

Board Meeting Update

April 9, 2015

Central Constituents,

As I do every month, the following are the highlights of the April 8, 2015 regular school board meeting. I hope you enjoy these updates that are focused on keeping you informed of what is taking place at the school board table.

- If you would like to view any of the public documents that are available to the board, you can visit our BoardDocs site to view the agenda and the supporting documents that go with each agenda item. This information can be found [at this site](#). If you'd like to view the video recording of last night's meeting, you can view the meeting on our school board YouTube channel [at this link](#).
- The board held public hearings on our published amendment to the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget and also our published 2015-2016 fiscal year certified budget. There were not any comments regarding the budget from the public.
- Jen Vance, Elementary Principal, reported that we will be adjusting the preschool hours for the 2015-2016 school year. The hours will be expanded to 8:15-11:15 for the morning session and 12:00-3:00 for the afternoon session. This will be the same for all four-year-old preschools supported by the school district (Ekstrand, Creative Learning, St. Joseph, Kid's Business, and Grace).
- I reported to the board that we've been having conversations among our instrumental music staff regarding beginning to offer band to 5th grade students. Many years ago, there was a 5th grade band program at Central, and at some point it was decided to not offer it any longer. At that point the band instructors were paid for days during the summer so students going into 6th grade could be given lessons to get them started. Brittany Wedeking and Josh Greubel, band teachers, were in attendance at the meeting to give their thoughts on this as well. We've put together a document explaining in more detail what we're considering, which can be [found at this link](#). The document includes some research on what other school districts in our region are offering as well as our tentative plan for replacing the summer lessons with 5th grade band, including the costs involved. We will be continuing this conversation internally and will potentially bring this back to the school board as a formal proposal at their May meeting.
- With the legislature approving new rules stating that school districts will be able to start their school year on August 23 or later, and with the Governor stating that he will sign the bill, the board was able to approve a school calendar last night. Students will be starting the school year on Monday, August 24, 2015, and the full calendar can be viewed [at this link](#).

Central Community School District

331 E. 8th Street, PO Box 110, DeWitt, Iowa 52742-0110

www.central-csd.org

(563) 659-0700

- The following were approved under this month's personnel report:
 - Hire Molly Prombo as Elementary Guidance Counselor
 - Hire Beth Harvey as Middle School Language Arts Teacher
 - Increase Caralyn Butler as Intermediate Art Teacher from .58 FTE to .67 FTE
 - Hire Carly Norton as Elementary Special Education Teacher
 - Hire Christina Walls as 5th Grade Teacher
 - Hire Grady Gallagher as High School Business Education Teacher
 - Hire Scott Burke as Elementary Physical Education Teacher
 - Hire Rachel Truelsen as Head Varsity Volleyball Coach
 - Hire Carl Small as Head Varsity Girls Basketball Coach
 - Resignation of Tina Bartels as Business Manager and Board Secretary
 - Transfer Netty Schneider from Elementary General Food Service Worker to Intermediate Cook
 - Hire Shannon Isaacson as Elementary General Food Service Worker

More details on these personnel changes and positions that are currently open can be viewed [at this link](#).

- All of this month's financial reports can be viewed [at this link](#).
- As of now, school districts still do not know what the Iowa Legislature is going to do with school funding for next year. By law, they are supposed to set school funding 18 months in advance, but it didn't happen during last year's legislative session, and we are again waiting for them this year. Not knowing if there will be any additional state supplemental aid coming to school districts, we have to plan for no increase in student funding (0%). With that in mind, the board approved the budget that was published in The Observer that assumes a 0% increase. If the legislature decides to grant additional supplemental state aid, the school board can decide to make changes to the budget which could reduce the property tax rate for next year. However, going on what is guaranteed at this time, since our budget had to be approved by April 15, we now have a budget approved that includes a property tax rate of \$15.257 per taxable thousand. As you can see below, this is an increase from this year's tax rate of \$15.078. The following also lists the reductions in the property tax rate that could be approved later, dependent upon what the legislature does.
 - Current property tax rate: \$15.078
 - 0% state supplemental aid: \$15.257
 - 1% state supplemental aid: \$15.077
 - 1.25% state supplemental aid: \$15.032 (proposed by the Governor and Republican Party)
 - 2% state supplemental aid: \$14.909
 - 3% state supplemental aid: \$14.852
 - 4% state supplemental aid: \$14.902 (proposed by the Democratic Party)
- Under the consent agenda, the board approved the following:
 - Open enrollment of six students into our district and three students out of our district ([details can be viewed here](#))
 - ICN Ethernet Service Agreement for the coming year ([details can be viewed here](#))

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Those are the highlights of last night's regular meeting. The next regular board meeting is on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, at 6:00 pm, in the Central Middle School Media Center. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns regarding what I've written here...or regarding anything else, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Thank you,



Dr. Dan Peterson, Superintendent
Central Community School District

