

BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION
REDFORD UNION SCHOOLS, DISTRICT NO. 1
August 22, 2023

A Board Workshop of the Redford Union Board of Education was held on August 22, 2023, at MacGowan School (District Meeting Room), Redford Twp., MI 48240.

Board Workshop
Meeting
8/22/2023

Call to Order:

Call to Order

Vice-President Gray called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Roll Call

Roll Call

Present: Bailey, Dean, Gray, Miller, and Osowski

Absent: Moores and Pridemore

President Remarks:

President's Remarks

Vice-President Gray welcomed everyone and asked that everyone please place their cell phones on silent.

Call to the Audience for Public Participation Regarding Agenda Items:

Call to the Audience:
Public Participation
Regarding Agenda
Items

None.

Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of
Agenda as presented

It was moved by Member Osowski, seconded by Member Bailey, to adopt the Agenda of August 22, 2023, Board Workshop as presented.

Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion: Carried

Workshop:

2021 Capital Bond Project – Bid Pack #7 Scope & Bid Overview – *Plante Moran Cresa, The Christman Company, and French Associates:*

2021 Capital Bond
Project –
Bid Pack #7
Scope & Bid
Overview

This presentation was on the third and final large package for the high school campus which is now called the Secondary Campus. There will be two more bid packs to come which will be for Hilbert Elementary, and the final package for Beech. The team briefly walked the Board through the steps in the process to develop.

Bid pack #7 high-level sequence schedule was as follows:

- September 11, 2023, Board Action Item – Bid Pack #7 Award
- Early October 2023 – Construction begins, temporary barricades in place
- Winter 2023-24 – Interior work continues in unoccupied spaces
- Spring 2024 – Balance of interior work begins; August 2024 – Substantial Completion for 2024/25 School Year.

The team has a target date of September 11, 2023, Regular Board Meeting for when they will bring forth Bid Pack #7 Award for the Board’s consideration.

There were questions and answers.

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Representative – *Tamaran Dillard, Executive Director of Student Services and Ms. Bethany Gomillion, District Representative:*

Parent Advisory
Committee (PAC)
Representative

Ms. Dillard introduced Ms. Gomillion. Ms. Gomillion is a PAC parent and was highly recommended by Ms. Nickel, Principal of Beech Elementary.

There were questions and answers.

Trustee Bailey suggested that Ms. Gomillion be provided with the contact number of one of the former representatives so she can talk to her about what to expect.

Ms. Gomillion said she would look forward to whatever support and/or assistance.

Trustee Bailey also Ms. Gomillion to keep him informed of any issues or information regarding the PAC.

The Board thanked Ms. Gomillion.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Support Overview – *Jessica Miller, Coordinator of SEL & Student Wellness:*

Social-Emotional
Learning (SEL)
Support Overview

Ms. Miller reported on the department’s goals, and she shared an organizational chart of the SEL Team and their roles.

There were questions and answers.

Trustee Bailey asked for continuous updates. He also asked for the District's Organizational Chart.

Superintendent Witt said that the District's Organizational Chart is in process due to the work that is being done on the processes and systems. He mentioned that organizational charts for a couple of areas have been shared with the Board previously, but he would make sure that the Board gets a copy of the Organizational Chart as they are put together.

New District Website – *Kim Crenshaw, Executive Director of Curriculum & Technology*

New District
Website

Ms. Crenshaw gave a brief overview of the New Website. The website will be a continual work in progress, but it is coming together. She is also working on a Redford Union Schools App.

Board Policy Review – Introduction & Section 1000 – Bylaws

Board Policy
Review
Introduction &
Section 1000 –
Bylaws

Superintendent Witt mentioned that the Introduction and Section 1000 Bylaws was introduced at the July Board Workshop and the next section will be provided in advance. The larger sections of the policy will be broken down for Board review and discussion. He explained the purpose of the policy review was to get the current board policies and then see if there are questions and or a desire to look at any aspects of each of these sections within the policies and potentially consider revisions.

Superintendent Witt said for the benefit of the full board, when there are legal implications or new legislation that impacts these policies, the administration does work with Miller Johnson law firm. It was Los Albertson who did the initial work for us, but their attorneys merged with the Miller Johnson law firm. When there are legislative changes that impact any of our policies, those revisions are brought to our attention by the firm.

There were no revisions from the Board on the Introduction & Section 1000 – Bylaws.

Superintendent Witt said that they will close the book, for now on the Introduction and 1000 section. It will not be brought back to the workshop or a future Board meeting at this point because the Board did not have any revisions at this point.

Board Policy – Section 2000 – Students

Since Section 2000 on Students was introduced to the Board at the August Workshop, he will bring it back to the September Workshop. He mentioned that Section 3000 was one of the longest sections and will be broken down as they look at it.

