



Board Briefings

ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S SEPTEMBER 12 MEETING

- **BOARD REPORTS** — Student representative Abby Nikiel reported next week is homecoming. The pep rally is 9/19, football game is 9/22, and the dance is 9/23. There will also be a spirit week Monday-Friday. Mr. Tom Flynn said he attended both Opening Day and Monday night's field hockey game, which was the first event on the new turf at Howe Field. Mr. Cam Hall attended several committee meetings including IDA, transportation, and finance. Mr. Mike McGarry and Mr. Rich Schneider both said they toured the capital project site on September 5 and praised the teams at Turner Construction and Gordon Jones for the great work.
- **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT** — Superintendent Mr. Michael Cornell said Opening Day was great and by far the best start to a school year he's experienced in his time with the district, operationally speaking. Mr. Cornell thanked everyone who plays a part in making school great for our kids. Mr. Cornell also said the administrative team, with the help of BOCES, will be working on revising the policy manual. The committee will meet next week to talk about how the process will work.
- **EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT** — Sara Dayton from Lumsden McCormick presented her findings in the annual external audit. She said they gave an unmodified opinion, which means the financial statements are represented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with government auditing standards. The total fund balance for all funds at year end went from \$10.6 million in 2022 to \$5.9 million in 2023. She said the new business official will be helping to reduce the reliance on fund balance moving forward.
- **ARP FUNDING REPORT** — Business official Christine Ljungberg gave an update on the ARP Learning Loss and Esser3 grants. The grants were given in the amounts of \$700,000 and \$2,028,213, respectively. Over the past few years, the money has been used for summer programs, before and after school programs, the Family Support Center, and mental health professionals. The district has received input from community stakeholders on how to use the funds. The grants expire next fall and the district will use the remaining funds by that time.
- **CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE** — Christian Mearra from Turner Construction said a huge milestone for the Capital Project was the early opening of Howe Field for the field hockey game Monday night. He said there are 220 days until the completion of Phase 1 and 200 days away from potential bids for Phase 2. The staging area fencing will go up in the third week of September. The baseball and softball turf will be installed in the first week of October. The track at Howe Field will also be laid in the first week of October, weather permitting.
- **APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS** — The board approved all items.
- **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL ITEMS** — The board approved all items including the 23-24 tax levy.
- **APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEMS** — The board approved all items including the district safety plan, BOCES cooperative bidding process, and a contract with Rachael Schneider - Autism Learning Partners.
- **PUBLIC EXPRESSION** — One parent expressed concerns about class sizes and a PTSA member encouraged the school community to join the PTSA for \$8 per year.
- **NEXT MEETING** — Tuesday, October 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Armor Elementary School

Michael Cornell, Superintendent
September 18, 2023