

Treynor Community School District
Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
February 8, 2021

1. Call to Order & Roll Call
2. Amend and/or Approve Agenda
3. Recognition of Visitors and Open Forum (Public comment is limited to items on any current or upcoming published board agenda)
4. Consent Agenda: Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting(s), Bills, Financial Statements, and Open Enrollment Requests
5. Reports and Communication Items
 - A. Curriculum & Instruction: Instructional Framework
 - B. Elementary Principal
 - C. Middle School Principal
 - D. High School Principal
6. Discussion/Information/Review Items
 - A. Career Advantage Program
 - B. Wenninghoff Scholarships Review
 - C. National Honor Society Proposed Changes for 2021-2022
 - D. Graduation Requirements Proposed Changes for 2021-2022
 - E. Green Hills AEA STOP/Threat Assessment Grant
 - F. Legislative Updates: Senate File 159 and 160
 - G. CRRSA Act (Coronavirus Relief Funding): GEER and ESSER Funds
 - H. COVID-19 Information and Updates
 - I. Channels of Communication Review
 - J. Construction Update
 - K. School Leader Update (February edition)
7. Action Items
 - A. Snow Days/Remote Learning
 - B. SIAC Committee Approval
8. Personnel
 - A. Resignations
 - B. Employment
 - C. Vacancy Update
9. Superintendent's Report
 - A. Facilities & Grounds
 - B. Meetings & Misc. Updates
 - C. Next Board Meeting(s)
12. Adjourn

Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Treynor Community School District met in regular session on Monday, February 8, 2021, 6:30 p.m., in the MS/HS Library, located in Middle School Building, 102 E. Main St., Treynor, IA 51575.

Call to Order & Roll Call

President Vorthmann called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and roll was taken. The following board members answered roll call: President Vorthmann, Mr. Christensen, Mr. Dreyer, and Mr. Winchell. Student Representative Blake Sadr was also at the meeting. Vice President Stogdill was absent.

Amend and/or Approve Agenda

A motion was made by Winchell, seconded by Dreyer, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

Recognition of Visitors and Open Forum (Public comment is limited to items on any current or upcoming published board agenda)

No visitors chose to address the board during recognition of visitors and open form.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Christensen, seconded by Dreyer, to approve the following:

1) Minutes of the January 11, 2021 regular meeting;

2) Bills in the amounts of:

General Fund \$275,278.33

Capital Projects Fund \$228,935.01

SAVE Fund \$14,280.93

Debt Service Fund \$300.00

Activity Fund \$679.00

Nutrition Fund \$19,752.26

4) January 31, 2021 Financial Statements;

5) Open Enrollment Requests.

Motion carried 4-0.

Reports and Communication Items

Curriculum & Instruction: Instructional Framework

Mrs. Leick, science and physical education instructor, was at the meeting to explain training being received to implement the Iowa Instructional Framework in Treynor Schools. Several teacher leaders are receiving initial training and will assist in training the remaining teaching staff. The Iowa Instructional Framework describes elements of strong classroom practice such as questioning, presenting instructional content, and academic feedback. It creates a shared understanding of what high-quality instruction looks like and a roadmap for improvement.

Mr. Hedger, High School Principal, reported: 1) Prom 2021 is being planned for April 17th. 2) Winter post season athletic competitions have begun. 3) Treynor High School hosted state speech contest on Saturday, February 6th.

Mrs. Berens, Middle School Principal, reported: 1) TeamMates advisory board met on January 27th to discuss the TeamMates Mentoring Program, with plans to start mentor/mentee meetings in March. 2) Title IX training review with teachers, associates, secretaries, and nurses in both buildings will be held during the month of February. 3) TAG students have recently competed in three competitions: National Scholastic Awards, MathCounts Competition, and Vocabulary.com.

Ms. Kay, Elementary Principal, reported: 1) Notice of kindergarten registration for 2021-2022 went out in the weekly bulletin on February 5th. There are currently 33 potential students signed up. 2) Teachers received ALICE (active shooter) training on January 29th and will complete Suicide Prevention and Postvention training by February 10th. 3) K-5 teachers participated in a training to pilot Envisions Math series on January 13th.

