

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OOSTBURG
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
High School Conference Room
June 15, 2016

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Jim Swart.
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance.
 - B. Roll Call. Board members present: Jim Swart, Eric Hartman, Wendy DenBoer, Terry Lemkuil, Mari Kretz, Deb Harmeling, and Jack Stokdyk. Board members absent: None. Administrators present: Kevin Bruggink, Scott Greupink, Sherri Stengel, Ann Steenwyk, Kris De Bruine and Bryce DeRoos. Administrators absent: None. Others: Lucas Allen and Peter Scheppmann.
 - C. Proper posting of agenda was certified by Kris De Bruine.
 - D. Lemkuil made a motion, supported by Stokdyk, to approve the agenda. Motion carried; unanimous.

- II. Public Letters / Comments – None

- III. School Board President / Administrators Reports
 - A. Board President – Jim Swart read a letter written to Ann Steenwyk thanking her for her service.
 - B. Superintendent – Kevin Bruggink thanked Ann for all she has done for the district and Peter Scheppmann for his work on the many ongoing district projects. Written report was provided.
 - C. High School Principal – Scott Greupink advised the board of Lindsay Pribek’s resignation. Written report was provided.
 - D. Middle School Principal – Sherri Stengel provided Read 180 results. Written report was provided.
 - E. Elementary School Principal – Ann Steenwyk shared that she is confident Aaron White will do well as the elementary school principal. Written report was provided.
 - F. Director of Special Education – Bryce DeRoos provided information regarding the EC/JK special ed aide hire. Written report was provided.
 - G. Director of Finance/Personnel – Written report was provided.
 - H. Building and Grounds Coordinator – Peter Scheppmann provided an update on current building projects and scheduling.
 - I. Technology Coordinator – Written report was provided.

- IV. Consent Agenda Items – Lemkuil made a motion, supported by DenBoer, to approve all consent agenda items. Motion carried; unanimous.
 - A. Approved the minutes of the following school board meetings:
 - 1. Annual Reorganization Meeting of May 18, 2016
 - 2. Monthly board meeting of May 18, 2016
 - B. Personnel
 - 1. Approved the resignation of Elizabeth Peterson as high school special education aide
 - 2. Approved the hiring of Sara Ketterhagen as middle school Read 180 Teacher/Data Instructional Coordinator
 - 3. Approved the hiring of Shayla Mattson-Clements as elementary school art teacher
 - 4. Approved the hiring of Mike TenDolle as high school JV wrestling coach
 - 5. Approved the hiring of Sheenah Swoverland as EC/JK special education aide
 - 6. Approved the resignation of Jill Nyenhuis as senior class advisor
 - 7. Approved the hiring Aimee Thrune as 7th grade girls basketball coach
 - 8. Approved the hiring of Kelsey Prinsen as 50% senior class advisor
 - 9. Approved the resignation of Wendy Hoffmann as middle school aide
 - C. Finance
 - 1. Approved May Expenditures of \$874,144.48
 - 2. Approved May Receipts of \$74,211.43
 - 3. Approved May computer check numbers 10010855 - 10010928, wire numbers 201500213 - 201500232, and ACH numbers 151600265 - 151600310

- V. Action Items
 - A. Motion by Hartman, supported by Kretz, to approve the 2016-17 certified staff handbook. Motion carried, unanimous.
 - B. Motion by Lemkuil, supported by Hartman, to approve a change in DPI developmental level teacher licensing. Motion carried, unanimous.
 - C. Motion by Stokdyk, supported by Harmeling, to approve increasing middle school instrumental teacher contract from 50% to 55%. Motion carried, unanimous.
 - D. Approval of Extra Contract to Lisa Immel for overload tabled to the July meeting.

- VI. Topics for Discussion
 - A. Legislative Committee Report – No report.

- B. Finance Committee Report – No report.
- C. Buildings and Grounds Committee Report – No report.
- D. Transportation Committee Report – No report.
- E. Negotiations Committee Report – No report.
- A. Policy Committee –
 - 1. 1st read on the following board policies: 1662, 3362, 4362 and 5517
- G. OCEF Report – Mr. Lemkuil reported the committee has started raffle solicitation.
- H. Long Range Planning Committee Report – No report.

