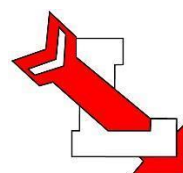


Board Briefs



Regular Meeting of June 9, 2025

RECOGNITIONS - RETIREES AND GIRL SCOUTS GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

Superintendent Fowler recognized and thanked the 2025 retirees and the Girls Scouts Gold Award recipients.

ACTION ITEMS

The following action items were approved:

- May 2025 minutes
- May 2025 payment of bills
- New hires:
 - Steve Gough, Director of Teaching & Learning
 - Laura Judge, Bushnell Young 5s
 - Stacey Prater, Middle School Science
 - Kyle McFarren, High School Agri-Science
- MHSAA Membership for 2025-2026
- 2024-2025 Budget Amendments
- 2025-2026 Budget Appropriations
- 2025-2026 Millage Rates
- Kent ISD Enhancement Millage Resolution
- MASB Membership
- Middle School Football Equipment

HUMAN RESOURCE UPDATE

Dustin Cichocki stated that hiring for next school year is continuing. Negotiations with LESPA and LEA are moving forward as well as discussions about including new Great Start Readiness teachers. Administrative professional development will be taking place on Wednesday. Exit interviews for staff retiring or resigning are taking place. Mr. Cichocki is working with teachers to renew their certificates, if needed.

BUDGET UPDATE

Sonia Hodge stated that payroll is being set up for the next fiscal year as well as preparation for the upcoming audit in late August.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

Dan VanderMeulen stated that summer learning is starting this week. Lowell Area Schools is offering Summer Boost, Arrow Readers on the Move, and High School credit recovery. He welcomed Steve Gough as the new Director of Teaching and Learning. He also thanked the Board for what they do, the time they put in and their dedication to the district.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Two audience members made public comments. No action taken.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Fowler stated that the Board has a process they follow regarding how library books are determined as young adult literature. Kids are responsible and mature enough to handle the materials in books. Additional restrictions have been placed on books based on community standards. He is proud of the students who have graduated from Lowell Area Schools and the citizens they become. He continues to reject any association with the term "groomer." The literature in our library reflects the lives that our students are living and the issues that kids are living. Sometimes it does involve violence, alcohol and sexual experimentation. Having conversations with kids on how to act and handle difficult situations is part of growing up and what we want to continue to do. He appreciates the questioning and challenging but the intent is to raise citizens that we are all proud of as they walk across the stage at graduation. Final exams and end of year celebrations took place last week. The boys volleyball team won a state championship. Isabel German won the state championship in pole vaulting. The high school track construction has started. The high school library was honored with "Exemplary Status" in three areas - teaching for 21st learning, building the 21st century learning environment and leading the way to 21st century learning. The Great Start Readiness Program is expanding and led by Director Kathy Burch. He thanked Dan VanderMeulen for the laughs, advice, tough questions, friendship, and mentoring. He thanked him for his service to the community and students of Lowell Area Schools. He wished everyone a great summer.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Annie Whitlock congratulated the staff for a fabulous school year. She also congratulated the retirees, new hires and girl scouts for their incredible commitment.
- Laurie Kuna congratulated the retirees and Dan VanderMeulen. She stated that the boys volleyball team has won three state championships. She addressed the excerpt from a book that was read at the last meeting. Reading 300 pages to get to one prurient excerpt from a book doesn't make sense to her. The Miller Test for obscenity states that prurient material needs to be throughout the book for a book to be considered obscene. She hopes everyone has a good summer.
- Jennifer Dougherty thanked the retirees for their service. She is proud of the girls scouts and our community that is raising amazing young women. She stated that if anyone has a problem with a book, you need to read the book and fill out the official form to review the book as a community. Books are evaluated by a group and not just one person.
- Jessica Curtis congratulated the retirees. She also thanked Dan VanderMeulen for his service to Lowell Area Schools. She also wished everyone a great summer.
- Pat Nugent congratulated retirees and new hires. One new hire - Laura Judge - was a student of his. He also stated it was good to work with Dan VanderMeulen and congratulated him on his retirement.
- Brain Krajewski thanked Dan VanderMeulen for all he has done for the community and Lowell Area Schools. He thanked Jan Herb for her service as a bus driver and hoped others are as gracious and supportive as she has been.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board of Education moved into a closed session to discuss negotiations.