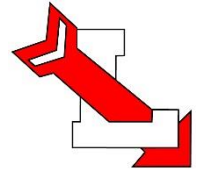


# Board Briefs



## Regular Meeting of May 13, 2024

### Reports

- Student Council report
- Recognition of the 2024 retirees
- Recognition of the Student Council representative
- Recognition of the Girl Scout Gold Award winner
- Reveal Math report from Alto Elementary

### Consent Items Approved

- Minutes April, 2024
- Payment of bills for April, 2024

### Action Items

- Second Reading of Revised/New Bylaws/Policies
- Secondary World Language
- Middle School Math
- Food Service Management
- KIASB Board of Directors
- Kent ISD Budget Resolution
- Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Bonds

### Human Resources Update

Dustin Cichocki reported the district is using Lowell Area Schools LinkedIn account as another resource for potential applicants. Liz McCall, Director of Special Education and Mr. Cichocki are working together to place paraprofessionals with special needs students for the 2024-2025 school year. Mr. VanderMeulen and Mr. Cichocki are working with the Kent ISD to review the current mentoring program in order to provide more resources for staff.

### Budget Update

Sonia Hodge stated that they are still in the process of setting up the new finance/human resource software. Auditors are meeting virtually with staff and will be in the district at the end of July. The Business Office is focusing on budgets and end of year work. At the next regular Board meeting Mrs. Hodge will provide the final 2023-2024 budget and the initial 2024-2025 budget for Board approval.

### Public Comments

One audience member made a public comment. No action taken.

### Curriculum Update

Dan VanderMeulen thanked Mr. Papes and his team for their Reveal Math report. On May 24<sup>th</sup> is a half day professional development day for all staff. This day will include elementary teachers working on math and reading school improvement goals and secondary teachers will have department and grade level meetings. Mr. VanderMeulen congratulated all the seniors.

**The Board went into Closed Session to discuss negotiations.**

### Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Fowler thanked the Alto math team for their presentation. He is excited to see the spring assessment data. He thanked the community for their support by passing the bond. This week is a kick-off meeting to set timelines and begin planning. Teacher appreciation was last week and tonight was a great example of the difference teachers make. The process of identifying key standards and working on common assessments is the work teachers do in all subjects and grade levels to make sure we have high quality instruction district wide. At the April meeting there was a comment made that was critical of schools. What we saw tonight is why and how public education works. Our school system is a cornerstone and pillar of the Lowell community. Mr. Fowler quoted Thomas Jefferson "an educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people." A public school plays a key role in our democracy. We saw that at play this week with the bond election. Thank you to the community for supporting our schools and thank you for the support of our teachers and support staff for the work they do to nurture curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning to build students confidence and set them on a path for success. Mr. Fowler is looking forward to graduation next week which is a chance to celebrate the doors that are open to students through public education. Working together with parents and the community gives students the tools to be successful in life. He congratulated all the seniors.

### BOARD COMMENTS

- Jared Blough congratulated all the retirees and thanked Antonio for this service on the Board.
- Tom Kaywood thanked Antonio for this service on the Board and congratulated the retirees.
- Laurie Kuna congratulated the retirees.
- Pat Nugent is excited to see Reveal Math implemented and how it plays out over the next couple years. He noted that it's not just math skills but cross-curricular skills. He thanked the community for their support of the Board and administration by passing the Bond. It is important as a district that buildings are maintained that are built for and by the community. We have a 30-year old high school that has been well-maintained and is still usable. In the past if a building was 30 years old, a new building would have to be built.
- Jessica Curtis thanked and congratulated all the retirees, bus drivers and teachers in the district. She also thanked Antonio for his service on the Board.
- Jennifer Dougherty thanked Mr. Cichocki and Mr. VanderMeulen for recognizing that mentoring new staff is important and working to improve this program. It's easy to do something for 10 years and say good enough, it's harder to try and improve.
- Brian Krajewski congratulated the retirees and thanked the community for their support. He also thanked Antonio and reminded him that he will be a Red Arrow for life

## Lowell Area Schools Board of Education

Brian Krajewski, President • Laurie Kuna, Vice President • Pat Nugent, Secretary • Tom Kaywood, Treasurer  
Jennifer Dougherty, Trustee • Jared Blough, Trustee • Jessica Curtis, Trustee