

Alta-Aurelia Community School District

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Monday, October 9th, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Aurelia Room #7

300 Ash Street

Aurelia, IA 51005

BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Board President Brad Rohwer called the meeting to order at 6:03pm with the following Board Members present: Tom Hinkeldey and Jennifer Kaskey. Katie Meyer joined the meeting at 6:26pm. Also, in attendance were Superintendent, Denny Olhausen, and School Business Official, Samantha Kopfmann.

WELCOME VISITORS

Ben Schekirke, Jeannie Henningsen, Lesa Heschke, Wanda Naslund, Steve Jimmerson, Kevin Flaherty, Jaymie Randel, and Kate Kealey.

PRESENTATIONS

Alta-Aurelia Education Foundation - Steven Jimmerson and Kevin Flaherty

The Alta-Aurelia Education Foundation representatives shared the function of the organization and the support it provides to teachers and students in the district.

Ready, Set, Grow! - Wanda Naslund

Ready, Set, Grow board member, Wanda Naslund, thanked the Alta-Aurelia school for their continued use of the building. Mrs. Naslund expressed that Ready, Set, Grow has not had any issues with the school. The school has been forthcoming and has assisted with documents Ready, Set, Grow has inquired about. Mrs. Naslund informed the board of their current state and how the daycare plans to move forward.

Instructional Framework - Jaymie Randel and Lesa Heschke

Jaymie Randel, from the AEA, and Lesa Heschke presented on instructional framework and how it is being implemented with our teachers. Teachers are learning from other teachers and partnering up with a fellow teacher who has the same growth area as they do. The teachers are

asked to self-reflect at the beginning of the year and will self-reflect again in May. Instructional coaches are training on instructional framework as they are helping fellow teachers ease into the material with the AEA's help. Teacher Leadership is helping our teacher grow.

APPROVE AMENDED AGENDA

Hinkeldey moved, seconded by Kaskey to approve the amended agenda. The amendment included action item A: Approve out of state trip for Jazz choir to go to PENTATONIX in Omaha. Roll Call Vote Brad Rohwer, aye, Jennifer Kaskey, aye, Katie Meyer, aye, and Tom Hinkeldey, aye. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report –Denny Olhausen

Mr. Olhausen reviewed the Model Student Discipline Policy from the Iowa Department of Education that was a requirement passed by the legislature in their last session. This will be reviewed by the administration team and will need to be adopted at the November 2023 meeting. Mr. Olhausen received Alta-Aurelia's board policy manual back from IASB that included recommendations of changes and updates that could be made to the policies. This will be reviewed and updated throughout the year. Mr. Olhausen informed the board the Alta Library has decided not to pull any books from the library shelves that would be considered restricted for school students according to the new legislation that passed. Therefore, approved books have been moved to high school classrooms for high school students to check out instead of being allowed into the library at this time. The public library and the school are working on sectioning off an area for PK-4th grade students to have access to books that are deemed appropriate through the legislature's new rule. Mr. Olhausen also shared a thank you note from the Schaefer family with the school board for the lantern purchase for TJ's funeral.

Secondary Principal - Ben Schekirke

Mr. Schekirke informed the board of activities and fundraising being performed by the Alta-Aurelia FFA. The FFA has feed a farmer on October 11th, a Cherokee Farm Bureau meeting, four FFA members went to FFA Day at the Clay County Fair, two members were at District Level Livestock Contest, Ag Safety Day in Newell, currently selling fruit, meat, cheese until October 20th, participated in Greenhand Fire Up, and National Convention is at the end of the month. Mr. Schekirke has implemented individual learning plans by meeting with high school teachers. This creates more accountability, purposeful interactions with the teacher leaders, improves practices, and creates the opportunity for growth through peer observations and strategies.

There has been an Instagram and Facebook page started for the Alta-Aurelia High School to show community members what students are participating in and working on.

Aurelia Elementary/Alta-Aurelia Middle School Principal - Jeannie Henningsen

Mrs. Henningsen shared the implementation of grade alike grouping for professional development meetings. The elementary staff in Alta and Aurelia attended a zoom meeting with each other discussing the new ELA curriculum. Teachers have turned in their Individual Learning Plans. Each teacher has a partner or small group and instructional coach to help each other grow as educators throughout the school year. Teachers also had a Youth Mental Health training and data meetings. Mrs. Henningsen shared fall field trips that were associated with the grades academic unit which were: 3rd-5th went to Ag Safety Days, 5th has a two week soil conservation unit with Colleen Schwanz and will go to Spirit Lake for their field trip, 6th grade went to the Omaha Zoo for their science unit, 7th-8th began their Holocaust unit and went to BV for a speaker, and the Aurelia TK-4th went to Northwestern College for a play. Mrs. Henningsen also discussed the Aurelia Elementary PBIS committee meeting from October 4th. Alta Elementary will now be doing PBIS on half days starting at the end of October like Aurelia Elementary.

