

Drexel R-IV Board of Education
September 20, 2022
Board Meeting – Media Summary

1. Board approved the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the August 15th, 2022 regular meeting, the warrant report, payment of bills, treasurer’s report, petty cash report and administrative reports.
2. Under Old Business
 - a. The board revised the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan.
3. Under New Business
 - a. The board approved the 2022-2023 bus routes.
 - b. The board held discussion on the possibility of working with the Cass County Sheriff’s Department to provide a School Resource Officer for the district.
 - c. The board held discussion on the possibility of placing a no-tax levy increase general obligation bond issue on the April 2023 ballot.
 - d. The board set the October board meeting date for Monday, October 17th at 7:30 PM.
4. The board held an executive session, taking the following action:
 - a. Approved Danny Marks as a food service substitute
 - b. Approved Jim Hogan as a substitute teacher
 - c. Approved Cecilia Slenker as a substitute teacher
 - d. Approved a resignation from Lacey Wheeler as food service clerk
 - e. Approved a recommendation to hire Katesa Miles as food service clerk
 - f. Approved a recommendation to have Holly Bennett serve as the bus radio monitor.

Submitted by,

Terry Mayfield, Superintendent

Superintendent Report
September 2022

First Day of School Enrollment Numbers:

K-6	=	171
7-12	=	127
Total	=	298

First Day 2021	=	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 currently have 25 enrolled in the pre-school program (13 AM/12 PM). We have room for five additional students since we expanded the program last year. 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.

Municipal Bonds/Debt Service Financial Analysis:

I have been working with LJ Hart to review our bond refunding potential. The refunding that we talked about last year is still not economical as the interest rates for that 2017 issue are currently 2% - 3%. We do have a Series 2019 issue that has a 5% interest rate from 2033-2039. That financing will become callable beginning March 1, 2024 and will most likely be economical at that time, although it's hard to project the potential savings out that far. Based on our debt service calculations, we will be able to do a \$1,300,000 general obligation bond issue in April of 2023, which is pretty close to our legal bonding capacity. Over the next few months we will need to have discussions on this option and potential capital improvement projects that it could finance. In the coming weeks we will reconvene a facilities planning committee to evaluate the facility needs of the district and potential projects for a general obligation bond issue. At the October board meeting I plan to have LJ Hart available to present the financial analysis and discuss entering into an agreement to have them serve as our bond underwriter once again.

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 50 minutes in the AM and PM. The southern route is averaging about 28-30 riders and ride times are about 55-60 minutes in the AM and PM. 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.

Grant Updates:

- Recruitment/Retention Grant – the district received \$15,000 to provide retention stipends to staff.
- Grow Your Own Grant – the district received \$10,000 to provide scholarships to graduates pursuing a degree in education.
- Small Rural Schools Achievement Grant – the district has received \$27,459 to be used to make Chromebook lease payment and pay for a portion of MOREnet and Tyler Student Information System annual renewal fees.
- Teacher Baseline Salary Grant – the district will receive \$15,470 to increase teacher salaries to \$38,000 minimum.
- Post-Secondary Advisor Grant – the district will receive \$22,500 this year and \$15,000 next year to help students with post-secondary planning.
- Food Service Grant – the district has applied to receive \$5,000 to purchase equipment to expand the second chance breakfast program.
- Dollar General Literacy Grant – the district has applied to receive \$4,000 to purchase materials to supplement the elementary reading program. Notified on September 8th that our grant proposal is being funded.
- Emergency Connectivity Fund Grant – the district has applied to receive \$86,100 to purchase new Chromebook devices.

Football Field Lighting:

Musco Field Lighting will be here September 6th to fix the lighting issue that we are experiencing. I put in a call to Musco, the light pole manufacturer, because this will be beyond the scope of what Evergy can provide. It is quite possible that the pole was struck by lightning. This will require some more extensive work. They are proposing to replace the pole harness and any lamps, ballasts, fuses that need replaced as well. On the three poles that had lights that were dim, we replaced those bulbs and did not resolve the issue, and so while Musco is here, they would propose to replace the capacitors on those fixtures as well. The proposal for these services including material, labor and lift is \$3,950.

Health Insurance Incentive Program:

I wanted to highlight that one of the features of our health insurance program is the wellness incentive program. We are eligible to receive up to \$1,400 this year as a part of the program. We have already earned \$400 by hosting a wellness education event during our in-service days. We have earned \$400 by receiving a wellness grant. To date we have received \$800. We are eligible to receive the remaining \$600 by hosting a biometric screening event – which is going to be held on our September 12th PD Day – in which we earn \$15 per member who gets screened. Last year we earned \$880 overall in district incentives. The money that we earn will be used to provide healthy drinks and snacks for our staff – additionally, I would also like to purchase some exercise equipment and create a staff workout/wellness room. Additionally, our employees can earn wellness incentives for themselves. They can earn \$25 for completing a health risk assessment, \$50 for a biometric screening and \$75 for annual physical/obgyn or other

preventative screenings. There are other incentives as well, but it's pretty easy for them to earn at least \$150 every year.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Mayfield