



## WORK SESSION

04/03/2023 [07:00 PM-09:00 PM]

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### WORK SESSION

#### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Latham began the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge to the flag.

#### 2. Roll Call

Members in attendance included: Bob Latham (President), Melanie Gurgiolo (Vice President), Josceylon Buchs, Neil Connelly, Randy Gale, Karen Mallah, Greg Lamay, Dan Serfass (Superintendent) and Jeff Ammerman (Secretary). Laurie Kennedy and Geoffrey McInroy were absent.

Community/Staff Attendees are available on the attached list.

#### 3. Information Only

Mr. Serfass reported that Indoor Guard won the Championships and were undefeated during the marching band season.

Congratulations to Bobby Latham who was selected to compete in the National Indoor Quiz Bowl tournament. He finished in the top 70 out of 200 students.

##### 3.a. Capital Area Science & Engineering Fair (CASEF) Grand Champion: Isaiah Houssou

Isaiah Houssou, Grand Champion of the Capital Area Science & Engineering Fair, spoke about his project and answered questions from the Board. He will present his project at the international fair in Dallas, Texas in May.

##### 3.b. Executive Summary of the 2023-2026 Special Education Plan

Mr. Jacoby presented the draft version of the Special Education Plan, which is attached to the agenda. The draft is posted on the website and has been reviewed by the Curriculum and Instruction Committee. The plan is due May 1, 2023. The plan shows how CHSD provides services and what supports are in place for students with disabilities. 13.6% of CHSD students receive special education, which is below the state average. CHSD has not been flagged for any areas of Improvement planning and/or Indicators. Mr. Jacoby went over the identification method used to determining learning disability, breakdown of disability by percentage, breakdown of race by percentage, services provided and teacher training, addition of new learning support class, out of District placements, positive behavior supports, and facilities.

#### 4. 23-24 General Fund Budget Presentation

Mr. Ammerman reported that the governor's proposed budget included 7% increase for basic education and a 7% increase in special education, which would be \$132,000 in basic education funding and \$57,000 increase in special education funding for CHSD. Funding for safety/security and mental health is proposed at same level as last year.

Major expenses for 23-24 budget were reviewed, the largest expense being salary and benefits. Major ongoing expense changes were reviewed, the biggest change being salary increases with FICA and PSERS.

Mr. Serfass stated that the Administration is recommending the addition of an Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment position. The cost including benefits would be approximately \$165,000. The Administration is also recommending a part time support position to assist the District psychologist. The cost would be approximately \$28,500. The athletic positions being recommended are Middle School Cross Country Coach at approximately \$3,000, Girls Wrestling Assistant Coach at approximately \$4,000, and Weight Room Supervisor at approximately \$1,500. In addition, there is discussion of sharing a professional services contract for safety.

Mr. Ammerman spoke about Budgetary Reserve, Fund Balance commitments, transfer to Capital Projects, Debt Service, and Capital Items, which will be addressed at the May Work Session.

A 1.5% tax increase would balance the budget. Act 1 index is higher this year at 4.7%. Over the last 6 years, the District raised taxes between 2.5 - 3.5% each year.

The Board discussed the tax increase including what the surplus would be at different tax rates. The District has a healthy fund balance to assist with unexpected expenses. If the District plans on a large project, the planning needs to start now. There was discussion on possible upcoming needs such as full time kindergarten, safety and security and possible projects such as an auxiliary gym. Act 93 and the CBA will be coming up next June.

## **5. Salutatorian Scholarship**

Mr. Ziegler reported that the Law Offices of Halbruner, Hatch, & Guise are sponsoring the Salutatorian Scholarship for \$750 a year. The scholarship would be for the graduating senior with the second highest weighted grade point average. Beckley & Madden law firm will take over and sponsor the Valedictorian Scholarship for \$1,000 a year.

## **6. Mediation Agreement**

Ms. Reely reported this is an agreement for mediation that has occurred. This agreement was discussed in the Budget and Finance Committee.

## **7. Messer & Flint Consulting Retainer**

Mr. Serfass reported that there had originally been a \$6,000 cap, but the Administration is recommending an additional \$3,000 for the current school year. The consultant has been busy working on the emergency operations plan, threat assessment procedures, facilitated a Table Top exercise including the county and borough, and has provided security in the school buildings.

## **8. Agreement with Robert Half for (Temporary) Accounting Assistance**

Mr. Ammerman stated that this agreement would be for an Account Receivable Specialist, as one has not yet been found through traditional methods. There is still a chance the position would be filled without using Robert Half. Final numbers are yet to be determined.

## **9. CAIU Board Member Approval and Budget Approval**

Mr. Serfass stated that the Board is asked to approve the CAIU budget and Board candidates annually. The District's annual fee has not increased. The CAIU budget and list of Board candidates are attached to the agenda.

## **10. Cafeteria Material Lift**

Mr. Ammerman reported that Mr. Stroup worked with a local company and there is now a quote to repair which is significantly lower than replacing the lift.

## **11. Department of Health Cafeteria Intern**

Mr. Ammerman stated that CHSD had an intern from this program last year. There is no cost to the District and the intern was a benefit to the Cafeteria Manager.

## **12. Personnel Report**

There were no questions or comments in regards to the Personnel Report.

## **13. Public Session for Comment**

No comments

## **14. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Attendee Report:

Autumn Reely  
Brian Lownsbery  
Tanya Ivey  
Mark Ziegler  
Wade Jacoby  
Minke Kooistra  
Betsy Gayner  
Isaiah Houssou  
Sharon Houssou  
Sharon Hanson  
Leslee DeLong  
Meredith Bowen  
CM  
Azil  
Kerry Martin  
Anita  
Micki Kautz  
Tyler Jeski  
Stephanie Johnson  
Scott