

Drexel R-IV Board of Education
 April 15, 2024
 Board Meeting Media Summary

1. The board approved the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the March 18th, 2024 regular meeting, the warrant report, payment of bills, treasurer’s report and the petty cash report and heard administrative reports (attached).
2. The board recognized Lynn Stark and Brenda Hadley for their years of service on the board of education.
3. The board certified the results of the April 2nd, 2024 Municipal Election.
4. New board of education members (Jared Jacobs, Brian Faulkner and Callie LaBeth) were administered the oath of office and sworn in.
5. The board elected the following officers; President – Jennifer Thomas, Vice-President – Tim Eastwood, Treasurer – Andy Gorsage, Secretary – Sara Borden.
6. Jennifer Thomas was appointed to serve as the district’s MSBA Delegate.
7. Under Old Business:
 - a. The board heard an update on the General Obligation Bond Issue.
 - \$1,950,000 bond issue received 70% approval.
 - The district’s bond underwriter (LJ Hart) will be at the June board meeting to approve the sale of the bonds.
 - The district will be working with LJ Hart, McKinstry and MOCAAT to determine the best strategy to invest the bond proceeds.
 - Below is a preliminary project schedule:

Project	Days to Complete	Start Date	End Date
Building Automation Controls	53	May 27	August 8
HVAC Refurbishment	15	July 8	July 23
Doors	47	June 3	August 7
Roofing	15	June 17	July 5
Playground	6	July 15	July 21
Paving	5	July 22	July 27
Punchlist	5	August 8	August 13

- b. The board heard an update on the district’s health insurance renewal.
 - c. The board held a second reading of MSBA 2023D Policy, Procedure and Form Updates.
8. Under New Business:
 - a. MSBA Superintendent Support Services – the board will be holding a work session later this summer for the board and superintendent to set goals and expectations for the new governance team.
 - b. Student Transportation Services – the board has authorized the administrative team to move from contracted student transportation services to district operated student transportation services.
 - c. Fort Scott Community College STARS Program -- the board gave approval for students to participate in this vocational training program.

9. The board held an executive session, taking the following action:
 - a. Extra Duty Assignments for 2024-2025 were approved.
 - b. Non-Certified Staff Assignments for 2024-2025 were approved.
 - c. Hired the following for summer custodial/maintenance work:
 - AJ Gunnels
 - Miles Wheeler
 - Kolbi Nichols

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Mayfield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "T".

Terry Mayfield
Superintendent

Superintendent Report April 2024

- Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6th – 10th – I would like to recognize and thank all of our teachers for their dedication and service to our students, school and community.
- Operations Updates:
 - Facilities
 - I will be meeting with Pro Alliance to discuss and plan our summer projects list to be completed. I have been working to create our summer projects list.
 - Playground fencing and gates have been installed, which now encloses the playground and provides some updated security for the playground area.
 - McKinstry has been on site, getting final measurements and verifications on our bond issue projects and with an executed agreement in place, they have started ordering materials to be ready to start projects once school is out for the summer. They are also scheduled for another site visit on Tuesday, April 16th.
 - Food Service
 - March – served 1,862 breakfasts = 133/day.
 - March – served 2,294 lunches = 164/day.
 - Health Services
 - Cass County Dental was here the beginning of March providing tele dentistry for some of our students. They also applied the second application of fluoride to the students who signed up for fluoride application at the beginning of the year.
 - Cass County Health Dept will be coming 4-12-24 to provide immunizations to the incoming 8th and 12 grade students with parent/guardian permission.
 - Office visits for the month of March: 481 students, with 19 sent home.
 - Transportation
 - First Student has hired a new area manager that will help oversee Drexel.
 - First Student has already worked to secure our two route drivers for 24-25 school year.
 - First Student is working on pricing models to show what driver wages would look like with pricing increases of 3% - 6% as outlined in the current agreement.
 - 2024-2025 is the last year of the agreement and the district can consider the following options:
 - Renew and extend the current agreement with First Student.
 - Put it out for bid after next year.
 - Begin district operated student transportation services.

- Technology
 - The district is in the process of ordering a new firewall, five battery back-ups, two 48-port switches, the data networking, licensing and installation of the equipment. Our E-Rate Category 2 funding will be used to cover the costs of these upgrades to our technology infrastructure.
- Legislative Update – Senate Bill 727

Sent to the House right before legislative session spring break.

Return from break and the bill has received some life.

It is moving quickly - the House wants it passed and sent to the Governor ASAP

SB 727 is 160+ pages - there is a lot in it - I hope they take the time to actually read it and recognize what's in it.

