

# BOARD NOTES

## November 13, 2018, Regular Board Meeting:

**Spotlight on Students:** Participants in the Sunset Ridge Robotics class came to demonstrate how their self-designed and self-built pull toys work. They described the process by which they created their toys, which includes design work, collaboration with team members, and a lot of trial and error. They are looking forward to coding the robots in order to make them move independently. Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange recognized that many future job markets may be driven by technology, and commended the students on their desire to build tech skills, practice persistence when trying to solve real-world problems, and hone their ability to innovate and work together, all valuable skills for the future.

**Consent Agenda:** The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included minutes from the October 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting and the monthly bills and salaries.

**Communications:** Dr. Stange shared an article spotlighting Sunset Ridge School's LEED Platinum Certification, a student letter to the Winnetka Current editor regarding the new Sunset Ridge building, and a feature article focusing on two Sunset Ridge students who developed Starbucks cups that promote kindness. Dr. Stange also congratulated Ms. Kim Albright (formerly Heilenbach), Sunset Ridge Computer Science teacher, on her receipt of the highest honor given to Project Lead The Way's teachers -PLTW Outstanding Teacher- at their national conference.

### Capital Improvement Update:

**Middlefork School:** The Middlefork Capital Improvement Team continues to work on the final section of finishes for inclusion in the bidding process, and construction timelines and logistics are being finalized. Dr. Stange reported that the District is working closely with the Park District in order to accommodate their summer camps during construction as best as possible.

**Sunset Ridge School:** All warrantied landscaping has now been replaced and final payments to subcontractors are being submitted. Dr. Stange reported that a few plumbing vent stacks will be rerouted over winter break in order to create less proximity to ventilation intakes.

**New Business:** The Board agreed to change the January Regular Board Meeting and the Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting from January 15<sup>th</sup> to January 22<sup>nd</sup>, in order to accommodate the bid process for the Middlefork School construction project. The Board had a first reading of Board Policy 523 regarding Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) procedures.

**Finance and Facilities:** The Board approved the 2018 Tentative Tax Levy. The next meeting is January 22, 2019, at 6pm.

**Education Committee:** Board member Ms. Amanda Alpert Knight reported that Dr. Stange gave a presentation on the District's efforts and improvements in our communications systems. This included a review of the website, newsletter, teacher pages, conferences and progress reports, and the weekly news, all in direct response to the District's Strategic Plan. The next meeting is December 11, 2018, at 6pm.

**IASB:** Ms. Amanda Knight reported that the Annual Joint Conference is this weekend, at which Sunset Ridge School will be receiving the Award of Distinction in the annual Invitational Exhibition of Educational Environments. This award honors projects displaying innovative solutions to challenges both in new school construction and facility renovations. 27 schools around the state submitted projects, and only three were chosen for this prestigious award. Additionally, Dr. Stange presented the state-wide list of referendums that were voted on in recent elections.

**PTO:** Board member Ms. Jill Mirkovic reported that plans are in the works for the Winter Benefit taking place on March 2, 2019. The PTO reviewed the progress of #D29Connect, Sunset Ridge School's new SEL initiative.

**NSSD:** Board member Mr. Bill Hayes reported that the co-op has communicated with all of their districts and parents regarding the recent arrest of a teacher on child pornography and criminal sexual assault charges. The investigation by the Glenview Police Department is ongoing.

**Northfield Park District:** Board member Mrs. Nancy Detlefsen reported that the Park District is anticipating the impact of the Middlefork construction on their summer camps. They plan to work closely with the District and Pepper Construction to make sure that all goes smoothly. They are very cognizant of any dangers, in any form, that could pose a threat to the children, and are already problem solving to find safe solutions or alternatives.

**Village of Northfield:** Board member Mr. Scott Subeck reported that the community engagement meeting in support of Northfield's Strategic Plan is on Wednesday, 7:00pm, at the North Shore Senior Center.

**Foundation Fund:** Board member Mrs. Anne Peterson reported that Mrs. Marti Bennett has officially transferred the duties of President to Ms. Terri Wareham.

**Administrative Report:** Dr. Stange reported on four Freedom of Information (FOIA) requests from 1) Sheet Metal Workers LU73 regarding any planned maintenance, 2) SmartProcure regarding purchasing records, 3) Querrey and Harrow, Ltd regarding the Sunset Ridge School lease agreements, and 4) Mr. Anthony Drabik regarding the District's electricity supply. Enrollment is holding steady at 475 students, with 10 students receiving educational services in out-of-district placements. The Board discussed 3 different 2019-2020 school calendar options, keeping in mind the desire to give the Middlefork construction project some breathing room and our efforts to allow for more teacher collaboration and planning time. The calendar discussion is ongoing. Dr. Stange also reported on the newly released IL State Board of Education annual School Report Cards, which are computed using PARRC assessment results in reading and math proficiency and growth, absenteeism reports, and overall performances on the annual IL 5Essentials survey. Both Middlefork and Sunset Ridge received "Commendable" labels, which Dr. Stange explained is because less than 95% of our students participated in the PARCC test. Were it not for this arbitrary cut-off rule, both schools would have received an "Exemplary" label.

**Recommendations:** The Board approved the Closed Session minutes from October 9th, 2018. Also approved was the employment of Ms. Theonie Koumbis as a Teaching Assistant, and the FMLA request by Ms. Jordan Bauer.

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the December 11, 2018, Regular Board meeting.