

ARROWHEAD UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
JULY 14, 2021 MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Rice at 7:02 p.m. in the South Campus Cafeteria.

Everyone rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Kent Rice, Sue Schultz, Craig Thompson, Darrell Beneker, Donna Beringer, Amy Hemmer, Tim Langer, Chris Farris

Administration present: Laura Myrah, Jeff Gross, Sue Casetta, Adam Boldt, Adam Kurth, Donna Smith, Becky Gordon

The meeting was properly posted.

Moved by Langer, seconded by Hemmer to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2021 School Board meeting as presented. Motion Carried.

Moved by Hemmer, seconded by Langer to approve the operating bill list and pay vouchers 621, 156924 - 157169, 202000386 - 202000414, 202000416 - 202000423 in the amount of \$2,722,368.92 and to approve credit card expenditure transactions as presented in the amount of \$67,856.93. Motion Carried.

Moved by Langer, seconded by Thompson to approve the use of the modified agenda order as posted to the public for the July 14, 2021 meeting. Motion Carried.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Laura Myrah, Superintendent reported that after 19 years of extraordinary service, Mr. Bob Rosch has retired from the Arrowhead school board and Mr. Rice has moved into the president role. The vacant Swallow area representative seat will be filled, as required by law and as outlined in our related policy, through an application and interview process through which the board votes result in the temporary appointment. The notice will be posted for at least 10 days on our website beginning on or around July 21<sup>st</sup> as well as in the Lake Country Now paper. Applications will be due on August 6<sup>th</sup> at noon with interviews being held at a special board meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup>.

In response to some prior complaints that board meetings are not a free flow of discussion amongst the public and board members, Ms. Myrah shared that the way Arrowhead holds school board meetings is standard procedure for school boards, and is in accordance with related laws and board policy. She provided additional information as to the rules of the Comments and Communications from the Public portion of the AHS school board meeting structure.

Ms. Myrah addressed prior concerns from citizens as to the decisions made during the past school year related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the unique situation that COVID presented, the Arrowhead school board and administration made decisions which allowed our school to remain open for the entire year based on guidance from our local health department, legal counsel and liability insurance companies.

Ms. Myrah provided information to dispel the rumors that Arrowhead is teaching Critical Race Theory (CRT). She explained that we do want our staff and students to be culturally competent which includes the understanding, appreciation, and ability to interact with people from cultures or belief systems different from one's own and have the ability to work effectively with people from different cultural backgrounds. Arrowhead staff has offered professional development on related concepts. Arrowhead should continue to follow our Focus Plan; to empower students to be engaged, confident, continuous learners who utilize the essential skills to collaborate and contribute within the local and global community.

Ms. Myrah commented that every student deserves to feel that Arrowhead is their school and they should be able to be comfortable here. A focus needs to be empathy in all aspects of our students lives. In addition, she commented that Arrowhead is an exceptional school and all of the people leading it have been very transparent in our priority of keeping Arrowhead an exceptional place for our students so that they will be successful during high school and in their futures within our local and global community.

#### COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC –

President Rice reviewed the "Communications and Comments from the Public" speaking rules with the community members present at this meeting and explained that the 3-minute rule would be suspended for this meeting. Thirty-one members of the

public, which included individuals both from our community as well as others who are not in our district, made comments related to a number of topics including Critical Race Theory, school held during the COVID pandemic, bullying, and vaccinations. Mr. Rice thanked everyone for their attendance and comments.

Mr. Langer asked if the board could take a short recess. President Rice agreed to adjourn for ten minutes and return at 10:55 PM.

#### BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Sue Schultz nominated Donna Beringer for Vice President. Amy Hemmer nominated Tim Langer for Vice President. Board President Rice chose to hold a paper vote. Beringer and Langer chose to abstain from the vote. The vote resulted in a tie (3 – Beringer, 3 -Langer). A second paper ballot vote was held with the same results. Based on Arrowhead’s Policy and Procedure 113 for an occurrence of a tie vote, President Rice made the tie-breaking decision, which resulted in appointing Donna Beringer to the position of Vice President.