VII. Harmeling made a motion, supported by DenBoer, to adjourn to closed session for discussion of negotiations with administrative staff and to discuss a specific personnel issue pursuant to Wis. Stats. §19.85(1)(c) and (f). Motion carried; unanimous (individual voice vote). Closed session began at 6:40 pm.

VIII. Lemkuil made a motion, supported by Harmeling, to reconvene into open session at 8:30 pm. Motion carried; unanimous (individual voice vote).

Kretz made a motion, supported by Lemkuil, to accept the administrative contracts as written with the exception to change Kevin Bruggink’s life insurance benefit to three times salary and correct job title. Motion carried 6-1 with Jack Stokdyk dissenting.

IX. Future Board Meeting Dates: Regular Board Meeting – July 20, 2016, in the HS Conference Room

X. Lemkuil made a motion, supported by Stokdyk, to adjourn meeting. Motion carried; unanimous. Meeting ended at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy DenBoer, Clerk

NO PERSON MAY BE DENIED ADMISSION TO ANY PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT OR BE DENIED PARTICIPATION IN, BE DENIED THE BENEFITS OF, OR BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN ANY CURRICULAR, CO-CURRICULAR, STUDENT SERVICES, RECREATIONAL OR OTHER PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY BECAUSE OF THE PERSON'S SEX, RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, CREED, RELIGION, PREGNANCY, MARITAL OR PARENTAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, HANDICAP OR PHYSICAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL OR LEARNING DISABILITY IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES OPERATED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OOSTBURG.

Board Update

Oostburg School District

To: Board Members and Administration
From: Kevin Bruggink
Date: June 10, 2016
Re: District Update

- I have ordered a small cake which we can share together as we recognize Ann and her 11 years serving our students and staff. The consistency of our board and administrative team has allowed us to share many wonderful experiences together with Ann. Her impact on shaping the vision and direction of our District is visible in so many areas, and what stands out to me is her integrity, work ethic, and wisdom in balancing our need to keep growing with the human side of the demands of our profession. Ann's consistency makes her a "go-to" person for so many stakeholders – including students, staff, administrative team colleagues, and our community. Personally, Ann has influenced my professional learning and growth by providing an example of servant-based leadership. Her world-view shapes her decisions in a way which has benefited each of us.
- Our meeting with Bray Architects this week focused primarily on reviewing an updated budget analysis. Bray is now working on very fine level detail and as a result our budget continues to become more accurate. Based on the additional detail the latest analysis shows we are projected to be on budget. Obviously, the bid opening will be the primary determining factor in where we land in relation to current budget estimates. The following excerpt is something I put together for our next Community Connections Newsletter which will be released in a few weeks. This overview (included below) provides some of the background related to financing. Kris and I can provide additional details as part of our update during our meeting next week. I am also pleased to provide an updated project timeline which shows that we are about 10 days ahead of schedule. In that schedule you will see that construction documents are scheduled to be completed by July 20 with bidding occurring July 21 – August 11 and awarding of a contract the week of August 15. We have our scheduled board meeting on August 17 and are planning to be in a position to make a recommendation to our board at that time.

Community Connections Excerpt (to be released next week): *This summer will provide additional opportunities as we continue our planning around the elementary school building project. Regular meetings with Bray Architects have us approximately 2 weeks ahead of our original schedule. That timeline includes having construction documents completed by mid-July, project bidding in late July, and State approval of plans and the start of construction near the end of August. We look forward to the excitement of phase I construction which will include relocation of our playground to the North side of our elementary school and construction of a classroom wing over what is now our blacktop playground area.*

In addition to being ahead of schedule in our building design and planning, the first week in June included very positive news related to our final "closing" on financing for the project. Projects of this size are universally financed through large bond companies like Baird Financial. The banking experience of Kris DeBruine in our business office, along with a desire to work together from Oostburg State Bank, allowed us to finance locally at very favorable rates and with significantly reduced overall fee costs. Just like our partnership with Prevea Health Care and the Oostburg Clinic, we believe our approach to financing with a local bank is a first of its kind in the State.