Discussion/Information/Review Items

Career EdVantage Program

Mrs. Floerchinger, HS/MS counselor, explained Career EdVantage SWI, which was established in 2019 and funded for operations by the Charles E. Lakin Foundation. Students would apply their sophomore year for the IWCC scholarship and if chosen would be assigned a Career Coach, who would provide long-term comprehensive support and guide students' personal and career-related development during their junior and senior years of high school. Through business outreach, Career EdVantage (CEV) engages area businesses to provide career exploration, preparation, and placement opportunities. Students in CEV receive a scholarship that covers the costs of post-secondary education and training, which may include tuition, fees, books, supplies, tools and others. The goal of Career EdVantage is to guide students into financially sustaining careers with opportunity for upward mobility while enhancing the regional workforce.

Wenninghoff Scholarship Review

In 2019 the estate of Mr. Richard Wenninghoff provided a \$5 million bequest to be given as scholarships for the students in the Treynor and Underwood School Districts. The scholarships include 4 two-year scholarships of \$3500 per year (no minimum GPA requirement) and 3 four-year scholarships of \$3500 per year (Minimum of 3.0 GPA and ACT score of 20). The Southwest Iowa Education Foundation will manage the scholarship process and distribution of funds. The Class of 2021 will receive 7 Wenninghoff Scholarships for the first time this school year.

National Honor Society Proposed Changes for 2021-2022

Mr. Hedger and Mrs. Floerchinger discussed possible changes to be made to the National Honor Society Induction Process for 2021-2022. Current bylaws use a 3.25 GPA and have all staff members rate the candidates. The proposed change would increase the GPA requirement to 3.6 and use a selection committee to rate and vote on the candidates. Increasing the GPA to 3.6 will allow the National Honor Society to be a better representation of the values of excellence Treynor has been recognized for over the years. It also brings Treynor more in line with the GPA requirement of other area schools. Final changes to NHS bylaws will not be made before further communication with the Board of Directors.

Graduation Requirements Proposed Changes for 2021-2022

Mr. Hedger, high school principal, has been researching proposed changes to the District's graduation requirements at the request of the Board of Directors. One of the changes would be increasing total credits from 44 to 48. Another proposed change would be requiring a social sciences credit for all students. This would increase the social sciences requirement to seven credits. Before graduation requirements can be officially revised, the Board of Directors will review final proposals and approve a change to Board Policy No. 505.6.

Green Hills AEA STOP/Threat Assessment Grant

The administration has received information on a US Department of Justice STOP School Violence Grant Program funded through and provided by Green Hills AEA. The purpose of the partnership is to provide school personnel with the ability to assess, interview, support, and educate students on preventing violence against others or themselves. Training will begin this summer and follow-up trainings and meetings occur until May 2023. The grant will support schools and local law enforcement in the development and implementation of Threat Assessment Teams (TATs). These teams will work together to create high-quality school safety plans to assess suicide risk and threats of targeted violence in schools.

Legislative Updates: Senate File 159 and 160

Superintendent Hopkins led discussion on two items from the 2021 Iowa Legislative Session. Senate File 160 was signed by the Governor on January 29th. The intent of the bill was to encourage any school district not providing full-time in-person instruction to open their school.

IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION DURING THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, including 2020 Iowa Acts, chapter 1107, beginning no later than the first Monday that is at least two weeks after the effective date of this Act and ending June 30, 2021, a brick-and-mortar school district or accredited nonpublic school shall provide an opportunity for a parent or guardian of each student enrolled in the school district or accredited nonpublic school to select full-time in-person instruction for the parent's or guardian's student unless this requirement is explicitly waived for one or more school districts or accredited nonpublic schools in a proclamation of a public health disaster emergency issued by the governor pursuant to section 29C.6 and related to COVID-19.

Senate File 159 has passed the Senate and has moved to the House. This bill is designed to provide a scholarship for students who attend schools that are in need of improvement, allowing them to use public funds to attend private schools or charter schools instead.

CRRSA Act (Coronavirus Relief Funding): GEER and ESSER Funds

The CRRSA (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act) was signed into law on December 27, 2020. This supplemental relief is to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. The funds may be used by K-12 schools for a broad set of possible purposes, with substantial local authority and discretion in prioritizing relief spending. The following is a list of federal and state funding received or available to Treynor Schools due to the Coronavirus pandemic: ESSER I \$7,985; GEER \$31,200; ESSER State \$9,384; and ESSER II \$89,974. In addition to these funds, the District has received disinfectant, hand sanitizer, bleach, wipes, shields, masks, and thermometers directly.