Board Policy –
Section 2000 –
Students

Potential Reconfiguration of Existing Cell Tower Agreement – *Mike Beltinck, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)*

Potential
Reconfiguration of
Existing Cell Tower
Agreement

Mr. Beltinck reported that the District has a cell tower with an easement on it at the Hilbert Elementary School, formerly Hilbert Middle School and that agreement has been in place since the contract was signed in October of 2003. Per that agreement, the company has the right to continue to that agreement through 25 years from the date that it was implemented. Right now, they have the easement there to operate through March of 2030. The agreement allows them to maintain it, add to it as they deem appropriate, they can replace it, remove it, operate it, and upgrade the antenna and the foundation. The District has to get an access. The company maintain their own facilities and they pay for their own utilities. The original agreement was signed with Nextel, now it is called SPA. The District is getting about \$3300 per month in rent, which is a little under \$40,000 a year.

SPA has proposed to us to extend the current agreement and instead of them paying the District a monthly rental they have offered the District a \$730,000 lump sum payable up front with no changes to the agreement. It would extend the terms of the agreement well beyond 30-40 fifty years. Mr. Beltinck said that from the District's perspective, \$730,000 lump sum is obviously more. The District could look at making additional changes throughout the district and from a cash flow perspective, obviously it is much better and a more beneficial position.

Superintendent Witt said that they just wanted to introduce this concept to the board. Some aspects of this might still be able to be discussed with SBA as far as the term and maybe some of the dollars associated with the upfront money. But before they even engaged in that discussion with SBA, he wanted to make the board aware of this fact and before they would move forward with anything to alter what has already been in place again since 2003. They would bring that recommendation back to the board.

This agreement only applies to the Hilbert location.

There were questions and answers.

Mr. Beltinck clarified that the District is not talking about selling that property. The property would still remain with Redford Union. It is an easement, and it would be extending out the use of the easement. The District would remain as the landlord and SBA would be the tenants.

Trustee Bailey suggested that the District contact the Township and ask them what they found out about their past cell tower negotiations.

Mr. Beltinck will reach out to the Township.

Communication(s) Partnership – *Jasen Witt, Superintendent*

Communication(s)
Partnership

Superintendent Witt shared that this is a follow-up to some of the discussions we had through the course of his performance review and also, some other conversations they have had, and it ties into some of the work that have been done on the District's website and those things are important to increase community engagement and increased parent engagement. He stated that the document the Board had in front of them was a proposal from a company named Lambert that has been doing this work with districts around the state of Michigan. On page 18 of the document were highlights of some of the schools that Lambert works with. Superintendent Witt is familiar with Lambert through Wayne RESA. On August 21, 2023, the Superintendent and his leadership team met with representatives from Lambert to talk about this potential partnership with them and resources they could provide to our building leaders as they look to improve upon communication with their families and parents.

Superintendent Witt said Lambert is in a position where they could provide internal communication support when there is a need to engage staff, sometimes on some delicate issues, Lambert would be a resource to work with on those communications, monthly, weekly staff communications, special communications on key topics.

Also, potentially for some board presentations, depending on the nature of those topics, external communications, they have experience and working with local districts such as ours on monthly state of the district, parent letters, special parent letters as needed. When sometimes unfortunate events happen, or sometimes it is a reason to celebrate and get the word out on trends or topics within education, or recognized different events, they have experience with that and would be a resource to us. In addition to helping us potentially with the district wide newsletter they are also in a position where our building principals would have access to them, along with other staff members within the building to potentially work with them and helping partner with them on their own. Building newsletters and information. Lambert has experience dealing with media and social media as well.

The agreement would be that Lambert help us on a monthly basis for an annual budget of \$40,000, Lambert would provide the District communication support for a 12-month period. If the District moves forward with this partnership, it will be brought back to the board at the September 11th board meeting with Superintendent Witt's recommendation to move forward with this partnership.

Trustee Bailey said that one thing he has noticed over the years that is lacking at Redford Union is marketing, but also with current statements that are being made on Facebook he thinks in addition to marketing, the District needs to do something about customer service.

Superintendent Witt said that this communication partnership would definitely help in the marketing area, and they could be a resource to us for the social media area as well.

There were questions and answers.

Trustee Bailey said to definitely have something like this in place would be essential.

Vice-President Gray said she love it and the added capacity is the thing that stands out the most to her. For \$40,000 a year the District would get the capacity of an entire team. A foundation to be able to even have communications coming in and out upon which to start building more relationships and developing more involvement in leadership.

Future Meeting Dates:

Future Meeting Dates

Monday, September 11, 2023, Regular Meeting– 5:00 PM
MacGowan School (District Meeting Room), 18255 Kinloch, Redford Twp., MI 48240

Tuesday, September 26, 2023, Board Workshop – 5:30 PM
MacGowan School (District Meeting Room), 18255 Kinloch, Redford Twp., MI 48240

Tuesday, September 26, 2023, Special Meeting – Immediately following the Board Workshop, MacGowan School (District Meeting Room), 18255 Kinloch, Redford Twp., MI 48240

The Board allowed a Public Comment. Ms. Martin addressed the Board regarding the following topics: Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) at the District Level, Flowchart for each building for Special Education be posted, District Facebook page, MI Cares/SEL, Feedback from public concerns, and Recorded Meetings.

Adjournment:

It was Moved by Member Osowski, Seconded by Member Bailey, to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 PM.

Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion: Carried

Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted

Lorna Dean
Secretary
Redford Union Schools
Board of Education