

Drexel R-IV Board of Education
September 15, 2021
Board Meeting – Media Summary

1. The board approved the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the August 16th regular board meeting, the warrant report, payment of bills, treasurer’s report and petty cash report. The board also declared several books and a 12-burner gas stove as surplus property and heard administrative reports.
2. Under Old Business
 - a. Board heard an update on the district’s ESSER III application and budget.
 - b. Board heard an update on the district’s Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (SRCSP) with the following revisions:

Considerations for closing a classroom should include:

- *Evidence of intra-classroom transmission of COVID-19.*
- *Evidence of ≥ 2 cases in the classroom with the inability of all parties to be masked and physically distanced.*

In cases where one student or staff in a classroom is positive, but no other students or staff have been deemed to be exposed by the school or local public health department, then the school does not need to close the classroom.

Considerations for closing a school should include:

- *Evidence of intra-school transmission of COVID-19 that cannot be curtailed by single or multiple classroom closure.*
- *The rates of positive students and staff exceeds 8% of the school population.*
- *Inability to provide in-person instruction due to ill or exposed teachers.*
- *Inability to provide appropriate cleaning and custodial services due to ill or exposed custodial staff.*
- *Shelter at home order as deemed by local public officials.*

If the school is closed, consider closure for 24-48 hours to allow for deep-cleaning and further contact investigation by the school and local public health agency. A longer closure may be need based on circumstances. Both school and local public health agency should be involved in the decision to re-open.

3. Under New Business
 - a. Board approved the 2021-2022 bus routes.
 - b. Board approved a recommendation for the district to apply for a district purchasing card.
 - c. Board approved the purchase of I-Ready software, a student academic bench marker that will be implemented in grades K-8 for the next three years.
4. Board held an executive session, but took no action.

Submitted by,



Terry Mayfield, Superintendent

Superintendent Report
September 2021

First Day of School Enrollment Numbers:

K-6	=	146
7-12	=	144
Total	=	290

First Day 2020	=	276
First Day 2019	=	294
First Day 2018	=	303
First Day 2017	=	303
First Day 2016	=	307

Pre-School Numbers:

Pre-School Enrollment – we are at 29 students (14 AM & 15 PM) – so we have one more opening available before we would have a waiting list. Thank you for supporting the expansion, this means that we are able to serve 9 more students than we would have been able to in the past. Our current staffing allows us to have 30 students (15 AM/15 PM). Our revised licensure allows us to have 40 students (20 AM/20 PM).

Cass County Kids First:

The superintendents from the ten school districts located within Cass County will be meeting in the near future to create our legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

Bond Issue Remaining Funds:

At the end of the last fiscal year the district still had a balance of \$5,287.63 in bond proceeds. We are installing an additional projector and screen in the LMC. Once this is completed, it is estimated that we will have \$995.84 in remaining bond proceeds. We have three years to expend all bond proceeds – so with the bond issue being passed in April 2019, we have until April 2022 to spend all of the bond proceeds.

Municipal Bonds/Debt Service Financial Analysis:

Potential Bond Refinance – I am working with LJ Hart to monitor potential savings for the district from refunding current outstanding bonds that are callable March 1, 2022. They are preparing a financial analysis to determine if it would be financially beneficial for the district to do so – they will be sending out more information as soon as the analysis is completed. I have also asked them to put together some projections on when the district could be eligible for a no-tax increase bond issue and how much bonding capacity would be available.

Transportation Updates:

We have started the year running two routes. After the first week of school we have been running pretty well. The northern route is averaging about 12-15 riders and ride times are about 45 minutes in the AM and PM. The southern route is averaging about 30-35 riders and ride times are about 50-55 minutes in the AM and PM. Apple Bus has also indicated they are working to get a few more individuals who can help serve as sub drivers and activity trip drivers.

Sharing the Vo-tech route with Archie is also going well. Archie is serving as the fiscal agent and paying for the route and fuel and invoicing us monthly for 50% of the costs.

ESSER III Application and Budget Status:

The application deadline and budget deadline for ESSER III funding was August 23rd. Area superintendents have met recently (August 11th) to discuss the application and budget process and how district's plan to use their funds. Additionally, we have a committee of elementary staff and administration who have been working on this as well – with another meeting on August 18th. Again we have a little over \$315,000 to spend over the next three years and the bulk of this will be on curriculum, instruction and assessment materials to supplement our current materials. Money will also be allocated to pay teachers to provide additional supports to students via tutoring, summer school or Monday academy – these funds can also be used to provide food service, transportation and other supports on those days. We will also look at any additional technology needs the district may need, as well as building in social, emotional supports for students and staff. These are all areas that we have been researching. In the next month or two, I would anticipate recommendations to the board on some of these materials, programs and services. I have submitted a preliminary application and budget to DESE to meet the deadline. DESE has indicated that they are just getting started reviewing the ESSER III applications and budgets and that it may take them up to 30 days or so to work through them. They will likely prioritize those with capital projects included since they require prior approval – also keep in mind that the funds have not yet been appropriated by the legislature and we are not sure when that will happen.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Mayfield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "T" and "M".

Terry Mayfield