



Milaca Public Schools

BOARD UPDATE APRIL 20, 2020

Impact of Coronavirus On Fee Based Programs

School districts around the state are looking for savings in response to the coronavirus school closures. Superintendent Truebenbach reported he is researching options with the district attorney regarding furloughing or reducing hours of some staff. In particular, Superintendent Truebenbach referred to the staff of the Community Education program. Community Education is a revenue based program offering enrichment classes to children and adults in the community. When the governor enacted the Safe at Home Ordinance, Community Education classes and programs were canceled; therefore, no revenue is generated to support the staff. Currently, the district is spending down reserves to pay these staff.

Superintendent Truebenbach provided the district attorney the bargaining unit contracts for her to review and determine what rights the district has when considering furloughing or reducing hours. Although board action may not be needed, Superintendent Truebenbach will update the board before making any reductions.

School Board Selects Three Candidates To Interview For Interim Superintendent Position

The school board will interview three candidates for the Interim Superintendent position on April 21 and April 22:

David Wedin has been with Milaca Public Schools since 2009. He has served the district in the roles of Fifth Grade Teacher, Principal Intern, Superintendent Intern, and most currently, the Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator.

Jerry Hansen retired in 2015 after 8 years as Superintendent at Milaca Public Schools and is currently self employed as an Education Consultant. His prior administrative experience includes Superintendent at Ada-Buorp, Principal at

Anoka Hennepin High School and Middle School, Principal at Princeton Middle School, and Dean of Students at Fred Moore Middle School.

Jeff Pesta is currently an Interim Superintendent at Hastings Public Schools. Prior administrative experience includes nearly 4 years as Superintendent at Kenyon-Wanamingo Public Schools, Principal at Northfield Middle School, and Associate Principal at White Bear Lake Public Schools.

Staff will be notified who the interim superintendent is once the interviews have been completed, the position has been offered, and the candidate has accepted.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

High School Principal - first weeks of Distance Learning is going well with positive feedback from parents and students; MCA testing canceled; student communication survey results indicated school Gmail is preferred communication method; update on postponements and cancellations; posted for 3 special education teachers.

Elementary Principal - distance learning has been filled with celebrations and frustrations and he is grateful for the staff and their teamwork; he helped deliver meals and homework by riding along in a van and enjoyed seeing students excitement as they arrived; working on building schedule and teacher assignments for next year; posted for 3 special education teachers posted and will be posting for a .5 FTE music teacher and a .5 FTE (or less) art teacher.

Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator - MCA or MTAS spring testing is canceled; ACT test will be offered October 6, 2020 for current juniors; thanked staff for their community effort to plan, implement, and evaluate Distance Learning plans while providing childcare and meals.

Activities Directors/Dean of Students - spring sports and activities put on hold with a hopeful return date of May 4; spring registration on hold; email sent to families

regarding spring activity fees offering a wait and see approach, refunds, transfer of fee to next year, or donating to hardship scholarship funds; coaches/advisors sent district coaching plans encouraging building/maintaining relationships, connecting with participants, providing optional workouts, and supporting participants and their families.

Community Ed Director/Facilities Manager - CE summer programming currently on hold and will be re-evaluated as information and guidance regarding the pandemic becomes available; refunds being processed for programs canceled early or before they started; School Readiness is providing Distance Learning with a 50% tuition adjustment for April; roofing project started; CTE/Window project bid walk through and bid opening complete; waiting for update from Nexus on next steps of the pool project.

Business Manager - wrapping up fiscal year and planning for next year; challenge to keep up with ever changing HR policies in regard to employee leaves (due to COVID); providing free meals for ages 18 and under; during week of April 6 provided 2200 meals/day and continues to increase; bus companies delivering food and homework; provided [financial picture of the district](#)

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Truebenbach reported a couple important surveys are being sent to the community. The first is regarding Distance Learning to gauge how it is working. The second survey was developed by ECMECC regarding broadband accessibility. ECMECC's survey is a universal survey they would like all school districts to administer.

Superintendent Truebenbach reported continuing to work through negotiations with different individuals and groups. Superintendent Truebenbach reported the District Office will no longer negotiate as a group and will instead be given individual letters of assignment. These letters will be approved at the May board meeting. Superintendent Truebenbach met with the Community Education/Facilities Manager and have reached a tentative agreement that will also be approved at the May board meeting.

Superintendent Truebenbach is working with the district attorney to research potential furlough options or reducing hours around the district.

From around the district, Superintendent Truebenbach thanked the District Office for keeping the regular day-to-day business of the district running smoothly. During this time of uneasiness and change, he appreciates having a solid department in the business office to keep the district going.

ACTION ITEMS

[Consent Agenda](#) - *Motion carried*

[Treasurer's Report](#) - *Motion carried*

Approve Resolutions Placing on Unrequested Leave of Absence:

- Christina Moscho - *Motion carried*
- Rosemary Nelson - *Motion carried*
- Cassandra Wredberg - *Motion carried*
- Stacy Yatkoske - *Motion carried*

[Award 2020 Window Replacement Project Bid to Murphy Window and Door in the Amount of \\$166,750](#) - *Motion carried*

[Award the 2020 Window Removal Project Quote to Titan Environmental in the Amount of \\$24,600](#) - *Motion carried*

[Award the 2020 Tech Ed Addition and Building Improvement Project Bids to Rochon Corporation, in the Amount of \\$800,000; Jackson & Associates LLC, in the Amount of \\$84,700; Summit Companies, in the Amount of \\$12,600; Thelen Heating and Roofing, in the Amount of \\$166,000; and Rum River Electric, in the Amount of \\$83,500](#) - *Motion carried*

[Award the 2020 Pool Repairs and Upgrades Quote to Professional Tile and Coping LLC in the Amount of \\$20,940](#) - *Motion carried*

*Thank you to all staff for the teamwork in continuing to support our students and families as we make history during this pandemic!
You are #MilacaPride!*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of the Whole (4/6) - reviewed and selected candidates to interview for the interim superintendent position

Policy (4/6) - policy review

Building and Grounds (4/14) - discuss CTE space and window project bids, the next steps of the pool project, the replacement of the elementary generator transfer switch, parking lot maintenance, and bathroom updates.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

S. Larsen thanked the Food Service and all the staff involved in getting food out to the district. She has received a lot of appreciative feedback from the district.

R. Nelson asked for feedback regarding interview questions for the interim superintendent interviews and discussed the interview process.