

**ARROWHEAD UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 17, 2022 MINUTES**

The Annual Meeting of the Arrowhead Union High School District was called to order by School Board President Kim Schubert at 7:42 p.m. in the North Campus Theater. There were 29 qualified electors present.

Everyone rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chris Farris nominated Darrell Beneker to serve as the Annual Meeting Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Kim Schubert. Darell Beneker was elected to preside as the Annual Meeting Chairperson.

Chairperson Benker asked if there were any questions on the Treasurer's Report, which there were none at this time. The treasurer's report will be available in the district office after the audit is completed. Mr. Beneker turned the meeting over to Superintendent Laura Myrah for the 2021/2022 review of the school year.

REVIEW OF THE 2021/2022 SCHOOL YEAR –

Superintendent Myrah's review of the past school year began with the district's Focus Plan, which includes a Vision and Mission statement, along with Enduring Goals. Our Vision is that, "Arrowhead will be an educational leader in creating pathways for students to embrace the opportunities of tomorrow." Arrowhead's Mission is to: "Empower students to be engaged, confident, continuous learners who utilize the essential skills to collaborate and contribute within the local and global community." To achieve our mission and vision, we continually strive toward four enduring goals: 1) Prepare students for success beyond high school graduation; 2) Foster a nurturing, positive learning culture; 3) Communicate effectively; and 4) Advance facility infrastructure and technology to support student learning.

Arrowhead High School (AHS) offers an excellent public education in a fiscally responsible manner. Over the last dozen years, the district has reduced its budget by over \$5 million. Arrowhead maintains a Moody's Aa1 rating, which is better than approximately 90% of the rated school districts in Wisconsin. Fund balance, while healthy at over 30%, has needed to be used for recent one-time improvements. Since 2011/2012, employee benefit changes have resulted in an annual cost savings of \$3 million. The Arrowhead portion of the property tax bill has decreased. Despite increasing operational costs, our per pupil expense remains about the state average. Among the 10 union high school districts in the state, Arrowhead High School had the lowest funding allowed by the State and a below average mill rate in 2022.

Among Waukesha County school districts, Arrowhead's maximum allowable revenue per student (tax authority) in 2022 was \$10,496, which is \$1,531 less per student than the highest school district, or a total of more than \$3.02 million less to educate our students each year, yet Arrowhead's student achievement is as high or higher. The negative impact of this funding disparity is that we're losing ground in maintaining district facilities and infrastructure.

The "Arrowhead" portion of property tax bills included \$275,080 in taxes for private/parochial schools in 2021/2022, and is projected to be \$280,000 in 2022/2023. Arrowhead's federal grant monies that went to parochial schools for 'equitable services' was \$72,214 in 2021/2022 for IDEA/Special Ed, and Title Grants and is projected to be \$40,500 in 2022/2023.

Ms. Myrah compared student academic achievement among 12 proximate public-school districts. In 2021, Arrowhead had the highest ACT average composite score of 24.1 among our graduates, and

was second highest among all juniors in 2021, with a score of 22.5. Annually, Arrowhead ranks highest or second highest among the 12 nearby high schools. With 84.2% of students passing Advanced Placement (AP) exams, Arrowhead was second highest ranked this year.

In 2022, AHS administered 1,255 Advanced Placement (AP) exams. The average passing rate on exams was 86.3% (scores of 3, 4, or 5). Students who achieve a score of 3 or higher may obtain college credits as well as high school credits.

Student Participation and Successful Education –

- The Arrowhead graduation rate in 2021 was 99.1% (4 years), compared to the state average of 89.5%; the graduation rate was 99.3% (5 years), compared to the state average of 92.5%.
- 91.0% of AHS graduates plan to attend a 4-year college/university, compared to the state average of 72.5%; 8.8% of our graduates plan to attend a 2-year vocational/technical school, compared to the state average of 27.0%.
- AHS has an attendance rate of only 3.3% with chronic absenteeism, compared to the state average of 16.1%.
- The discipline rate among AHS students is 2.4%, compared to the state average of 1.7%. Typically, the state average is 6-7%. Presumably, this state average is significantly lower this year due to the fact many schools did not have in-person learning; if students are not in school, there are no in-school behavior problems.

