

ARROWHEAD UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANNUAL MEETING  
AUGUST 18, 2021  
MINUTES

The Annual Meeting of the Arrowhead Union High School District was called to order by School Board President Kent Rice at 7:50 p.m. in the North Campus Theater. There were 43 qualified electors present.

Everyone rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Donna Beringer nominated Kent Rice to serve as the Annual Meeting Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Sue Schultz. Bob Angeli nominated Tim Langer to serve as the Annual Meeting Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Chris Mehling. A voice vote was taken and Tim Langer was elected to preside as the Annual Meeting Chairperson (25 votes Langer, 4 votes Rice).

Chairperson Tim Langer asked if there were any questions on the Treasurer's Report which there were none at this time. Mr. Langer turned the meeting over to Superintendent Laura Myrah for the 2022/2021 review of the school year.

#### REVIEW OF THE 2020/2021 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 12 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 2021.

Among Waukesha County school districts, Arrowhead's maximum allowable revenue per student (tax authority) in 2021 was \$10,447 (includes AHS and the average of K-8 feeder schools), which is \$1,580 less per student than the highest school district, or a total of more than \$3.2 million less to educate our students each year, yet student achievement is as high or higher.

The "Arrowhead" portion of property tax bills included \$329,330 in taxes for private/parochial schools in 2021, and is projected to be \$338,649 in 2022. Arrowhead's federal grant monies that went to parochial schools for 'equitable services' was \$35,710 in 2021 for IDEA/Special Ed, and Title Grants.

Ms. Myrah compared student academic achievement among proximate public-school districts. In 2020, AHS was the second highest ACT average composite score of 24 among our graduates, and was highest among all juniors in 2020, with a score of 23.9. AHS ranked highest, with 85.6% of students passing Advanced Placement (AP) exams.

In 2021, AHS administered 1,310 Advanced Placement (AP) exams among 24 subjects. The average passing rate on exams was 84% (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 AHS graduation rate in 2020 was 98.9% (4 years), compared to the state average of 90.0%; the graduation rate was 99.0% (5 years), compared to the state average of 91.9%.
- 90.3% of AHS graduates plan to attend a 4-year college/university, compared to the state average of 70.7%; 9.0% of our graduates plan to attend a 2-year vocational/technical school, compared to the state average of 27.8%.
- AHS has an attendance rate of only 1.4% with chronic absenteeism, compared to the state average of 12.9%.

- The discipline rate among AHS students is 0.9%, compared to the state average of 6.2%.

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. Many special steps were taken to accommodate the graduating class of 2021 during the pandemic. Although there are too many volunteers and donors to list, our supportive and generous community members are the backbone of the ‘Arrowhead Experience.’ The Arrowhead Scholarship Fund gave over \$75,250 in scholarships to 88 graduating seniors. During the 2020/2021 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 2021/2022 school year, including continued focus on college, career, and life readiness through academic rigor, social, emotional, and life skills enhancement, positive learning culture, integrated technology to support student learning, and Academic and Career Exploration for students; support services for individual students in the areas of academic, social, and/or emotional needs; strengthening communications and public relations for the district; and enhancing technology, safety, and physical plant infrastructure. We are aware that as a result of learning during the COVID19 pandemic our students may need additional support with learning as well as social and emotional needs. We will continue to prioritize responsible project planning and spending of the 2020 referendum funds.

Mr. Tim Langer thanked Ms. Myrah for all of her work over the past year as well as making some difficult decisions which allowed the school to stay open all year. Our staff took on the challenges presented and did great and hard work. He thanked the community for their support and involvement in the school.

Moved by Kent Rice, 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, 2022. Motion Carried by Voice Vote.

OLD BUSINESS – Board member Chris Farris wanted to recognize Arrowhead graduate Keegan O’Toole who won the freestyle wrestling gold medal in Russia. Community members asked questions related to school funding and funding needs. Comments were also heard regarding the emotional needs of students. Other concerns included some community members not feeling that they are being heard. Mr. Kent Rice ensured the community that the Arrowhead school board members have the students’ best interest in mind with all of the decisions made. Concerns were also heard regarding communications with board members and administration. Ms. Myrah explained that the purpose of committee meetings are for the school board to discuss topics which may or may not be moved to the school board meeting for a discussion and possible actions. Mr. Tim Langer explained to the public that there are rules that the school board must follow regarding the appropriate way to handle public comments. Committee meetings are open to the public but do not have a public comments section. School board members felt that it may be a good idea to consider having public listening sessions.

NEW BUSINESS –

Moved by Kent Rice, seconded by Darrell Beneker to approve the book rental fee of \$55.00 for the 2021/2022 school year. Motion Carried by Voice Vote. The book rental fee has remained the same for the past 11 years.

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

Moved Craig Thompson, seconded by Darrell Beneker 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 2021/2022 school year.

Moved by Kent Rice, seconded by Tim Langer to set the tax levy for the Capital Expansion Fund in the amount of \$300,000 for the 2021/2022 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 2021/2022 school year to be deposited in the Capital Expansion Fund created above to be used only for the purposes specified above.

Moved by Kent Rice, seconded by Heidi McVee to approve the recommended tax levy for Operations and Long-Term Debt Service in the amount of \$17,976,086 for the 2021/2022 school year. Motion Carried by Voice Vote.

The total 2021/2022 tax levy is \$18,276,086 with the inclusion of the Capital Expansion Fund levy.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS – None.

Moved by Craig Thompson, seconded by Chris Farris to adjourn. Motion Carried by Voice Vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate McGraw  
Recording Secretary

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Susan M. Schultz, Clerk