



Board Briefings

ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S SEPT. 8 MEETING *(conducted remotely via Webex)*

- **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** — Superintendent Michael Cornell reported that the district is "ready to go" on Sept. 10, the first day of classes. Employees are doing all that they can to ensure students will have a great learning experience in a safe environment when they return, he said. The emphasis as school resumes will be on students' mental and emotional well-being, while normalizing new routines. While instruction may look different this year, the district's core values remain strong and are a unifying force. Mr. Cornell briefed the board on recent developments in staff professional learning, technology, student online learning, health precautions, transportation, student orientation/open houses and other topics. He also announced that Union Pleasant Elementary School was winner of the HCSD Summer Challenge, in which staff, students and parents were invited to use Twitter to post photos showing how they "create, care, solve and discover." The school was awarded the Top Dog trophy for having the most engagement.
- **END OF YEAR AUDIT** — Sara Dayton of Lumsden & McCormick, the district's external auditor, said that a "clean" opinion was rendered, the best possible outcome, after a review of district financial statements from July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020. This indicates that financial statements were fairly presented and materially accurate in accordance with general accounting standards. Additionally, the auditor's management letter indicated no material weaknesses in the district's internal controls and compliance. Ms. Dayton noted a decrease in general fund expenditures in 2019-20 due to the pandemic school closure; these funds will be applied to the 2020-21 budget. She added that while there is little change in year-to-year general fund revenue, a concern is the recently announced 20% withholding of state aid.
- **PERSONNEL** — The board approved the following personnel appointments: Juliane Stachowski, special education teacher (part-time), Charlotte Avenue Elementary; Katherine Arnold, clerk typist (part-time), Union Pleasant Elementary; Erin Catalano, cleaner, districtwide; Helen Frampton, cafeteria monitor, Middle School; Leah Hahn, cleaner, Armor Elementary; Maureen Hector, clerk typist (part-time), Boston Valley Elementary; Shannon McCarthy, personal teacher aide, Boston Valley Elementary; Dianne McCusker-Smith, cleaner, districtwide; Brenda Persico, cafeteria monitor, Union Pleasant Elementary. In another matter, the board approved creation of the following new Civil Service positions/titles, to be filled as needed: mechanic (1); teacher aide (8).
- **NEXT MEETING** — Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Boston Valley Elementary

Michael Cornell, Superintendent
Sept. 9, 2020