#### CURRICULUM –

Ms. Sue Casetta, Director of Learning gave a report from the July 08, 2021 committee meeting. She explained that due to requests by school board members, a review of work done on cultural competence during the 2020/2021 school year be reviewed. The committee agreed to the five items of future focus that came out of this faculty education; Work on staff members’ self-awareness of biases, Look at data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey next year on how students feel about school, Remind ourselves to be mindful of our minority population, Do not push or force staff into anything they are uncomfortable with, and Focus on using representation of positive minority contributions, images, and stories where it could fit.

Moved by Hemmer, seconded by Langer that Arrowhead High School will not teach Critical Race Theory as it pertains to dividing students in groups of “oppressed” or “oppressors” and will not directly teach students to think that they should have negative feelings about their or others’ gender, race or ancestry.

Ms. Hemmer commented that she is not in support of CRT and that Arrowhead is not teaching CRT. She thanked the public for their comments as well as Ms. Myrah, Ms. Casetta, and Mr. Boldt for investigating the topic of CRT. Ms. Hemmer also commented that the best way of finding out what is being taught to your student is to ask them about what they are learning. If there are any areas of concern, the best place to look for resolution is by talking to the teacher first.

Moved by Thompson, seconded by Beringer to table the motion and move it to the Policy committee for additional considerations and discussion on the wording of a potential motion related to CRT. Motion Carried (No – Hemmer and Farris)

Ms. Casetta provided a brief overview of the proposed Choir trip to Disney in Orlando, Florida.

Moved by Schultz, seconded by Thompson to approve the Broadway Company: Choir trip to Disney, Orlando. Motion Carried.

The next meeting is TBD.

#### FINANCE & LEGISLATION –

Mr. Thompson reminded the board that the Budget Hearing is August 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. and the Annual Meeting is August 18, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Jeff Gross, Director of Business Services, reported that Governor Evers signed the 2021-23 state biennial budget into law on July 8, 2021 with no major changes to the K-12 education provisions as passed by the legislature. In this state budget there is a \$0 increase in revenue limit per pupil allowed and \$0 increase in per pupil categorical aid; These are the two most significant sources of revenue used by school districts to offset ongoing expenditures that rise with inflation. There was a slight increase in the special education categorical aid and equalization aid (to offset property taxes). The district’s preliminary budget plan, approved in April 2021, included this worst-case state budget scenario and is the budget that will be brought forward to the district electorate at the budget hearing and annual meeting to be held in the North Campus Theater at 7:00 p.m. on August 18, 2021. Although our conservative budget planning has prepared us for the 2021-22 school year, the second year of the biennium (2022-23) will be a challenging budget to balance with rising costs and next to \$0 additional revenue allowed by the state.

#### BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – No report

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2021, at 7:00 a.m.

#### PERSONNEL – No report

The next meeting of the Personnel Committee is TBD.

POLICY – No report

The next meeting of the Policy Committee is August 19, 2021 at 7:00 a.m.

WASB – No report.

CESA #1 – No report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Moved by Thompson, seconded by Schultz to accept the rescindment of resignation of Kristen Deakin effective at the end of the 2020/2021 as presented. Motion Carried.

