

Minutes of Board Workshop
ISD #877 Board of Education
Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools

Monday, October 12, 2020
4:30 PM

Buffalo Community Middle School

Present: Dave Wilson, Bob Sansevere, Susan Lee, Ken Ogden, Melissa Brings

Present Virtually: Laurie Raymond, Amanda Reineck

Absent: none

1. Presentation: Matt Lubben, BCMS Principal

Toured the new “Bison Family Room” (reconfigured Media Center), creating 8 classrooms surrounding the media center and two additional hallways to help with congestion during passing times. Book collection was reduced from 14,000 to 11,000. Shared photos of various ways teaching is taking place at BCMS. Three staff members also shared their perspectives teaching in the hybrid model. Theresa Borgstrom – Special Education, was able to determine through individual IEPs that her students need to be in attendance 5-days per week. Tonia Poncious – 6th grade STEAM Technology, is in one of the newly configured classrooms and thankful for the space. Ben Watkins – teaching both Hybrid and Distance Learning at the same time. Made individual connections with students through video chats which has been beneficial now. All noted that students are so happy to be in school with their teachers.

Discussion: Is there a possibility of students attending every other Friday. Will continue to look at options for Fridays. Attendance issues while distance learning are still a challenge.

2. Activities Review and Update

A. BCMS - John Hayden, BCMS Activities Director

No Spring activities took place. Coaches had been hired and did some work for their sport. Fall activities – original decision allowed for scheduling some activities for soccer, tennis and cross country. Followed the hybrid schedule for students participating. Held a football “camp” for the fall season and ended the season with a

flag football game. Volleyball was scheduled for a season between winter and spring. Decision made to keep that schedule.

Discussion: Six 8th grade soccer players played at the high school level to complete the Lake Conference schedule. Distance Learning students and St. Francis students participated in activities.

B. BHS - Tom Bauman, BHS Activities Director

Spring activities did not take place but coaches still met weekly and connected with students. Cross Country competes in Sections tomorrow. Girls and Boys soccer took place. Girls Swim and Dive has their final meet tomorrow. Meets have been streamed online. Parents of seniors get to attend the swim/dive meet for the first time. Constant changes from MSHSL have been difficult. Football has a 6-game schedule and volleyball has a 13-game schedule. No state tournaments this year. Schedules are now set by the MSHSL for fall and winter activities. Activities will be streamed live. Now working on how to provide for a band concert.

3. Year-End Financial Review for 2019-20 - Gary Kawlewski, Director of Finance and Operations

Treasury is still issuing guidance for CARES Act funds. The Single Audit Compliance Report will be presented in November. Enrollment is the main factor for funding. Came in slightly higher than projected but down from the previous year. Funding formula has increased by approximately 2% each year. Pandemic and moving to distance learning last spring affected many areas of the budget. Lower utility costs (by \$162,000), substitute costs (over \$100,000), transportation due to no spring activities and less special education transportation and negotiated a fuel savings credit – therefore, general fund expenditures came in \$1.5 million lower than budgeted. This fund balance will help us through this year when we are over 300 students lower than projected. Provided free meals through the summer. Served 310,940 meals this summer. Revenues from all sources were up \$370,924 from the previous year. Free meal program has been extended through the end of this school year. Community Ed was working towards balancing their budget and then with the pandemic had to provide free daycare for essential workers and cancel classes. Not able to recover monies on the revenue side of their budget through the CARES Act. Building Construction fund will be completed this year.

Discussion: commended Gary's efforts when it is difficult to work through budgets during a pandemic and the unknowns.

Buffalo Township will pay for approximately \$48,000 worth of technology devices to use their funds. Also receiving funds from Wright County.

4. Committee Reports

SL – WTC

MB – Food Service negotiations

BS – Food Service negotiations

5. Other

Adjourned at 6:21 p.m.