There are some good things in it, but it comes with some not so good things - it was all about compromise and what could the other side get in order to get it passed.

Some of the highlights - major areas within the bill:

VOUCHERS:

- Expands the voucher program from \$50 million to \$75 million and allows for it to grow annually.
- Expands the income threshold to qualify from 200% to 300% of the standard to qualify for free and reduced lunches - a family of four earning an income of \$165,000 would qualify - this was never about poor kids.
- Expand the program statewide - currently it's limited to certain areas.

SCHOOL CALENDAR:

- Incentivizes districts to move away from 4- day school week.
- Must go a minimum of 169 student days.
- In certain areas of the state it must be voter approved every 10 years - board approved for Drexel.
- If district's go 169 days, in the first year or two the district would get a 1% increase to their overall foundation formula payment and that amount is required to go to teacher salaries, eventually it increases to a 2% increase.
 - 1% = \$14,645 = \$488/year per teacher.
 - 2% = \$29,290 = \$975/year per teacher.
 - There was clarification by the bill' sponsor on this funding.

CHARTER SCHOOL EXPANSION:

- Would expand charter school's into Boone County (Columbia).

CHANGES TO THE FOUNDATION FORMULA:

- Changes the foundation formula attendance calculations
 - Would phase in a blend enrollment and attendance for purposes of determining state aid - currently it's based on attendance.

- This is a good provision - but many other items in the bill are harmful.

INCREASE PROVISION ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- Would increase the calculation for district's who claim preschool attendance for state aid purposes - we do not currently use this provision - our state aid payment that we could claim does not generate the revenue that we currently receive on tuition.

INCREASE THE SMALL SCHOOLS GRANT FROM \$15 MILLION TO \$30 MILLION

- Drexel qualifies for the small school's grant:
 - Will receive approximately \$117,000 this year.
 - Would receive approximately \$245,000 if the small schools grant is expanded.

INCREASE TEACHER PAY/STATE MINIMUM SALARY:

- 2025-2026 minimum salary increases to \$40,000 and \$46,000 for a Master's degree and 10 years' experience (by 2027-2028 it increases from \$46,000 to \$48,000).
- By 2028-2029 increases each year will be based on inflation, but capped at 3% per year.
- Legislature may appropriate grant funds (teacher baseline salary grant) to help district's cover the cost - but there is no language that they have to provide funding for any of it - would be left up to districts to make up the difference.
 - Could lead to reduction of staff.
 - Could lead to increased class sizes.
 - Could lead to district's cutting programs.
 - Could lead to district's increasing their tax rate levy.

HOW IS THE STATE GOING TO PAY FOR ALL OF THIS?


- HB 2 - State Budget Bill - in FY '25 and '26 would add \$420 million a year to cover the increases to the foundation formula payment.
- SB 727 - in FY '26 would add an additional \$160 million to the state budget.
- Total = \$580 million in FY '26 alone.
- Where will the state come up with the money, especially once their federal stimulus money is gone?
 - Have to make cuts to other state programs and services.
- If this passes - legislators need to be made aware that they will be held accountable to fund this now and in the future.

- Budget/Finance Updates – Year to Date Comparisons

YTD Comparison – Thru 03/31/24	Revenues	Expenditures	Difference
YTD Last Year Total (22-23)	\$3,868,898	\$3,219,997	+\$648,901
YTD This Year Total (23-24)	\$5,230,920	\$4,810,996	+\$419,924
YTD Last Year Operating (22-23)	\$3,574,724	\$2,982,630	+\$592,094
YTD This Year Operating (23-24)	\$3,625,560	\$3,020,530	+\$605,030
20-21 Operating Actuals	\$3,811,064	\$3,588,762	+\$223,302
21-22 Operating Actuals	\$3,870,691	\$3,675,215	+\$195,476
22-23 Operating Actuals	\$4,438,131	\$4,362,784	+\$75,347
23-24 Operating Budgeted	\$4,236,293	\$4,186,004	+\$50,289

Source	Budgeted	Received Thru 03/31/24
Local Revenue		
Current Taxes	\$1,372,569	\$1,398,895
Prop C	\$372,600	\$322,306
Delinquent Taxes	\$136,000	\$62,959
County Revenue		
Assessed Utilities	\$140,000	\$159,083
State Revenue		
Transportation	\$59,180	\$30,760
Classroom Trust Fund	\$113,854	\$91,408
Small Schools Grant	\$111,408	\$87,647
Basic Formula	\$1,475,474	\$1,098,380

Respectfully,



Terry