Moved by Schultz, seconded by Beneker to approve the 2021/2022 new professional staff contract Ramona Armour (World Language teacher), Kathy Birkes (Business Education), Jennifer Wurdemann (Family and Consumer Science) and the Co-curricular contracts for Boys Cross Country – Head coach – Mike Ray, Boys Football – Head Coach – Matthew Haris, Asst. Coaches – James LaVoi-Bergman, Salvatore Crivello, Kyle Burlingame, Daniel D’Amico, Cameron Gonring, Bradley Linares, Steven Petersen, Brendan Gonring, Chris Herriot, Nate Young, Andrew Johnson, Fritz Rauch, Dave Gierach, Boys Soccer – Head Coach Jeff Straus, Asst. Coaches – Mark Leoni, Cody Schnese, Dan Miller, Emma Oppermann, Boys Volleyball – Head Coach Dennis Mechenich, Asst. Coaches – Grayson Peacock, Zachary Zawada, Deb Paradoski, Julie Roussel, Girls Cross Country – Head Coach Curt Kaczor, Asst. Coaches – Eric Moore, Dave McConville, Girls Field Hockey – Head Coach-Melissa Brengosz, Asst. Coaches – Sara Tuescher, Jennifer Jones, Girls Golf – Head Coach Mike Breaker, Asst. Coach – Ryan Andrews, Girls Swimming & Dive – Head Coach – Ruth Ann Ahnen, Asst. Coaches – Kim Grimes, Kristin Zietlow, Mary Woodson, Girls Tennis - Head Coach Cindy Ziegler-Fritz, Asst. Coaches – Tracy Ford, Susan Sorenson, Aravind Aravindan, Girls Volleyball – Head Coach Janelle Hobbs, Asst. Coaches – Brooke Schumacher, Daniel Sheets-Poling, Tony Jalan, Hayley Hoffman, Activities Advisors – Book Club Katie Herrmann and Liz Munkwitz, Chinese Club – Wei Yao, Deca - Steve Melzer and Marci Burkhart, Earth Club – Dennis Mechenich and Mike Hall, Engineering Club – Jeff Luetschwager, eSports club – Steve Melzer, Fitness Center – Jason Eisenmann (fall/winter) and Cameron Gonring (spring), French Club and French NHS – Ramona Armour, Gay Straight Alliance – Nick Pfeiger, German Club/German NHS – Beth Schueth, Girl Up – Jennifer Passler, HOSA – Brenda King, Investment Club – Christie Klun and Jule Schwartz, Junior State of America – Tim Tower and Tamara Varsos, Math Team – Cammy Ley-Ploszaj, Mock Trial – Katie Herrmann, Model UN – Phil Kasun, Multicultural Student Union – Deb Paradowski, Robotics – Thomas Legate, William Buth, and Brian Cull, Peers 4 Peers – Barb Whyte and Thomas Stuber, SAVE Team – Shanna Hechimovich and Daniel Miller, Science Academic Teams – Chad Tschanz, Social Studies National Honors Society – Beth DesRosiers and Nathan Flesch, Spanish Club – Kathi Koepke, Spanish National Honors Society – Amy Coraggio and Jeanne Psket, Warhawk Interact – Kevin Lewandowski and Molly Sroka, Writing Club – Liz Jorgensen and Terri Carnell, Marching Band – Director-Jacob Polancich, Asst. Director-Sarah Dunmire, Drumline and Percussion Ensemble - Jahi Moore, Jazz Band Directors - Sarah Dunmire and Jacob Polancich, Pep Band – Sarah Dunmire and Jahi Moore, Forensics – Rayen Elmergreen and Angie Rodenkirch, Literary Magazine and School Paper Editor – Elizabeth Jorgensen, Yearbook – Jana Danay, School Store – Steve Melzer, Student Senate, Tamara Varsos, Shanna Hechimovich, and Becky Gordon, Intramurals, Bus Coordinator, and Activities Dept. Accounting Coordinator – Liz Arsnow as presented. Motion Carried.

There were no donations presented for action by the Board of Education.

Moved by Schultz, seconded by Hemmer to approve the following statement of adopted academic standards: “The Arrowhead Union High School District’s academic standards for the subject areas required in Wisconsin have been developed and modified over the years through a blending of the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards, Common Core State Standards, locally developed standards, and academic standards recommended by reputable national organizations in the identified curricular areas. These standards shall be in effect during the 2021-22 school year. Information regarding these standards shall be posted on the district website before the first day of school.” Motion Carried.

Moved by Schultz, seconded by Thompson to accept the 2020/2021 Seclusion and Restraint Report as presented. Motion Carried.

Moved by Schultz, seconded by Thompson to accept the 2021/2021 Student Random Drug Testing Report as presented. Motion Carried. (no- Langer)

Moved by Schultz, seconded by Hemmer to accept the 2020/2021 School Safety Drills Report as presented. Motion Carried.

Moved by Schultz, seconded by Hemmer to approve Senior High School membership in Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association for 2021-2022 and agree that as a condition of membership Arrowhead adopts the rules of this association and will

conduct its athletic program in accordance with the constitution, bylaws, rules of eligibility and sports regulations (boys and girls) as well as the interpretation and decisions of the WIAA Board of Control. Motion Carried.

Moved by Schultz, seconded by Hemmer to approve the MOU 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Dousman Transportation Company, Inc. transportation rates. Motion Carried.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – None presented.

Due to the time and length of this school board meeting, no closed session will be held. The Superintendent annual review will be held, in closed session at the end of a future school board meeting.

Moved by Langer, seconded by Schultz to adjourn. Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate McGraw

Recording Secretary

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Susan M. Schultz, Clerk