BOARD NOTES:

March 14, 2017, Regular Board Meeting:

Spotlight on Students: First graders from Middlefork came to showcase their skills with rhythm sticks, part of a new music program called ‘KidStix.” Students use the lessons to obtain rhythmic mastery within varied musical genres, while enjoying the physicality of the activity. Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange admired their talent, teamwork, creativity, and discipline, and reiterated how important music is to the philosophy of the district.

Consent Agenda: The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included minutes from the February 7th Regular Board Meeting and the monthly bills and salaries.

Communications: Dr. Stange shared a note from the SREA thanking the Board for hosting the holiday Board/Staff get-together in January. Everyone, Board and staff alike, enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate together.

Capital Improvement Update: Dr. Stange reported that drywall, windows, and stonework are all being installed in the new building, and that recent inclement weather has not slowed down construction. Despite the loss of the potential investment partner, the plan for solar panels continues to move forward, and the District is confident that the project can be financed while still maintaining a healthy Fund Balance. Dr. Stange also noted that Sunset Ridge administration team would be relocating to Middlefork School during the summer months in order to allow construction to proceed without interruption. More information will be sent home to parents on this as the school year ends.

Finance and Facilities: Board member Mr. Scott Subeck reminded the Board of April’s Fin/Fac agenda, which will include a discussion of the impact of hiring another full-time employee in support of the Sunset Ridge Computer Science curriculum on the District’s finances. The next meeting is April 25, 2017, at 6pm.

Education Committee: Board member Mr. Doug Warshauer reported on the presentation by the Advanced Learners Program staff and the proposal for an added staff member in support of the Computer Science curriculum at Sunset Ridge. The next meeting is May 9, 2017, at 6pm.

IASB: Board member Mrs. Anne Peterson reported on potential upcoming federal and state legislation.

PTO: Mrs. Peterson reported that the bi-annual benefit was a fun and festive occasion, and that the PTO was very pleased with the fundraising results. Additionally, next year’s Board Slate has been filled and will be voted on soon, and Fun Fair plans are being finalized.

NSSED: Board member Mr. Adelbert Spaan reported that the co-op continues to revise the language in their Articles of Agreement surrounding the option for a district to opt out, and are looking into purchasing another building on their existing property. They are currently working on a development process for strategic planning.
Northfield Park District: Mr. Spaan reported that the final draft of the Inter-Governmental Agreement between the Park District and District 29 has been completed. This agreement clarifies the processes and protocols for the usage rights, annual maintenance, and dispute resolution regarding the large gym that both the Community Center and Middlefork School share. After discussion, the Board approved the Amended Intergovernmental Agreement.

Village of Northfield: No report.

Foundation Fund: Mrs. Peterson reported that the Foundation has raised $700,000 in support of the new building.

Administrative Reports: Dr. Stange reported that enrollment remains unchanged, and next year’s Kindergarten lies at 44 enrolled. Administration continues to explore different ways of creating 3 classes for next year’s 1st grade that is made up of 30 boys and 12 girls. Anticipating staff vacancies, the District will be advertising for a 7th Grade Student Services Teacher, Middlefork School Secretary, a 7th Grade Language Arts Teacher, a Kindergarten Teacher (contingent on enrollment), and a Computer Science Teacher (pending Board approval). After informing the Board that 29 of the possible 54 8th graders are attending the Washington, DC, trip in April, which is lower than average, Dr. Stange briefed the Board members on the results of the ISBE Compliance visit. He was happy to report that the auditors had glowing reviews of the District and found no areas of noncompliance. Dr. Stange thanked the administration team and the staff for their work to prepare for the audit. Board member Mrs. Debbie Papas thanked everyone as well, pointing out that the results were indicative of the great work that teachers and staff do on a daily basis for the District. The Board approved the 2016/17 Budget Development Process, the Appointment of Assistant Township Treasurer, the Rejection of all Request for Proposals for a District-Wide Telecommunications System and Data Network, the VoIP Contract with Telecom Innovation Group, and the Network Installation Contract.

Recommendations: The board approved the Closed Session Minutes of February 7, 2017, the employment of Lauren Gray as Sunset Ridge School Media Center Director, and the Non-Tenured Staff Employment Recommendations, and accepted the resignation of Alexandra Campbell, 7th grade Language Arts Teacher.

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the April 11, 2017, Board meeting.