



Leaders of Innovative Future-Focused Real World Learning

Board of Education Meeting Summary October 11th * 6pm * Kennedy Elementary

Below you will find highlights from the October 11th, 2021 Board of Education Meeting. The complete agenda can be found at [USD 353.com](http://USD353.com). A replay of the live stream of the meeting can be found on the USD 353 website. Please note that this is only a summary to provide a timely recap of each BOE meeting. Approved minutes posted by the Board Clerk can be found at USD353.com under the Board of Education tab.

Discussion Items:

- **E-Gaming Presentation**

Dr. Kristy Custer and Dr. Michael Russell from the High School ESports League, were present to give information on E-sports to the BOE. The district is interested in starting an ESports League. ESports is a growing extra curricular activity that can promote a school connection outside of academics. This can provide opportunities for student involvement at the middle and high school.

Dr. Custer was the Principal and Dr. Russell was a teacher at the alternative high school in Maize where they implemented an Esports League. They saw the positive impacts on their students immediately after implementation including:

- increased attendance

- increased peer interactions

- classroom participation

Dr. Custer and Dr. Russel now work for the Esports League as consultants and have written curriculum for those schools who want to implement the program and offer credit. They presented copies of the curriculum to the BOE. Additionally, they spoke of the college scholarships available for E-Gaming.

- **Energy Audit**

Energy Solution Professionals has finished the preliminary energy audit of WHS as requested by the BOE and representatives were present to deliver their report. ESP is a company that evaluates district facilities and assesses where energy saving measures can be implemented in order to save money. The preliminary report indicated a list of measures that could be taken to generate savings. The next steps would be for the district to hire ESP to do an in depth look and implement any necessary changes if the BOE was interested.

- **Bank of Commerce Sign**

JC Long from Bank of Commerce is interested in donating an LED sign for WHS to replace the current one. The new sign will be larger and able to have improved graphics. Mr. Long indicated that they would provide the sign and the district would be responsible for any masonry work that would be required to house the new sign. The BOE inquired about the cost of this work. Mr. Hatfield said they were working on a plan to have Mr. Elder's class do some of the work if possible and they would have to get back to the BOE on the final cost. Mr. Hatfield also took the opportunity to thank JC and Bank of Commerce for their support of the district over the years.

A motion was made, and seconded to accept the sign as a gift and have the district take care of the masonry that would be included.

Motion passed 7-0.

- **WHS Baseball Travel**

Ryan Jenkins, WHS head baseball coach, is requesting WHS baseball coaches to travel to Chicago on Jan. 6-9th for a coaches conference. Mr. Jenkins spoke of the benefits of this conference including networking and educational workshops. He indicated funds will come out of the WHS baseball account. He asked for approval of the use of a school vehicle for the trip.

A motion was made, and seconded, to approve use of a school vehicle for the baseball coaches to drive to Chicago.

Motion passed 7-0.

President Jason Newberry, indicated the need for a break and recessed the meeting for 5 minutes. Open session resumed at 8:12pm.

- **Financial Literacy Grant**

At the July BOE meeting, Rane Case and Elizabeth Vaughn, teachers at WHS, presented information to the BOE regarding a financial literacy grant, provided by Next Gen Personal Finance. The mission of the NGPF grant is for all students to take a one semester personal finance course before graduating high school by 2030. To meet this goal, WHS is asking the BOE to consider implementing financial literacy as a graduation requirement for the freshmen beginning in the fall of 2022. At that time, the BOE requested additional information on the current financial literacy curriculum being taught in the district. Rane Case, teacher at WHS and Jason Halling, principal at WMS, were present at this meeting to provide that additional information to BOE. They spoke regarding the current curriculum for financial literacy and how it transitions from middle school to high school. Both WHS and WMS use the Next Gen Personal Finance curriculum. Mr. Halling indicated that in middle school is more of an introduction and in high school it dives deeper into different aspects of personal finance.

A motion was made, and seconded to make a ½ credit of personal finance a graduation requirement beginning with the freshman class of 2022.

Motion passed 6-1.

- **Ford Transit**

The district is interested in continuing the yearly upgrade of their vehicle fleet. They are interested in purchasing a Ford Transit to replace an older district vehicle. Three bids were presented to the BOE as follows:

-Raber Ford: \$34,825.00

-Rusty Eck Ford: \$35,179.00

-Lubbers Ford: \$35,255.00

The BOE indicated they would like a complete list of the current district fleet to review.

- **USD 353 Safety and Operation Plan**

The Safety and Operation Plan was discussed. Mr. Hatfield indicated that the district was not recommending any changes to the plan at this time. The BOE indicated that they received clarification on whether or not the county had authority to shut the school down and commented that the county can only recommend a school shut down due to a covid outbreak. They also commented on the covid counts chart that is updated weekly and that it was cumbersome to read. They also inquired about what kinds of swabs were used for testing. Holly Parkey, USD 353 nurse indicated the type of swabs used were biotech. The BOE inquired what the qualifications were of the people in the district that are administering the covid testing. Mrs. Parkey indicated that they watch a tutorial and then were trained by her. Mr. Hatfield indicated that a medical background was not required to administer testing. A BOE member indicated that they would like to see the district raise the percentages on the plan. Another BOE member indicated that they believed our percentages were about right. The BOE also inquired into how the percentages for the positive case numbers were decided and how the district was receiving positive results. Mrs. Parkey indicated some were from school close contact testing and others were provided to the district from a person's medical provider. It just depended on the week. The BOE asked Mrs. Parkey to keep up to date on the research regarding natural immunity and to address it in some fashion. The BOE asked Mr. Hatfield to ensure all questions asked by the public comments at the meeting were addressed.

A motion was made to raise masking criteria percentages by 2 percent so that it's even across schools.

Motion received no second

Motion dies

Administrative Reports

Executive Session:

A motion was made and seconded to go into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Open session resumed at 9:07pm.

Motion passed 7-0.

Consent Agenda:

- Approve the Minutes of the September 13th meeting and September 27th special meeting

- Approve Payroll and Bills
Payroll: \$1,070,382.39
Bills: \$494,475.25
Transfers: Vocational- \$50,000
At Risk-\$200,000

- Approve KDHE ELC K-12 Grant for \$108,928

- Approve New Hires
 - Michelle Polvadore- Certified Crisis Prevention Instructor
 - Mikeah Rodriguez- WHS Assistant Wrestling Coach
 - Kimberly Quinn- Covid Aide
 - Maggie Fink- WHS Assistant Softball Coach
 - Matt McComb- WHS Assistant Wrestling Coach
 - Emma Rains- Para- Eisenhower Elementary
 - Connor Burnett- WHS Assistant Boys Basketball Coach (9th grade)
 - Leighann Dockery- Para- WHS

- Approve Resignations
 - Samantha Koehler- Para- Washington
 - Cynthia Palmer- Para- Eisenhower

A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion passed 7-0.