

OPS Board Agenda

Q & A

June 2024

(II.A) Special Ed Role in Goal #1 - No information provided in the packet? **Andrea Johnson will be here to present information to you about special education. If she has any documents to share, I will make sure you get copies of those at the meeting.**

(II.A) Are there plans to bring in students or teachers to help report on the student outcome goals? Jordan, Greg, and Ed do a great job, but I always appreciated the viewpoints the others bring. **I appreciate this feedback and once our teachers and students are back in the fall...I will plan on bringing them back to the board meetings to present information about the goal that is being progress monitored! I agree that having them involved is awesome!!**

(II.A) We are really focusing on STAR testing and my understanding is that the students who don't do well on it receive additional support during homeroom. Is that time also open for students that have questions or need assistance that aren't necessarily doing poorly on their STAR tests? I've heard comments that students aren't allowed to visit teachers during that time because it's reserved for those needing to improve their testing. **Learners can receive help from their instructors even if they are in a different homeroom. This would just need to be communicated with each instructor so they're on the same page and know where the learner will be.**

(II.B) Supt Guardrail 1.3 - Is this the ND State Engagement Survey? Has this tool been improved from years past when we had the opinion that it did not provide very useful information? **This is not the ND state survey. This is a survey that I created that targets the information that we wanted for this guardrail PM. It is very simple and short...which I was hoping would increase participation. Next year I need to do a better job of enticing kids to complete it. I have a game plan percolating though!**

(II.C) Will Sue or someone be sharing a survey for us to do this, or are we supposed to complete on our own and be prepared to discuss? **If board members haven't completed the survey that Sue sent last month...please do so. She thinks maybe one board members hasn't completed it. Sue will share the survey results with you at the meeting and lead the discussion.**

(III.B) Financial Report

Restricted Fund - AD has \$45,546. What is the source of these funds and how will they be used? Are they earmarked for certain purpose? Do we expect it to go to \$0 at year-end? **The AD restricted fund came into existence on July 1, 2019, with a journal entry for \$45,385.22. I don't know where those funds originated from. But both Robin and I believe it came from a memorial. So, no those are not ear tagged for anything that I am aware of. We are currently discussing what we should do with these funds.**

Restricted Fund - Vending \$24,664 - same questions as above. **This money comes from the vending machines that are located within the school. At first it was this money that would be used towards purchasing new computers, laptops, iPads. Leslie Dethlefsen was donating her time to stock, order etc. of the vending machines. K. Haafke has taken this over. Larry Engel hasn't ordered a mass quantity of devices. At this time, we are using this fund for activies/purchase that benefit ALL students. Examples: speakers on mental health. We will not be bringing either account to zero at the end of FY.**

(III.C) Bills: Arntson Stewart "go bond referendum" - what is this for? I don't recognize that vendor's name. Arntson Stewart was the attorneys fee for creating the ballot and resolution for the general obligation bond referendum.

(III.C) Bills: I was going to ask about the funds for "Houses" in the restricted funds. I have not heard anything about the elementary houses in a long time and wondered if we still have them. I see there are "houses expenses" in bills. Evidently the houses are still active. How do these activities help us achieve our goals? We are still doing some activities with our learners in their 'Houses'. We do an activity every other month where the learners in grades 4,5,6 go down and meet with learners in the K-3. Those activities include partner reading, a service project (making placemats for the Manor, doing coins for cancer fundraising, etc...), and a fun activity like bingo or board games. The expenses have been for those activities and supplies to complete those service activities. These activities help our learners practice their Habits of Minds which in turn help our students with all the 'soft' skills our learners need to be good learners. They also get to have a little fun and hopefully increase that student engagement that we strive for under our superintendent guardrails.

(III.C) Bills: Why did we "refund JH business fair donations"? When Mrs. McGuire's 7th graders participated in a business fair "experience" this year. The learners and Mrs. McGuire sought out "start-up money" from local businesses. These were meant to be short-term loans and the learners had to pay back this money from the profits of their business. It was a great real-world experience!

(III.H) GAAA - I noticed that the recommended policy includes a school board member on the committee. I think it is fine to include a board member on the committee as we have in the past but thought maybe we were getting away from that with our governance model. Is this what the current committee recommends? The committee felt that they still wanted one board member on the committee as they value the input and participation from the board. They also felt that it would facilitate a path for communication and information sharing.

