

**ARROWHEAD UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
OCTOBER 12, 2022 MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Chris Farris at 7:01 p.m. in the South Campus Library.

Everyone rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Darrell Beneker, Tim Evers, Amy Hemmer, Chris Farris, Tim Langer, Brandon Miller, Craig Thompson, Lynn Vogeltanz

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

The meeting was properly posted.

Moved by Hemmer, seconded by Langer to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2022 Regular Board of Education Meeting. Motion Carried.

Moved by Hemmer, seconded by Langer to approve the September operating bill list and pay vouchers as presented. Motion Carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Myrah reviewed the Arrowhead Focus Plan including its four Enduring Goals as a reminder of the areas that we should always be working on in order to be successful as a school.

Director of Learning, Sue Casetta explained that work for the 2022-23 school year is a continued focus on the enduring goal of preparing students for success beyond high school. Ms. Casetta discussed the schedule change exploration process and the reasons why a new schedule is being considered. The opportunity to add a resource period to our schedule will help further support student learning. The exploration committee will continue to look at advantages and considerations and will be holding student and parent sessions as well as sending a survey to both groups. Another focus area is to increase achievement by supporting students' readiness for college and career in the area of reading. The I-Ready program is being used for the first time this year to obtain benchmark data. This data will help pinpoint areas to focus on within the reading/language arts subject area. Academic and career exploration also continues to be an area of focus for our school. This year, students and parents will benefit through the development and implementation of a careers-interest pathways guide, as well as the development and implementation of additional regional career pathways. We continue to network and build capacity and opportunities with local business partners.

Director of Student Services, Adam Boldt explained that staffing is the number one issue for the Special Education Department this school year. This nationwide problem includes the ability to both hire and retain new staff. We are perpetually two special education aides short. Steps are being taken to mitigate this issue including adjustments to schedules and activities, as well as even changing locations in the building to save travel time. Another 2022-23 school year area of focus is the co-plan to co-serve learning model, which focuses on designing classes that promote independence through collaboration with general education students. Desired outcomes include higher locus of control, greater opportunity to experience success, and less

dependence on adults. Other targets for this year's work include cognitive engagement, meaningful actions throughout the class, a focus on Foundation Courses such as reading and organization. Mr. Boldt shared the post-high school preparedness results for students with disabilities. Arrowhead's success is consistently higher than the state averages with 94% of students with special needs participating in either higher education, competitive employment, or other education or training following their high school years.

Principal Adam Kurth reviewed his first 70 days of school presentation from the 2021-22 school year, and then expanded his sharing to his first 460 days on the job at Arrowhead. Mr. Kurth discussed his 2022-2023 areas of focus and efforts which include the need to review the instructional schedule, building on school culture as it is not as strong as it once was, student mental health, facilities which are no longer leading as compared to neighboring districts, and large class sizes. There are also concerns with the increased expectations of teachers and a perceived disconnect from the community, particularly around financial support. Mr. Kurth explained some of the ways that these target areas are being addressed this year. Mr. Kurth also discussed some of Arrowhead's significant areas of strength including our staff, classroom autonomy, and continuity of faculty and therefore curricula and strength of departments.

Director of Library, Media and Technology Donna Smith reviewed the 2022-23 technology goals. The new fiber connection project between campus buildings has already been completed, with next steps being to connect to our network and receive equipment. The Art/Music Mac Lab has also been completed. Internet security is a high focus area this year; Cisco ISE, SSO Single sign on solution, updating systems (patching/updating software), and endpoint security updates are all areas of focus. Tech staff will be attending the Wisconsin Cyber Security Summit. The Tech Department is currently working on data systems in order to implement the recently adopted name/gender/pronoun policy in skyward, and preparing for potential schedule adjustments, WISEdata - identification of work-based learning and system logins. The instructional technical staff is updating and expanding the IT self help center, training library staff for student support, updating AV systems and planning professional learning around those changes. The Tech Advisory Staff Team will be meeting to learn together to understand best practices for educational technology for our teachers and students. The library staff is working on collection development and creating displays to encourage student reading.

Mr. Kurth thanked the owner of Wantable for her generous donation to sponsor an opportunity for our students to participate when the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra performs at Arrowhead High School around the upcoming holiday season.

