**BOARD NOTES:**

**May 7, 2018, Regular Board Meeting:**

**Spotlight on Students:** 4th graders who participate in The NORA Project came to describe their experience in the program. The NORA Project, piloted this year by 4th grade student services teacher Mrs. Nina Furman, strives to teach empathy and spark friendships between students and their peers with disabilities. Through games, crafts, reading groups, and other activities, students start to discover and focus on what they have in common with their new friends, rather than their perceived differences. The students are looking forward to NORA Night 2018 on June 7th, which invites everyone in the district to celebrate and learn more about the program. Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange commended the students on their willingness to learn about each other’s similarities despite societal forces that consistently reinforce our differences.

**Consent Agenda:** The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included minutes from the April 10th Regular Board Meeting and the monthly bills and salaries.

**Communications:** Dr. Stange shared a letter from Special Gifts Theatre describing their desire to use the Sunset Ridge School theatre space for their adult programs.

**Capital Improvement Update:**

**Middlefork School:** Mr. Craig Siepka, architect from Wight and Co, presented preliminary ideas for Middlefork improvements. These include replacing plumbing, modifying the front office area to improve security, redesigning the library and makers space, adding collaborative work areas and break out spaces for student services, and freshening up the entranceway canopy. The Board discussed these options, keeping in mind the July decision deadline should they decide to go ahead with the project.

**Sunset Ridge School:** Dr. Stange reported that we are waiting for the landscapers to inspect the fields for approval, after which the fence will be taken down and the students will have access during recess. As eager as everyone is to let the students on the fields, the Board agreed that we should not risk violating the terms of our warranty, and should wait until next week to get the final O.K. The walking path has been completed, and community members have already been seen enjoying the property. The solar panels are producing more energy that the building is using, and teacher teams are meeting this summer to formulate mindful plans on how to integrate the building’s learning opportunities into the curriculum. Our LEED status application process should be completed by the fall.

**Strategic Planning:** Dr. Stange reported that he has presented the latest Strategic Plan draft to both Middlefork and Sunset Ridge staff, at a PTO meeting, during the day at a Parent Connections meeting, and during an open evening forum, and received valuable feedback.

**Audience Comments:** Representatives from Special Gifts Theatre spoke about their program and its benefits to the community, reiterating their desire to use the Sunset Ridge theatre space for rehearsals and shows.

**New Business:**

* The Board approved the 2018/19 Board calendar, which will be posted on the website.
* The Board approved a resolution abating the Working Cash Fund by $1.2M. School Code allows school districts to abate the Working Cash Fund to the fund most in need. The abated funds of $1.2M will be transferred to the Capital Projects Fund to help pay the remaining costs due on the Sunset Ridge project.
* The Board approved a Resolution declaring the intention to issue $5.7M Funding Bonds for the purpose of paying debt related to the Sunset Ridge project. The Board also approved a resolution calling a public hearing concerning the intent of the district to sell $5.7 Funding Bonds for the purpose of paying that same debt.
* The Board had a first reading of Board Policy 710.12, regarding tobacco products, and Board Policy 715.01, regarding student discipline. Both policies are being modified to include vapor products.

**Finance and Facilities:** The next meeting is July 17, 2018, at 6pm.

**Education Committee:** Board member Ms. Amanda Alpert Knight reported that Director of Student Services Ms. Emily Dunham gave an in-depth presentation of the District’s student services programs. Middlefork Principal and District Curriculum Director Dr. Mary Frances Greene gave a thorough curriculum and instruction update. The next meeting is September 11, 2018, at 6pm.

**IASB:** Dr. Stange reported that the new school funding formula allowed the District an extra $652.00, illustrating how little state funding our district receives.

**PTO:** Board member Mrs. Jill Mirkovic reported that Teacher Appreciation Week is off to a wonderful start.

**NSSED:** Board member Mr. Bill Hayes reported that their strategic planning has moved to developing action steps. They are exploring how best to coach and mentor teachers as they move to placing more students in their home districts rather than NSSED classrooms. As a result of those placements, they anticipate increases in transportation costs.

**Northfield Park District:** Board member Mrs. Nancy Detlefsen reported that Family Fun Night will be June 13th at Clarkson Park.

**Village of Northfield:** No report.

**Foundation Fund:** Board member Mrs. Anne Peterson reported that the Foundation held its annual meeting, at which they reelected their officers. They are actively seeking new membership.

**Administrative Report:** Dr. Stange reviewed the projected enrollment numbers for next year, noting that several grades may change in the coming weeks due to new families predicted to move in to the district. He also informed the Board of current 2nd grade teacher Mrs. Misty Bell’s request to transfer to the open Kindergarten position next year. As a result, the District will be advertising for the positions of 2nd Grade Teacher, Advanced Learning Teacher-Math/Science, and Teaching Assistants. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to discontinue its membership in Fed Ed, a lobbying group that represents suburban Illinois school districts, due to lack of tangible benefit in return for annual dues. Finally, Dr. Stange requested the Board’s ongoing guidance regarding formal requests by outside groups to use the District’s fields and facilities.

**Recommendations:** The Board approved the Closed Session minutes from April 10, 2018. Also approved was the position of Long-Term Substitute (Ms. Anna Murphy, junior high Spanish), the voluntary transfer of Mrs. Misty Bell to Kindergarten Teacher, and Mr. Oscar Garcia’s FMLA request.

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the June 5, 2018, Regular Board meeting.