

BOARD WORK SESSION

July 18, 2023

A board work session of the School Board of Independent School District No. 518, Worthington, Minnesota, was held at the High School Band Room, at 1211 Clary Street, Worthington, Minnesota on July 18, 2023, immediately following the board meeting.

The following were present: BOARD MEMBERS – Adam Blume, Steve Schnieder, Lori Dudley, Joel Lorenz, Tom Prins, Erin Schutte, ABSENT-Matt Widboom

ADMINISTRATORS – John Landgaard and David Skog

Mr. Landgaard gave an update on the Watershed Project. He indicated that the attorney is working on the temporary and permanent easements. The temporary easement is for construction purposes only. He indicated the board can take action at the August meeting. He indicated that the specs are being put together and is anticipating the Watershed can go out for bids soon with construction occurring sometime early next summer.

Mr. Landgaard discussed the District's traditional calendar. He indicated that with the act of the legislation and the cost of unemployment, he asked the board if they would like him to work on an adjusted calendar. He indicated the school year would go into the month of June with more breaks during the school year and the adjusted calendar would minimize costs for the District as it pertains to unemployment costs. The board talked about surveying staff and the community and putting together a list of pros and cons on moving to an adjusted calendar. The consensus was to look into an adjusted calendar further.

The board discussed a district-wide cell phone policy. Mr. Landgaard noted that he has not heard a lot of complaints about cell phones being used in the classrooms. The board indicated that they would like to ask staff if it is a disruption in class and would support a staff survey. Mr. Landgaard will look into a cell phone policy further.

Mr. Landgaard discussed an additional school resource officer. He indicated that the district just increased to two resource officers so he said he cannot support an additional officer. He will put this item on the Instructional agenda for further discussion.

The board discussed the rental fee structure for community use of facilities. Mr. Landgaard indicated that the fees cover custodial costs, etc. and seems appropriate.

Mr. Landgaard discussed holding graduation on Trojan field. He indicated that this presents a number of concerns such as not enough seating and weather being a factor. He said he would not recommend holding the ceremony on Trojan field. It was mentioned about having an overflow in the auxiliary gym with a big screen during graduation.

Mr. Landgaard and the board discussed the Crailsheim Road and that the County does not have any plans to implement turning lanes. He indicated that this project would stay as is or until someone else determines that something needs to be done due to safety concerns. The board discussed putting together a committee to meet with the City and County to discuss the district's concerns. One board member suggested that parents contact their county elected official to voice their concerns.

The board discussed long-term succession planning for the retirement of certain individuals including the superintendent. Mr. Lorenz noted that he is negotiating a two year agreement with Mr. Landgaard. He is looking at having something to approve at the August board meeting.

Mr. Landgaard noted that he did not have anything else to share regarding legislation.

The board discussed the City Wide Sports Facility Use Plan. Mr. Landgaard indicated that nothing was moved forward after the plan was done. All entities have done everything individually and no one was willing to give up their control of their facilities. The board suggested that maybe it is time to look at other options to make better use of the facilities that are out there. The board will discuss this further.

Work session adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Steve Schnieder, Clerk

Lisa Ahrenstorff, Deputy Clerk