

ASTORIA COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

The Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the District Library.

Members present: Adkins(via phone), Egleton, France, Musson(7:10), Prather, Shaw, Stevens

Members absent: None

Administrators present: JH/GS Principal Dave Crouse

Supt./HS Principal Don Willett

Community members present: None

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions to the agenda: 11.3 Recommend accepting retirement request from Sharon Musson as paraprofessional at the end of the 2019-20 school year.

Motion by Stevens, seconded by Prather, to approve the consent agenda items (minutes, bills, payroll) as presented. Egleton, France, Prather, Shaw, Stevens and Adkins voted aye. Motion passed.

The High School Senior of the Month is Garrett Spires, son of Pat and Susan Spires.

Motion by Egleton, seconded by France, to approve school calendar for the 2020-21 school year. France, Prather, Shaw, Stevens, Adkins, and Egleton voted aye. Motion passed.

The Principal/Superintendent Report from Mr. Willett included:

- Budget update: as a guideline each month is worth 8.33% of the total budget. At 8 months into our fiscal year, our guideline is 74.97%. As of February 28 our Ed Fund = 69.41%; Building Fund = 63.40%; Transportation 95.67%. Our overall budget is at 72.56%. As a reference 1% of our total budget is about \$43,000.
  - We have gone from serving 70 breakfasts/lunches on March 17 per day to 106 per day as of 4/15/2020. We continue to modify our method of delivery to increase our ability to social distance. We are now delivering food on Mondays and Wednesdays only. We are dropping off at doorsteps and there is not contact between our staff and others. Additionally, we are also delivering academic packets to those students who need them in an effort to save on postage.
  - As we progress through these times it is very evident that there will be some financial implications related to school funding ahead of us. Some possibilities that we will need to consider are late property tax collection, reduced facility tax funds, reduction or non-payments of transportation and special education categorical payments, reduction of Evidence Based Funding, delayed or cancellation of Maintenance Grants, reduction of corporate personal property replacement tax funds. Essentially every avenue we receive funds from could have complications in the months ahead. Having said that, we are saving some money in areas related to the athletic COOP, transportation, building supplies, utilities, food purchases, substitute teachers, vocational supplies, and miscellaneous spending. Assuming school is closed for the rest of the school year we will look at many avenues to reduce spending over the summer. Fortunately, we do not have any major projects planned for this summer that are financially binding. We look at many aspects of ordering products for next year and make adjustments as needed due to the lack of products used during this closure. Mr. Willett reminded the Board that in the end, we do not know how any of this will work out and what assistance will be put in place for schools. We will be diligent about utilizing procedures and assistance to the best of our ability to keep the school district financially strong as it has been over the last 7 years.
  - Mr. Crouse and Mr. Willett are making tentative plans for 8th grade promotion and high school graduation assuming we are not able to have these ceremonies as normally planned.
- Board members were presented with the 2020-21 student handbook. Approval for handbook will be at the May board meeting.

We will have a first reading of new Press Policies at the May board meeting.

Communication from the state comptroller was summarized related to financial areas of concern in the future related to school funding.

The Federal CARES Act was discussed and will bring some minor relief to the school district with additional federal funds.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Shaw to go into closed session at 8:01 pm. All voted in favor.

Motion by Stevens, seconded by Egleton to adjourn closed session at 8:14. All voted in favor.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Prather to approve minutes from closed session. All voted in favor.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Stevens, to hire Keith Skiles to mow during 2020. Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, Stevens and Adkins voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Prather, seconded by Stevens to approve a 5-year contract extension for Superintendent Willett through June of 2025. France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, Stevens, Adkins and Egleton voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Adkins, seconded by Shaw, to accept the letter of retirement from Sharon Musson at the end of 2019-20 school year with regret and appreciation. Prather, Shaw, Stevens, Adkins, Egleton and France voted aye. Musson voted present. Motion passed.

Motion by Stevens, seconded by Prather, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:18 p.m. All voted aye. Meeting adjourned.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.