School Business Official - Samantha Kopfmann

Mrs. Kopfmann informed the board the new fiscal year started on July 1st, 2023, therefore, financial reports only reflect three months of expenditures and revenue. The first School Foundation Aid deposit was received this month in the amount of \$511,200 as well as transportation in the amount of \$5,641. The first large property tax payment will be deposited from Buena Vista County and Cherokee County on October 15th. Mrs. Kopfmann explained Allowable Growth is for spending authority not cash for the SPED deficit and LEP. The district's investment accounts were also discussed. The \$250,000 SAVE investment matured on October 5th, 2023. Mrs. Kopfmann did not reinvest the money at this time due to projects that need to occur at the Alta and Aurelia buildings and grounds. The \$200,000 general fund investment was reinvested with a 5.21 yield maturing in October 2024.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Open Positions
 - i. JH Track
 - ii. Assistant HS Softball
 - iii. Assistant HS Baseball
 - iv. Assistant HS Speech

- b. Talking Points
 - i. Financial Focus
 - 1. Review of a few categorical funding streams which included Professional Development, Teacher Leadership, Talented and Gifted, and Home School Assistance.
 - ii. Trademarking Alta-Aurelia Logos
 - 1. Discussion of trademarking two of the Alta-Aurelia logos, the AWA and the shield with the spear.
 - iii. Facilities
 - 1. Building and Grounds Update
 - a. Financial review of SAVE and PPEL available cash flow for projects that need attention for FY24
 - b. Potential of Alta Elementary parking lot on the north end of the Alta Elementary building to accommodate additional parking as well as a safer solution to student drop off
 - c. Potential Real estate discussion will occur in closed session
 - 2. Bonding Capacity
 - a. Review of Piper Sandler's report on bonding capacities
 - b. Work session will occur with Matt Gillespie from Piper Sandler on bonding for projects at Alta and Aurelia locations
 - 3. Process of Selection of Project Management
 - a. Discussion of selecting a Project Management group to help with facility assessment, facility planning, bonding, and building.
 - iv. Board Goals and Priorities
 - 1. Review of the Activities/Measures of Success worksheet the administrative team developed and will work towards.
 - v. Superintendent Individual Career Development Plan
 - 1. Reviewed the plan
 - vi. Superintendent Evaluation
 - 1. Mid Year Review will be in close session at the November 2023 board meeting

CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Minutes
- b. Financial Reports
 - i. Account Balances
 - 1. Activity Balance
 - 2. Revenue Summary
 - ii. Bills
- c. School Board Policies:
 - i. Review of School Board Policies
- d. Open Enrollments
- e. Personnel Items
 - i. Contracts
 - 1. Donald Parkhurst–HS Social Studies

2. Rachel Thomas—Alta Elementary One-on-One Special Education Associate
3. Chandler Damewood—JH Basketball Coach

Hinkeldey moved, seconded by Meyer to approve the consent items. Roll Call Vote Brad Rohwer, aye, Jennifer Kaskey, aye, Katie Meyer, aye, and Tom Hinkeldey, aye. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried..

ACTION ITEMS

Kaskey moved, seconded by Hinkeldey to approve the out of state Jazz Choir trip to PENTATONIX in Omaha. Roll Call Vote Brad Rohwer, aye, Jennifer Kaskey, aye, Katie Meyer, aye, and Tom Hinkeldey, aye. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Kaskey moved, seconded by Hinkeldey to approve the out of state trip for FFA's yearly conference in Indianapolis. Roll Call Vote Brad Rohwer, aye, Jennifer Kaskey, aye, Katie Meyer, aye, and Tom Hinkeldey, aye. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Hinkeldey moved, seconded by Kaskey to approve the \$219,359.75 SPED allowable growth. Roll Call Vote Brad Rohwer, aye, Jennifer Kaskey, aye, Katie Meyer, aye, and Tom Hinkeldey, aye. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Kaskey moved, seconded by Meyer to approve the \$36,066.74 LEP allowable growth. Roll Call Vote Brad Rohwer, aye, Jennifer Kaskey, aye, Katie Meyer, aye, and Tom Hinkeldey, aye. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Hinkeldey moved, seconded by Kaskey to approve the Early Retirement Plan for Administration with end of employment on June 30th, 2023. Roll Call Vote Brad Rohwer, aye, Jennifer Kaskey, aye, Katie Meyer, aye, and Tom Hinkeldey, aye. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Hinkeldey moved, seconded by Meyer to approve the lease with Ready, Set, Grow! for 2023-2024. Roll Call Vote Brad Rohwer, aye, Jennifer Kaskey, aye, Katie Meyer, aye, and Tom Hinkeldey, aye. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Hinkeldey moved to go into closed session citing Iowa Code 21.5 J—To discuss the purchase or sale of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property or reduce the price the governmental body would receive for that property, seconded by Meyer. Roll Call Vote Brad Rohwer, aye, Jennifer Kaskey, aye, Katie Meyer, aye, and Tom Hinkeldey, aye. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Hinkeldey moved, seconded by Kaskey to move out of closed session. Roll Call Vote Brad Rohwer, aye, Jennifer Kaskey, aye, Katie Meyer, aye, and Tom Hinkeldey, aye. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

Hinkeldey moved, seconded by Meyer to not purchase the additional real estate at this time. Roll Call Vote Brad Rohwer, aye, Jennifer Kaskey, aye, Katie Meyer, aye, and Tom Hinkeldey, aye. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

BOARD COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA PLANNING

- a) Next meeting is November 13th, 6:00 pm in Alta
- b) Superintendent Mid Year Review
- c) Acknowledgment of Board Members who are leaving at the November meeting

ADJOURN

Hinkeldey moved, seconded by Kaskey to adjourn the meeting at 8:49pm. Roll Call Vote Brad Rohwer, aye, Jennifer Kaskey, aye, Katie Meyer, aye, and Tom Hinkeldey, aye. 4 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Samantha Kopfmann, SBO & Board Secretary

Brad Rohwer, Board President

This publication of minutes is the unofficial report of action taken. Official minutes are available for review at the Alta-Aurelia Community School District after their approval at the next regular board meeting.