The Arrowhead Experience – Ms. Myrah shared many examples of academic highlights and recognitions, special events and recognitions, co-curricular highlights, community service projects, as well as staff recognitions. Although there are too many volunteers and donors to list, our supportive and generous community members are the backbone of the ‘Arrowhead Experience.’ Arrowhead clubs, classes, and athletic groups volunteered with 100+ projects, contributing over 5,000 total hours.

The Arrowhead Scholarship Fund awarded \$90,000 in scholarships to 90 graduating seniors. During the 2021/2022 school year, many thousands of dollars were donated by generous individuals and organizations to Arrowhead High School for projects, initiatives, and departments within our school.

Ms. Myrah concluded by restating several initiatives for the 2022/2023 school year, including continued focus on college, career, and life readiness through academic rigor and life skills enhancement, positive learning culture, integrated technology to support student learning, and Academic and Career Exploration for students; successful engagement of all students in their academic and social/emotional/behavioral endeavors within Arrowhead High School; continued prioritized, responsible project planning and spending of the referendum funds trusted to us by the community.

OLD BUSINESS – A community member asked questions regarding any possible intent of the school board considering a future referendum and if there are scenarios being considered to address the continued budget deficit. A second member agreed that scenario planning is a good idea and encouraged citizens to lobby legislators to consider making changes to the antiquated funding system that is currently in place in Wisconsin. Administration and board members informed the constituents that no plans are currently established to ask for a future referendum.

Moved by Tim Langer, seconded by Amy Hemmer to authorize the Board of Education to set the date and time of the Annual Meeting between May 15 and October 31, 2023. Motion Carried by Voice Vote.

NEW BUSINESS –

Moved by Craig Thompson, seconded by Tim Langer to approve the book rental fee of \$55.00 for the 2022/2023 school year. Motion Carried by Voice Vote.

At the present time, the annual salaries of school board members are established at \$3,400 per board member.

Moved Troy Anderson, seconded by Kim Schubert to set school board member annual salaries at \$3,400 per board member. Motion Carried by Voice Vote.

A tax levy for the Capital Expansion Fund in the amount of \$300,000 is recommended for the 2022/2023 school year.

Moved by Ron Russ, seconded by Troy Anderson to set the tax levy for the Capital Expansion Fund in the amount of \$400,000 for the 2022/2023 school year, as per the Capital Expansion Fund Resolution below. Motion Failed by a show of hands (10 AYE, 13 NO).

Moved by Tim Langer, seconded by Chris Farris to set the tax levy for the Capital Expansion Fund in the amount of \$300,000 for the 2022/2023 school year, as per the Capital Expansion Fund Resolution below and to move an additional \$100,000 to Fund 46. Discussion ensued regarding the lack of legal ability to levy for Fund 46. Motion was withdrawn.

Moved by Tim Langer, seconded by Chris Farris to set the tax levy for the Capital Expansion Fund in the amount of \$300,000 for the 2022/2023 school year, as per the Capital Expansion Fund Resolution below. Motion Carried by Voice Vote

RESOLUTION CREATING A CAPITAL EXPANSION FUND
AND LEVYING A TAX IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

BE IT RESOLVED by the electors of the Arrowhead Union High School District that a Capital Expansion Fund is hereby created pursuant to Section 120.10(10m) of the Wisconsin Statutes for the purpose of financing remodeling, maintenance, repair, and improvement projects at various district buildings and sites; and

+BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a tax in the amount of \$300,000 be levied for the 2022/2023 school year to be deposited in the Capital Expansion Fund created above to be used only for the purposes specified above.

Moved by Ron Russ, seconded by Craig Thompson to approve the recommended tax levy for Operations and Long-Term Debt Service in the amount of \$16,933,890 for the 2022/2023 school year. The total 2022/2023 tax levy is \$17,233,890 with the inclusion of the Capital Expansion Fund levy Motion Carried by Voice Vote.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS –

Community members and students voiced their concerns regarding the new proposed policy 651 - Student Name and Pronoun Use Authorization and gave their perspective as to the negative effects it may have on the student population. Some school board members shared their opinions. The constituents were encouraged to attend the upcoming Policy committee meeting to hear more discussion as the board works through the language for this policy, as well as the September 14th board meeting when discussion and action is projected to take place. Community members were also encouraged to attend any of the school board's committee meetings which typically are held at 6:45 a.m.

Moved by Troy Anderson, seconded by Chris Farris to adjourn. Motion Carried by Voice Vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate McGraw
Recording Secretary

Amy Hemmer, Clerk