



Board Briefings

ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S FEBRUARY 13 MEETING

- **BOARD REPORTS** — Mrs. Laura Heeter said the Parent Child Connection's Souper Bowl event and anxiety workshop had great turnouts. Mr. Mike McGarry reported on a recent Power C committee meeting. Mr. Tom Flynn said he and Mr. Cam Hall participated in practice interviews with Academy of Finance students and enjoyed the opportunity to mentor the kids. Mr. Rich Schneider said there was a district safety meeting back in January, which was very well attended. The group reviewed the district safety plan, national disasters emergency responses with respect to the wind storm, a car fire, and other 911 calls. He also said several other drills are scheduled for the rest of the school year. Student representative Abby Nikiel said the student government is busy working on advertising for Bald for Bucks.
- **BUILDING REPORT**— Several teachers, aides, students, administrators, and other staff members presented on behalf of Union Pleasant Elementary School. They shared activities students have been working on in the Tinker Tank, and how teachers utilize the spaces for lessons and class activities. They also talked about the students' work in the Giving Garden, the Walk Across America program, Bulldog Friendship and other activities happening in classrooms to empower students.
- **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT** — Superintendent Mr. Michael Cornell gave a report on a social media-fueled incident that happened last Wednesday at the middle school. He said a fight in the MS cafeteria the previous day led to a student sending a threatening message to some other students. The message was later reposted and verbally repeated incorrectly, which started a rumor about a threat to the school. He said with the help of law enforcement partners and administrators, we determined there was no threat to the school. A message was sent out to parents to let them know, and he thanked middle school administration, counselors, teachers, and clerical staff for their help in fielding calls to calm parents. He said the group did a debrief the following day, concluding we could have convened in a central command center during the incident to make communication easier, but overall the response was a success. Mr. Cornell also said DASA days happened last week, which is a counselor and teacher-led project in which middle and high school students go to the elementary schools to share the culture of kindness message. This year's theme was empathy. Mr. Cornell gave a brief update on the Capital Project. We are shifting the majority of the remaining capital project budget into Phase 3 of our project which will include significant interior renovations to our schools with an emphasis on UPES. The pool construction remains on schedule for inclusion in Phase 4. Design work will begin in 2026-2027, with construction to start in 2028. Additional borrowing authorization will be required for Phase 4. Lastly, the superintendent gave an update about solar eclipse communication. A message was sent out to families last week to let everyone know the district has been meeting with the town and the village over the past several months and they are encouraging people to enjoy the eclipse from their home or at a local ticketed event. There will be no watch activities on school or town or village property and there will be no school on that day, April 8. He also said teachers throughout the district have been teaching about the eclipse and involving it in different aspects of lessons.
- **CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE** — Christian Meara from Turner Construction said we are just 49 days away from the Phase 2 bid opening and 62 days away from Phase 1 substantial completion. He said the team will be doing more work on the batting cages in the next few weeks. This past week they officially put up the Fisher Athletic Complex sign, and the Howe Field sign came down to be refurbished. He said the completion of the softball and baseball turfs are contingent on weather, but they are hoping for April, March if we are lucky with weather. Phase 2 construction will start in May of this year but it won't disrupt any school activities going on. Phase 2 includes replacing the high school boiler and work in the art and music rooms at Charlotte Avenue, Boston Valley, and Armor. Phase 3 planning will begin soon.
- **APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEMS** —All items were approved including appointing Capital Markets Advisors as the district's financial advisor for the 2023-24 school year and waiving the second reading of the Workplace Violence Prevention Policy. We are required by the state to implement this policy by May. The board also approved adding the high school auditorium rigging as an emergency Capital Project. We are trying to figure out a way to have the musical on the stage in April using some temporary measures, and rigging will go up in the summertime.
- **PUBLIC EXPRESSION** — One person spoke about the importance of planning relocation for concerts if the stage will be unusable for music events
- **NEXT MEETING** — Tuesday, March 12 at Charlotte Avenue School

Michael Cornell, Superintendent
February 15, 2024