September.
- Mercy Health Physicians—The Board discussed and voted to approve a memorandum of understanding with Mercy Health Physicians, as a supplement to the sports medicine service agreement between the high and junior schools and Mercy Health-West Hospital LLC that was approved at the June Board meeting.
- Contracts—The Board discussed and voted to approve several contracts, including: a transportation services agreement with Universal Transportation Systems; orientation, mobility and vision impaired teacher services agreement with Butler County Educational Service Center; behavioral services agreement with the Cincinnati Center for Autism; help desk support service and technology support services with Hamilton County Educational Service Center; transportation services agreement with Petermann LTD; SJO Education Fee agreement with St. Joseph Orphanage (SJO); an addendum to the existing client agreement for E-Rate consulting services; consultant agreement with Four Seasons Environmental, Inc.; Instructional Technology Coaching service with Hamilton County Educational Service Center. The Board also discussed and voted to approve the purchase of Naviance hosted software, which is used for college and career-readiness at the junior school and high school.
- Bus construction contract—The Board discussed and voted to approve the construction of three 77-passenger buses and one 54-passenger bus to Rush Truck Centers, which was the lowest bidder. About 80% will be funded through the State transportation funding via grants, with the remainder covered by the district.
- Trident liability insurance—The Board voted to approve Trident as the liability insurance provider, reflecting an \$30,000 cost savings from the previous provider.