The 2021-22 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Study additional questions results, specific to Arrowhead, were presented. One concerning topic that arose from the survey results is that 30% of students feel that bullying is a problem at Arrowhead, which is an unacceptable statistic. A presentation on understanding school culture, discipline, and student behavior was given by Mr. Kurth, Ms. Paradowski, and Ms. Gordon including how we proactively and reactively respond. There are three ways in which we respond to discipline matters: preventative, supportive, and corrective with a focus on character development. The associate principals work very hard to understand the context of a situation and obtain all relevant information. Discipline issues and student information/any consequences for behavioral infractions are confidential. This often leaves students and families involved in a conflict with questions and concerns that 'nothing was done,' which is not the case. In addition to reactive discipline measures, many proactive measures are taken to affect positive student behaviors, with one example being highlighted in Arrowhead Way's anti-bullying video campaign.

Ms. Myrah thanked the administrative team for their leadership, which makes a significant impact on the school and the students.

Mr. Gross provided a 2022-2023 student enrollment report. There are 2,076 students currently enrolled in Arrowhead's seats, of which 274 are open enrollment students from other districts. The revenue limit enrollment(resident students) is 1,882, down 30 students from one year ago.

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - Mr. Farris read the rules for public speaking. Four members of the public spoke. Comments included opposition, concerns, and questions regarding the necessity of the new proposed Policy 334 - Transparency in Curriculum. Comments and concerns were heard regarding the recently passed Policy 651 Student Name and Pronoun Use Authorization, as well as the request that this policy be repealed.

CURRICULUM - Chairperson Hemmer gave a report from the September 22, 2022 committee meeting. The 2022 Summer School Program was reviewed; 22 classes were offered, 530 students participated in earning a total of 679 credits. Ms. Casetta reviewed the Education for Employment Plan, per state requirements. Ms. Casetta also shared data of the Top 20 schools as ranked by US News and World reports as it relates to the type of schedule each school uses. On October 27th the staff will be visiting area schools to observe their block schedules and resource periods. Information and feedback will be gathered and presented at the November 4th Curriculum Committee meeting. A recommendation for a schedule change will need to be considered at the November or at the latest the December school board meeting in order to implement the new schedule for the 2023-2024 school year. The next Curriculum Committee meeting is October 13, 2022 at 6:45 a.m.

FINANCE & LEGISLATION – Mr. Thompson informed the board that the budget finalization pieces are being figured out including the official Third Friday in September Enrollment Count, the state aid and property valuation, at which point the board can finalize the budget and apply the tax levy. The purpose of the Special Board Meeting on October 26, 2022 at 6:45 a.m. is to approve the finalized 2022-23 district budget and tax levy. This meeting will be followed by a Finance and Legislation Committee meeting scheduled for 7:00 a.m. and will be focused on legislation and the needs of the school. Mr. Gross shared that the 2021-22 school year budget ended on a positive note; While there was a \$500,000 planned use of fund balance for the year, the actual budget results ended up adding just under \$300,000 to the general fund balance.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – No report. The next Building and Grounds meeting is October 20, 2022 at 6:45 a.m. Fundraising efforts will be discussed and also updates on the maintenance facility repairs.

PERSONNEL – Chairperson Langer gave a report from the September 27, 2022 committee meeting. The committee discussed the proposed calendar for the district for 2023-2024. Also reviewed was a slight modification in the employee handbook regarding unpaid leave which will be updated during the next annual review of the Employee Handbook. The committee discussed bringing in a consultant or two to discuss board operations, with a proposal for such work to be presented at the next Personnel Committee meeting. That meeting will be held on October 25, 2022 at 6:45 a.m.

POLICY – Chairperson Farris gave a report from the October 6, 2022 meeting. The committee discussed Policy 334 regarding wording changes and clarifications. Also discussed Policy 623 regarding Open Enrollment space for special education students. A discussion regarding Policy 351 Graduation Requirements and/or Policy 352 Graduation Exercises will be moved to a future committee meeting due to time constraints.

The board had a discussion regarding Policy 334 - Transparency in Curriculum.

Moved by Thompson seconded by Hemmer to move agenda item E. 1. a. - Policy 334 Transparency in Curriculum back to committee for further consideration. Motion Carried.

The next Policy committee meeting is November 3, 2022 at 6:45 a.m.

WASB – No report.

CESA #1 - No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Moved by Hemmer, seconded by Beneker to approve the resignations as presented. Motion Carried.

Moved by Hemmer seconded by Thompson to approve the contract/letters of appointments as presented. Motion Carried.

Moved by Langer, seconded by Hemmer to approve the 2023-2024 district calendar as presented. Motion Carried.

Moved by Thompson, seconded by Beneker to approve the donations as presented. Motion Carried.

Future agenda items - Labor/teacher shortages to discuss how to retain and attract quality employees.

Discuss the creation of enrollment marketing materials to be discussed in a future Finance and Legislation committee.

Moved by Hemmer, seconded by Beneker to adjourn. Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate McGraw
Recording Secretary

Amy Hemmer, Clerk