

Board Meeting Update

August 13, 2015

Central Constituents,

As I do every month, the following are the highlights of the August 12, 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](#). Unfortunately, the board meeting wasn't able to be video recorded, so I cannot offer you the ability to watch the board meeting online this month. It was a fairly short board meeting, under an hour, and I'll do my best to capture the highlights for you.
- There was a conversation among board members regarding the upcoming vote on September 8th to change the school district name from Central Community School District to Central DeWitt Community School District. There is a full spectrum of thoughts and opinions on this vote, and as a representative of our school district, I can't suggest how you should vote on this question. However, my request and suggestion to you is this...please vote! In any situation like this where we have an important question on the ballot, we need a full representation of the thoughts of our community. So please plan to vote on September 8th. One of the questions that have been asked is regarding the cost of this district name change. What will it cost to make this change district-wide? This is a rather difficult question to answer, and it's one that I wanted the school board to discuss. If this vote were to pass, it could look a lot of different ways. On one side of the spectrum, nothing could change. We could leave all of the names the same locally and just change the name we're registered under with the State. On the other side of the spectrum, we could change most things throughout the school district that say "Central" to "Central DeWitt". This could include things, such as: the name on our school buses, school buildings, etc. I wasn't completely sure what the school board was expecting, so we had a brief conversation about these things. The importance of one name, when it comes to the marketing of our school district, was mentioned. It was also mentioned that amount or speed of these changes could be determined by the results of the vote. If the vote to change the school district name passes by 51%, that is a much different feeling than if it were to pass by 80%. The board discussed that this will impact their willingness to make these changes. If it passes by a slim margin, we will be slower to make changes, but if it passes by a wide margin, the feel it will be a voice of the community to move faster in these changes. Back to what it will cost...there is a document in our board packet

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that can be found [at this link](#). This document shows the costs of changing names on various signs, scoreboards, vehicles, buildings, etc. All together, if we changed everything, it would cost approximately \$21,000. However, this doesn't all have to be done at once, and we could take our time in making these changes whenever it fits within our Local Options Sales Tax budget, if the vote were to pass.

So again, please spread the word and get out and vote on September 8th.

- The Board approved a proposal from Apple, and we will be purchasing 130 new laptops for our teachers. We are in the 5th year of our current teacher laptops, and they are due to be replaced. This is also the year that we do not have any payments for our student laptop lease because they were paid off last spring. With that in mind, we planned for this to be the school year to invest in our teacher laptops and our overall network infrastructure. These laptops will be ordered immediately, and Apple has agreed to allow us to delay our payments until October, which is a better time for us to pay for this since it is after our district revenues start coming in. The full Apple quote can be found [at this link](#).
- The board approved a proposal to purchase 30 used laptops currently listed on eBay. We are in need of additional student laptops that will be used for replacements and parts, in order to get our students through this school year. The quote for this purchase can be found [at this link](#).
- This month's personnel report included the following:
 - Resignation of Brian Higgins from his position as Assistant Varsity Football Coach.
 - Hiring of Joel Carter as a High School Social Studies Teacher.
 - Hiring of Hanna Harlson as a 2nd Grade Teacher at Ekstrand.
 - Hiring of Doug Hinkle as an Assistant Varsity Football Coach.
 - Transfer of Tricia Crank from her position as Ekstrand Office Associate to Middle School Secretary.
 - Hiring of Lori McMahon as a Driver for the Pre-K pickup route and P.M. #6 route for the 2015-2016 School Year.
 - Hiring of Dottie Maynard for the Pre-K Transportation Associate position for the 2015-2016 School year.
 - Hiring of Stacy Hardison as the Ekstrand Kitchen Manager starting in the 2015-2016 school year.
 - Transfer of Netty Schneider from her position as Cook at Intermediate School to the Office Associate position at Ekstrand starting with the 2015-2016 school year.
 - Hiring of Larissa Krukow as a Cook at the Intermediate School for the 2015-2016 school year.
 - Salary increase of Director of Nutrition Services, Dede Wagener from \$31,032.28 to \$38,000.00.

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- Under the consent agenda, the open enrollment report included 8 students open enrolling into our school district. There were not any students open enrolling out of our school district this month.

Those are the highlights of last night's regular meeting. The next regular board meeting is on Wednesday, September 30, 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

