

## BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Garvin Library or via Zoom

October 6, 2021

Present:

Board Members: Angeline Alley, Sara Dennis, Paul Hazel, Alison Ingerson, Judy Murray, Allana Page,

Administration: Randy Gawel, Scott Blood, Dr. John Barone, Linda Metcalf,

Others: Kate Davie, Laurie Smith, Lillian Gahagen, Allyson Coburn, Kolby Nelson, John Dennis

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Angeline Alley, Chair. Those present were welcomed and introduced themselves.
- II. The agenda was reviewed. The financial update will be changed to Item 4.
- III. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Allana Page to approve the Board minutes of September, 1, 2021. Motion voted on and approved with one abstention (Sara Dennis).
- IV. Financial update (Linda Metcalf)
  - A. FY21 YTD unaudited financials
  - B. L. Metcalf went over various line items that were notably under or over budget.
    1. Total revenues are down \$353,522
    2. Expenditures overall are down by \$18,548, primarily due to COVID. There was also a decrease in services, and activities were down.
    3. The line item for Asst. Principal will be renamed "Dean of Students".
  - C. Food Service Transfer from the general fund for \$75,148. This is for last year. It is due to volume in lunches, as well as some change of staffing. The USDA will cover certain food items and free meals for every student. The program attempts to strike a balance in providing better and better foods. USDA funds are continuing through this school year to provide meals for all students. We need to assess what the volume of meals is to find what is needed to break even. Dr. Barone: cost per plate right now is lower than the reimbursable cost per plate.
- V. Principal's Report
  - A. Assessment Results:
    1. Allyson Coburn shared end of year text level samples and examples of the comprehension questions.
      - a. Paul Hazel: concerns about being below grade level year after year. What proposals do we have for correcting this problem? Scott Blood: fall data is not showing anything regarding progress, just current levels. This is the baseline where we start. We need to take the time to analyze and assess the data and make informed decisions to implement instruction. At the Elementary level, teachers look at their own level and decide next steps for instruction and intervention. We have not done well with coming together as an elementary staff to look at the data and understand the kids from year to year. What we're seeing for data doesn't give important information about that student. We need

to look at multiple years if the student isn't making the progress that we would like. Laurie Smith, Scott Blood, and Dr. John Barone are going to focus on the elementary level and facilitate this work with the staff. What more informed decisions do we need to be making? This is a diagnostic test.

b. John Barone: We have been doing Star Reading and Star Math. Pre-COVID, our results were trending in the right direction. Our data has taken a hard hit during COVID. Students are now getting focused intervention 3 days a week for 6 weeks. The administration is hoping to hire additional interventionists with ESSER Funds.

c. Judy Murray: We've invested a lot of money on Fountas and Pinnell materials. We are not seeing a lot of return. Angeline Alley: When did we start Fountas and Pinnell? Answer: about 5 years ago. S. Blood: wants to assure the Board that those materials are not sitting unused. J. Barone: before COVID, we were seeing gains in the elementary, and Star Math scores were improving. SBAC scores from last spring were not at all what we want. The Board has invested a lot of money, but it takes a minimum of 5 years to see growth. We were trending in the right direction. With COVID over the last two years, we have a lot of ground we have to recover. As a class, Grade 8 is on grade level this fall.

d. Judy Murray: realizes everyone is working so very hard. J. Barone and S. Blood are reviewing the data and will be writing a new action plan for the next 5 years. Allana Page: Are the new staff being trained in using the material? S. Blood: yes. Randy Gawel: In talking about the drop with COVID, these programs are designed for close contact and are interactive. It's not just numbers. This was taken away from students during COVID. When you can't be close to the students while working with them, this is a disadvantage. Now that they are back together, they are able to make connections again. S. Blood: we have to constantly assess whether what we are using is working. Fountas and Pinnell is being used in the best way possible. He is optimistic. P. Hazel: can we get information part way through the year? S. Blood: yes, we reassess in the winter. A. Page: could we have a report of where they ended last year? Possibly a comparison of several years? J. Barone: the assessment in the fall is a pre-assessment. The cohort is not a true picture, as some kids move in and some kids more out. P. Hazel: would like to see a report after some months go by. R. Gawel: As we use targeted interventions in the middle school, over the course of time, we can see how the students are progressing. A. Alley: would there be enough time to see in December? J. Barone: when we do our winter report, hopefully STAR assessments will show growth, and he can give a report on how the interventions seem to be working

VI. Communications—none

VII. Food Service:

- A. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Allana Page to transfer \$75,148.39 to food service. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.
- B. Randy Gawel: We will work to anticipate this better when budget season comes around again
- C. Meal Counts and Staffing Levels: Paul Pellegrino provided comparisons of breakfast and lunch counts over September of the past two years
  - 1. Breakfast in Sept. '20 = 1398 meals. Lunch in Sept. '20 = 2782 meals
  - 2. Breakfast in Sept. '21 = 2624 meals. Lunch in Sept. '21 = 5156 lunches.
  - 3. Doubling participation from a year ago. Cost per plate is lower than reimbursable. Staffing includes the Food Director and 3 workers. Lunch lines are out the door and into the hallway. One middle school student is doing work study in the kitchen, and one high school student will be doing work study there. We are posting for a .5 position. A. Alley: are there ever subs in the cafeteria? J. Barone: We fill in however we can. A. Alley: We have a meeting with Paul Pellegrino scheduled for Oct. 14 with A. Alley, A. Ingerson, and Coco Huang. A. Ingerson: with increase in numbers eating, are we running out of food? S. Blood: not aware of this happening. J. Murray: do they have time to eat? J. Barone: This has been an issue. J. Murray: We give a huge thank you to the cafeteria staff!

VIII. Action Items—Taken care of earlier in the meeting

IX. Public Participation—None

X. Other Business

- A. Vacancy on the Board? We need another representative from Groton. We are working on recruiting. R. Gawel: explained the process Newbury just went through.
- B. It would helpful for the Board, when reports are given, if there could be a brief explanation instead of only a pie chart. This would be helpful in letting the public know what the issues are.
- C. Administration reports: J. Murray asked if we would be getting periodic reports from the various departments? A. Alley: yes, periodically
- D. A. Ingerson: if we are having hybrid Board meetings, could we have a visual for any members of the public, especially, as they wouldn't have received the packet?
- E. A. Ingerson: Some buses arrive before students are allowed to go inside. It would be nice if we could open the building sooner. She realizes this is complicated by COVID. S. Blood: We are trying to eliminate mixing pods. By being outside, we are in a safer place in terms of transmission. We are working on a plan for students to come inside as weather gets colder. We share buses with other OESU schools, so they have to drop students off and then go on to another route. Some students are dropped off about 10 minutes before they are allowed to go inside
- F. The plowing contract is up this year. S. Blood: Daryl Sulham has always done the contracting out. The new Director of Facilities will hopefully be taking on some of that responsibility.
- G. No OESU report as they weren't able to meet because wifi was down, and they weren't able to meet remotely.
- H. Will we get a chance to meet new staff? A. Alley: yes

I. J. Murray: asked for more clarity on the website as to what is happening. Are there other places (public areas) that the Board could meet that is not inside the school? R.

Gawel: people can come here whenever school is not in session. Anyone is welcome. A.

Alley: if we met in a church basement, rules still apply. Masks, no food.

- XI. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Judy Murray to adjourn at 7:26 PM. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Perkins, Minutes Clerk

**The minutes are in draft format and are unofficial until formally approved by the Board at a subsequent meeting.**