(III.I) GAAB - This is only Recommended, but also noted "Cognia" - Does that mean it is required for Cognia accreditation? It is only recommended by Cognia. It was required at one time but has been "downgraded" to only recommended. By rescinding, does that mean the board is no longer required to adopt the curriculum? That is correct. NDCC 15.1-09-33 outlines school board powers and responsibilities and adopting curriculum is not included. It is not a REQUIRED policy. But, because we have student outcomes in place, the board has set forth demands that affect curriculum that is established within our state standards. When you say that the curriculum is the state standards and that is required of all schools, that means the board doesn't need to approve? If we would amend coursework that does not meet the requirements of the ND Superintendent of Public Instruction or law then the board would need to give their approval.

(III.N) What is the SOR grant? This is the Science of Reading grant from the state of ND. We applied for the grant so that we could continue to provide PD to our teachers in this area. We will continue to apply for future grants as we feel that our teachers need this knowledge to provide instruction in reading as SOR is the basis of our instruction in K-6 in Oakes and we have to ensure that our teachers have met this state requirement.

(III.N) Refresh my memory for me, does the city receive a grant that helps cover a portion of the SRO salary? The 3-year COPS grant is over in a month. There's no other grant the city is using. So now city and school will be splitting the full salary of the officer without COPS grant funding starting next year.

(III.N) We under budgeted for the SRCTC tuition by about \$130,000. Have we heard anything from Spelling regarding what the increase will be for the upcoming year? We experienced the \$130,000 shortfall due to the change in Summer Ag Experience reimbursement. Prior to transitioning to Shannon as the business manager, the incorrect formula was being applied to determine the amount that is paid from our summer school state aid payment to SRCTC. Now that we know the "correctly calculated" approximate amount that will be paid, Shannon has been able to budget the higher amount for the 2024-2025 school year and we should not have a budget shortfall. We haven't heard anything further from SRCTC and we don't get the actual amounts until December.

(III.O) PERS - Briefly, why do you recommend the 457 Plan? If OPS is enrolled into the plan, it allows employees to join after the original 30-day election period. This plan allows them to contribute an additional 3% that will be mandatory match up to 3%. This plan allows for the employee to adjust contributions at any time.

The DC plan only allows a lifetime election within the first 30 days.

This could be another benefit to the non-certified employees. In today's market, we need to stay competitive.

(III.P) NDPERS 457 Defined Contribution Plan ~ What is the percent that the district currently contributes to NDPERS on behalf of our staff? OPS is currently required to contribute 9.26% and the employee is required to contribute 7%.

(III.Q) There are still some special meetings with no time filled in. Is this accurate? Sue's expert information is that those meetings had no minutes that counted because they were negotiation committee meetings and no minutes were taken.

(IV. A) Business Manager's Report - Item 3. What coverage was Hartford carrying that they dropped/reinstated? What have been our losses? How much did the premium increase? Are there options? This covered all boilers and chillers, including HS, EL, Central office and Lunchroom freezer and cooler. Last year we paid \$12076.00. This year they agreed to a policy contingent on a school visit for \$24152.00. Western Agency asked 2 other companies to insure, and we were denied. Dallas Varty said there are other options, and we are currently looking into these options...waiting to receive the information from the companies The losses are addressed in the next question.

(IV.A) Business Managers Report - Hartford Insurance dropped us because of our loss history. Have we had that many claims in the last few years? Hartford insurance loss history:

5/2/18 \$ 38,251.93 Compressor

5/31/23 \$101,780.49 Chiller/20 ton

Last year's premium was around \$12,000. It appears that OPS has had insurance through them since 1/22/2018. I've added a document to the packet from Western Agency with our claim history on it...it is labeled "Claim History" and is under item IV.A in the packet.

(IV.B) Elementary Principal Report: Can you give more information on the ND A+? What are the numbers we are seeing? In the screenshots you will see the Grade, Content Area, Test Window (1, 2, 3), # of Students tested and then the Scale Score. The number for each of the Scaled Scores is an average for the number of students tests. If you look at 1st grade Math (which is the first one on the screenshot). You will see the scores 258, 268, 278 - This shows an increase in Scaled Scores average for the 1st grade in Math for each of the testing windows.

V.A. Long-Term Facilities Plan folder contains election canvassing information. **Ooooooops! I have renamed the folder. My apologies for missing that!**

V.B. Hall of Fame - The information included was approved last month. I will reveal the committee's recommendation for the 2024 HOF inductee, and I will ask for the board's approval. **Perfect!!**