COVID-19 Information and Updates

The most recent parent/employee COVID-19 notification letter was provided. Board members also received a copy of the Summary of Enhanced Public Health Measures announced by Governor Reynolds over the weekend and effective Sunday, February 7, at 12:01 am through Sunday March 7, at 11:59 pm. In response to the Governor's updated public health measures, Superintendent Hopkins provided students, parents, and community members with a statement that current practices at school would not be altered. He also reported to board members that over 100 employees were interested in receiving the vaccine.

Channels of Communication Review

Superintendent Hopkins reviewed a copy of the District's policy dealing with channels of communication. As a refresher for all employees, students, parents, and community members, the Policy will be included in the next newsletter.

Construction Update

Kevin Strehle, BCDM architect, provided a written construction update.

Work Complete:

- Auditorium seating has been installed.
- Acoustical wall panel installation is completed at the back of the stage
- Site concrete was finished before the onset of cold weather and snowstorms.

Short-term look ahead for future activities:

- The general contractor will be creating a punch list soon, followed by the architect/engineer.
- The curtain track system on the stage will be installed next week.
- Final grading and backfilling behind curbs will remain for the Spring, followed by landscape/sod or seeding.

The classroom wing is scheduled to be complete March, 2021.

The theater is scheduled to be complete April 2, 2021.

The balance of work is set to be complete in May, 2021.

School Leader Update

The School Leader Update is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Department of Education that includes a variety of timely topics, issues, and deadlines. Board members received a link to the February 2020 newsletter.

Action Items

Snow Days/Remote Learning

A motion was made by Winchell, seconded by Dreyer, to approve using remote learning for additional snow days past 5 days. Per the Iowa Department of Education, interpreting Governor Reynold's emergency health proclamation due to COVID, schools can use remote learning for snow days, but cannot do it more than five consecutive days, and only during the 2020-2021 school year. Board members discussed the desire by many to finish the school year prior to Memorial day and the fact Treynor School District began the school year earlier last August. Following discussion, the motion was approved on a 4-0 vote.

SIAC Committee Approval

A motion was made by Dreyer, seconded by Winchell, to approve the SIAC Committee for the 2020-2021 school year. The School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) is a committee tasked with reviewing district information regarding students and their learning. After reviewing and analyzing the information, the committee helps to establish annual goals for improving student learning at Treynor Community Schools. The motion was approved on a 4-0 vote and President Vorthmann stated his appreciation for their service. The Committee for 2020-2021 includes:

Superintendent Hopkins

Mr. Hedger

Ms. Berens

Ms. Kay

Kara Huisman

Jeff Koenck

Heidi Finnegan

Jackie Konz

Jane Leick

Jennifer Nelson

Danie Floerchinger

Carrie Currin

Mallory White

Randi Endriss

Kristin Mundorf

Keith & Carla Christensen

Anna Halverson

Blake Sadr

Dan & Kari Kinsella

Matt Finnegan

Jeremiah & Gina Mieska

Sara Saar

Staci McKern

Jordan Campbell

Allen Hadfield

Personnel

Resignations

A motion was made by Christensen, seconded by Dreyer, to approve the resignation of Josh Weis as high school assistant baseball coach. President Vorthmann spoke for the Board in thanking Mr. Weis for stepping up last summer to coach during the pandemic. This position will be added to the vacancy update. Motion carried 4-0.

Employment

A motion was made by Dreyer, seconded by Winchell, to approve employment for Gary Schuler as the driver's education instructor for Summer 2021. Motion carried 4-0.

Vacancy Update

The following positions are currently listed as open: junior high girls' track, assistant high school baseball, and substitute support staff (custodians, food service, secretaries, and para-educators).

Superintendent's Report

Facilities and Grounds Updates

Superintendent Hopkins provided an updated list of items ongoing, in progress, and completed recently. Four elementary classrooms will receive previously planned new lighting this spring.

Meetings & Miscellaneous Updates

The annual SIAC meeting will be held on Thursday, March 25, 2021.

Next Meeting(s)

A list of regular board meetings for the 2020-2021 fiscal year can be found on the district web site on the Board of Education link. The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Monday, March 8, 2021.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Christensen, seconded by Dreyer, to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

These minutes are as recorded by the board secretary and subject to approval at the next regular board meeting.

Cindy L. VanFosson

Board Secretary