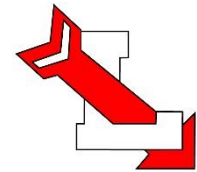


Board Briefs



Regular Meeting of November 11, 2024

Student Council Report

Conner Casarez stated that today is a great day to honor those that have protected our country and freedom, like the red arrows, after which the district is named, and high school principal Steve Gough. Thank you to all veterans in the audience and online for your service. Varsity football had a great run and students are proud of the team. It's the end of the first trimester and students are busy studying for exams. The student council is lifting spirits by putting up fun posters and handing out donuts. Exams are stressful, but small encouragement helps students feel good while studying. He is confident that students will crush exams.

Approved Items

October Minutes, Payment of bills, Summer Tax Resolution, Insulin Lawsuit Resolution and Overnight Student Trips

First Reading of Revised/New Bylaws/Policies

The following policies were reviewed/discussed - Policies 1130, 3110, 4110, 6110, 6111, 6112, 6114, 6325, 6550, 7310, 7450, 3120.08, 5330.02, 5340, 5500, 5610, 7540.09, 8321, 7540.02, 7540.03, 7540.04, 8300, 8305, 8315, and 9700.

Human Resources Update

Dustin Cichocki stated that health care insurance open enrollment was completed last week for all staff. There are various plans that are offered throughout the district. The Human Resource Department is currently looking at a new applicant tracking system. The goal is to have a new system in place prior to spring hiring.

Budget Update

Sonia Hodge stated that the new finance software, Skyward, is live. The first payroll has been completed. They are continuing to work to make sure that all leave time balances are accurate. Hodge reviewed the Audited Financial Statements with the Board which are available on the Transparency Page of the district website. Lowell Area Schools received the highest opinion from the audit.

Board Comments

- Laurie Kuna thanked all the veterans.
- Pat Nugent congratulated the election winners and is looking forward to working with them all. He congratulated Mrs. Hodge and the Business Office for another successful audit. The Board just expects an unmodified opinion from the auditors each year. If you follow school board news from around the state there are several Boards that have had uncomfortable meetings where they find out things they didn't know, there was missing money, or the fund balance they thought they had didn't exist. It's so important for this Board not to have to worry about that so they can concentrate on teaching and learning. Everyone in the Business Office is doing a great job. The Lowell Education Foundation approved 28 teacher grants totaling over \$27,000 to enhance or improve the work teachers are already doing. Mr. Nugent and Jessica Curtis both serve on the Lowell Education Foundation Board.
- Jessica Curtis thanked all the veterans.
- Brian Krajewski thanked all the veterans. He wished all of his fellow hunters a safe and successful hunt and reminded all to take time and enjoy nature.

Curriculum Update

Dan VanderMeulen thanked the Cherry Creek Elementary team for their report. They are a good example of what is happening throughout the district. It is critical that districts allow time for adult learning. Lowell has a system in place which allows 45 minutes after school (20 times per year) as well as half and full day professional development. Once teams grow and understand the process they always are requesting more time together. Mr. VanderMeulen continues to look at different professional development models and what other districts do to structure their calendars to create more time. Investment is one of the keys to success. Between 70-75% of Cherry Creek staff have attended the Professional Learning Community conference in Lincolnshire. This is an investment in our students. The conference is a powerful time together with the common denominator of sharing knowledge based on the district's mission, values and beliefs. Each team is teacher-driven and speaks a common language - what do we do for students that aren't learning and what do we do for students who already know the material.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Fowler stated Lowell Area Schools will continue to support all students. Fowler stated what he heard from the Cherry Creek Elementary report was a paradigm shift from time being the constant and learning being the variable to learning being the constant and time being the variable. If students need more time to learn materials teachers are going back and spending time to determine what students need to learn before they move on. He stated that all need to think differently when we hear the word "fail." Fowler thanked all the veterans for their service to our country. Fowler attended the veteran's assembly at Murray Lake Elementary. Fowler congratulated Jessica Curtis, Brian Krajewski, Laurie Kuna and Annie Whitlock for their successful election campaigns. He noted that there will be a lot of activity during the lame duck session that starts this week. It's important to stay engaged and work with law makers. He congratulated all the athletes for their successful seasons. He congratulated all the students involved in the high school play and noted that the collage concert is tomorrow. He also congratulated the Business Office for their successful audit and software transition. The final pupil accounting numbers were submitted last week, Lowell Area Schools is up 18 students. MiSchool Data, which houses school index and accountability scores, are posted for internal use only. Fowler is excited to share those scores when they are released to the public. He thanked Cory Velzen, Lowell Fire Chief, and the entire fire department for conducting joint drills with the district's medical emergency response teams. The learning has been huge for everyone. Relationships with community leaders is so important for safety and security. He wished all the student's good luck on their exams.

Report

Professional Learning Teams by Craig Veldman, Cherry Creek Principal and teachers Betsy Owens and Peter Lang.

Public Comments

Three audience members made public comments. No action taken.

Lowell Area Schools Board of Education

Brian Krajewski, President • Laurie Kuna, Vice President • Pat Nugent, Secretary • Tom Kaywood, Treasurer
Jennifer Dougherty, Trustee • Jared Blough, Trustee • Jessica Curtis, Trustee