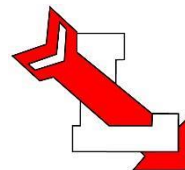


Board Briefs



Regular Meeting of January 13, 2025

CEREMONIAL OATH OF OFFICE AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Board Secretary, Pat Nugent, administered the ceremonial Oath of Office to Brian Krajewski, Laurie Kuna, Jessica Curtis and Annie Whitlock.
- The Board of Education approved the slate of officers as noted below:
 - Brian Krajewski, President
 - Laurie Kuna, Vice-President
 - Jennifer Dougherty, Treasurer
 - Pat Nugent, Secretary

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Conner Casarez stated that seniors have been called the class of 2025 for a long time and it's a shock to a lot of students to actually be in the year 2025. Coming back to school after a long break is tough for students. Teachers and students are preparing for AP exams. Clubs and sports lift student's spirits. The Snowball Dance will take place on February 1. The theme this year is "A Night in Candyland."

APPROVED ITEMS

Minutes from December 2024, Payment of Bills from December 2024, Board Committee Memberships, Appointment of Assistant to Board Secretary, Check Signature Authorizations, Depositories of Funds, Conflict of Interest, Meeting Notices, Annual Board Compensation, Legal Services, Auditor, New Hire Hannah Kinney (5th grade at Cherry Creek Elementary), Schedule of Meetings, MSBO Bus Purchase Program, Bus Purchase, Overnight Student Trip (gymnastics) and Budget Amendment.

REPORTS

- Superintendent Fowler recognized the Board of School Board Recognition month.
- Superintendent Fowler and Dan VanderMeulen, Director of Curriculum presented information to the Board on the Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process.

HUMAN RESOURCE UPDATE

Dustin Cichocki reviewed staff movement that led to the hiring of Hannah Kinney, 5th grade teacher at Cherry Creek Elementary.

- Casey Saylor, from Cherry Creek 5th grade to middle school Coordinator of Student Support
- Travis Slanger from middle school Coordinator of Student Support to high school Dean of Students
- Jennifer Manion from high school Dean of Students to high school Assistant Principal

The Business Office is working through resignations, mid-year and end of year retirements and staff changes for next school year. One bus driver is currently in training. The district is two drivers down, however office staff have been able to fill in and no routes have been shut down. Recruiting is continuing for bus drivers. Negotiation (LEA, LESPA) dates are being set.

Lowell Area Schools Board of Education

Brian Krajewski, President, Laurie Kuna, Vice President, Jennifer Dougherty, Treasurer, Pat Nugent, Secretary
Jared Blough, Trustee, Jessica Curtis, Trustee, Annie Whitlock, Trustee

BUDGET UPDATE

Sonia Hodge stated that the Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference took place this month. Expecting 2.5% increase for this year and next year. More details to come. The Governor's budget will be released next month followed by the House and Senate budgets in late April, early May. The Business Office is working on end of year projects such as 1099's and W2's. Later this month the Business Office should have an idea when the Payroll Manager will be able to return to work.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

Dan VanderMeulen stated that K-5 teachers will be working on grade-level problem solving. The district's Instructional Coach and the Elementary Math Coordinator attend these meetings as well. The K-5 ELA pilot team will be meeting this week. The goal is to provide a recommendation to the Curriculum Council followed by Board discussion at the January 27 Work Session and Board approval on February 10.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Two audience members made a public comment. No action taken.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Fowler welcomed Annie Whitlock to the Board of Education. The Title IX ruling was released on Friday with some uncertainty for those districts that adopted the 2024 rules. Lowell Area Schools did not adopt the new rules. At this time the 2020 rules are still in place. The bus wash passed its final inspection. Fowler is hopeful that the bus wash will help with maintenance and longevity of the buses. Training and adjustments are taking place this week. There has been an uptick in Norovirus in our community. Fowler thanked custodians for the cleaning that has been needed and staff and students for practicing good handwashing techniques.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Pat Nugent welcomed Annie Whitlock to the Board of Education.
- Annie Whitlock thanked the community for their support in the election.
- Jared Blough welcomed Annie Whitlock to the Board of Education.