



Board Briefings

ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S MARCH 14 MEETING

- **BUILDING REPORT** — The meeting was hosted at Charlotte Avenue School by principal Danielle Lango. Mrs. Lango talked about the school's emphasis on STEAM activities including the successful STEAM Day in December. Teachers MaryBeth Diggins and Jessica Gainey came up with the idea for the day, and were honored for their efforts at the meeting. Mrs. Lango said both the morning and afternoon STEAM clubs have amazing participation and the next step is to create a STEAM room in the school. Students Cecilia and Josephine Jackson, Dylan Eustace, and Hank Moden all spoke about STEAM Day and its impact on their school days.
- **BOARD REPORTS** — Student representative Jill McDonnell reported High Five Fridays will start this week at the high school, after launching the new initiative with Ken Nwadike Jr. last week. She said the second Free Hugs presentation of the year was a success. Other board members also attended Free Hugs, as well as the student panel during superintendent conference day. They also highlighted upcoming events including the Middle School Family Food & Fitness Fair on March 22 and prom at the Wurlitzer Building on June 13.
- **CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT** — Assistant superintendent Brent Jordan reported the 2023-24 Capital Outlay Project will include replacing light fixtures and ceilings in Union Pleasant Elementary School.
- **ELEMENTARY READING PILOT** — Director of Curriculum and Instruction Kaitlin Sylvester presented findings from the years-long ELA pilot. The journey started in 2018, progressed to a focus on the science of reading in 2021, developed a committee in 2022, and actually started the pilot this past summer. She explained the Science of Reading is not one specific program it's a collection of research over time. Three programs were piloted in K-5 and the findings were that grades K-3 wanted to adopt Amplify CKLA and grades 4-5 wanted to adopt HMH Intro Reading.
- **APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS** — The Board approved all items including the ELA pilot programs.
- **APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEMS** — The board approved all items including the 2023-24 school calendar, Capital Outlay Project, Armor playground project, and a donation from the Conor Long Foundation and Southtowns Teacher Center to host Ken Nwadike Jr.
- **PUBLIC EXPRESSION** — One person thanked the board and district for their emphasis on the mental health of students and staff after she attended the Youth Mental Health First Aid Training offered by Continuing Education.
- **NEXT MEETING** — Tuesday, April 11 at 6:30pm at Boston Valley School

Michael Cornell, Superintendent
March 21, 2023