

Bethel-Tate Local Schools

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

November 2019

The Bethel-Tate Board of Education held its regular meeting on November 26, 2019. Here are the highlights from the meeting.

Presentations

Alan Skelly, CEO of Sun Energy Solar Farms, shared with the Board his interest in using district property to install solar panels to generate power to supplement the district's energy needs. His company would own, install, and maintain the panels with no out-of-pocket expenses to the district. The district would benefit by saving money on its electricity bill. Mr. Skelly also shared potential sites for the solar panels and said he would meet with district officials to determine the best locations. He asked for support from the Board so he could move forward with a more detailed plan and proposal by the end of January 2020.

Frank Krailler of the Garland Company gave an update on roofing throughout the district. He shared before and after photos of the work completed so far and said the district has made great progress in the past five years to address aging roofs. The objective has been to restore assets and extend the life of the roofs when possible and replace where necessary. He presented a plan and budget for the next phase of the roofing projects.

Public Participation on Agenda Items

None

Treasurer's Agenda Items

The Board approved the Treasurer's consent agenda:

- Monthly bills
- Cash reconciliation and investments
- Amended appropriations
- Donations

Five-Year Forecast

The Board also approved the five-year forecast which is based on historical trends and current factors. Mrs. Royer reported that total expenditures have increased 3.83% or \$466,298 annually during the past five years and are projected to increase 2.81% or \$480,336 annually through Fiscal Year 2024. Based on these numbers, without additional revenue the district would need to cut its Fiscal Year 2024 projected expenses by 20.55% in order to balance its budget without additional revenue.

Mrs. Royer shared that if funding from the state remains the same, the district is looking at a \$3 million deficit in the near future.

Superintendent's Agenda Items

The Board approved the following recommendations from the Superintendent:

- Personnel
- Third Grade After School Reading Intervention Program
- District Calendar for 2020-2021

U.S. Grant Update

Mr. Goodman shared that sophomores have been visiting Grant Career Center through their experience days. An open house for parents of sophomores will be held on December 4.

Informational Items

- First reading of 13 different Board policies.
- The Board discussed a proposal by Tim O'Hara to buy land in front of the old football field at the middle school to construct a business/restaurant. The Board discussed the pros and cons of selling this property. A formal offer has not been presented to the Board. The positive is that the money from the purchase of district land could help offset the costs to improve the athletic facilities (turf, track

resurfacing, and score boards). The negative is the land Mr. O'Hara is interested in has the potential to cut off part of the stadium that the middle school still uses. The property offered for sale would have to be modified to keep this asset for the district. The Board agreed that they must do their due diligence and explore this opportunity to bring in outside funds to help improve the athletic facilities.

- The district conducted a communication survey and a summary of the survey results was shared with the Board. There were a total of 195 responses. The feedback from this survey is being used to develop a communication plan to improve district and building communication.
- The Board discussed Ed Choice and the impact it will potentially have on the district's budget. Parents who are interested in this program must apply to the state so the district will not know until the spring the impact it will have on the budget. The district discussed talking to legislators about the negative financial impact this will have on the district.

Board Action Items

The Board set a time for their annual organizational meeting for Monday, January 13. The organizational meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the regular Board meeting at 6 p.m.

Board Committees

Village Communications

Dr. Shula reported that the village of Bethel is using the slogan, Small Town, Big Heart. He shared that the interest of the village and business partners to partner with the district and receive the district's monthly electronic newsletter.

Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA)/National School Boards Association (NSBA)

Dr. Shula shared that he has been appointed to the OSBA Executive Committee. He will also serve on the OSBA/NSBA Federal Relations Network Committee which is a two-year commitment and involves advocacy work on the behalf of public education with legislators.

Dr. Shula stated that the state legislature is hearing testimonies now on HB305 which is the Ohio Fair Funding Bill. The bill is designed to create a comprehensive school funding plan to establish a base cost to meeting the cost of basic student educational needs; adding additional resources for specific needs; and allocating state and local funding shares based on local capacity measured by property values and resident income. He shared district data from the Cupp report that will be used for this funding bill and the negative impact it would have on the Bethel-Tate School District.

Board Correspondence

Mr. Brannock commented on the Board of Education and district's responsibility is to ensure the safety of all students and to protect the district's assets. He said that the district is working to ensure that every organization fills out the proper usage forms and have the appropriate certifications and paperwork in place before receiving approval to use the district facilities.

Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items

Melvin Dean was present to introduce himself to the Board of Education and shared that he is running for the 66th district seat. He gave a summary of his background and prior service to the Bethel community.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

December 17, 2019

6 p.m.

Bethel-Tate High School Media Center