Our local approach to financing allowed us to realize significant savings on existing bonds as well as low rates on our new project. The combined result will be a projected minimal tax increase – significantly less than the \$0.25 increase per \$1000 of property value originally supported in the referendum. Completion of construction drawings will bring us to the next major milestone as we put this project out to bid. As discussed prior to the referendum, our plan includes providing an opportunity to bid to prequalified contractors with strong local connections.

We encourage any community stakeholders to contact us with questions as this project continues to move forward. We hope our students, their families, and our community, enjoy a wonderful summer!

- Our 2 community surveys with School Perceptions provided direction which ultimately led to the referendum and building project. School Perceptions works with schools across the Midwest and recently completed a survey for the Howards Grove School District. Howards Grove is primarily surveying to gauge support for a five million dollar auditorium, and their survey results were something I reviewed as School Perceptions asked several questions that were general and identical to our Oostburg survey. Since in many ways Howards Grove has a similar school district (demographics, educational focus, etc.), I found the following information interesting:
 - *Overall, how do you feel the quality of our school district is affecting our community?*
 - Oostburg results: 79% Positive Impact, 7% Little to no impact
 - Howards results: 53% Positive Impact, 33% Little to no impact
 - *Overall, how satisfied are you with our school district?*
 - Oostburg results: 32% very satisfied, 56% satisfied
 - Howards results: 25% very satisfied, 60% satisfied
 - *How does our district currently compare to neighboring districts?*
 - Oostburg results: 24% much better, 37% a little better
 - Howards results: 17% much better, 34% a little better
- I am recommending that we make a formal request for an adjustment in the DPI development ranges for teacher licensing. Currently, DPI sets licensing parameters which could prevent a 6th grade teacher, for example, from teaching 7th grade. There are times when these licensing restrictions are simply silly and limit local control in our ability to place staff at the most appropriate level. DPI recently approved a process where districts may use a collaborative process involving district personnel and parents to consider adjustments to the developmental ranges. Ann Steenwyk brought this topic to her parent advisory committee and they fully support making the following recommended changes, which were also described in a previous update:
 - Allow EC license to range from birth through age 10 (5th grade)
 - Allow MC-EA license to range through age 13 (grade 8)

DPI base guidelines current allow the EC license to teach through age 8 and the MC-EA license to teach through age 11. Our recommended adjustments will align the licensing with our building grade levels and allow, for example, a 3rd grade teacher with EC licensure to also teach at 4th grade in a given year where that is deemed most appropriate. We do believe licensing parameters and specific developmental training is important, and we are not considering expanding licensing in a way which, for example, would have an elementary teacher teaching in a high school classroom. Part of the DPI process for making these changes includes formal board action, and that is something I will be requesting during our meeting this month.
- The updated 2016-17 staff handbook, with changes related primarily to Aaron White moving into the elementary principal position, will be on our agenda for board consideration. That handbook was provided to board members last week for review.
- I have included a closed session agenda item related to administrative contract negotiations.

- Input from our leadership team as well as the vertical social studies team and administrators has been a large part of early discussions focused on shaping our early August inservice time. We tentatively have a presenter from the Document Based Questions Project (<http://www.dbqproject.com>) scheduled to share with our staff on August 10th. We believe this training will align nicely with our district literacy focus. We have also been working with Dave Veldhorst and Trinity College in Illinois to set up a potential training during our February 24th, 2017 inservice date. Dave organized a similar training through Bethel Church recently and several of our staff members attended and provided very positive reviews. Planning for '16-'17 is definitely in full swing.

Board Update

Oostburg High School

To: Board Members and Administration
From: Scott Greupink
Date: June 8, 2016
Re: Monthly Updates—June

- ✚ We have made a real collective effort to continue to be as productive as possible with each day at the end of the school year, and to this point it is going very well. Many teachers have pushed their exams as far back as possible so that they can spend time really engaged in focused preparation with students for those final tests. The whole school has a real “normal” feel to it even this week, and that is far better than a casual, unfocused and coasting feel that can happen if teachers don’t collectively set strong expectations for productivity and learning right up until the end of the year.
- ✚ Josh Cole and Jess Dekker distributed course schedules for next year to students late last week, which is really ideal because it allows students to make any necessary changes this week. That will make the start to next year a bit smoother. This has been an area that they have really improved our practices over the last couple of years and it is producing good results.
- ✚ One thing that really struck me after graduation were a couple of interactions I had with students who graduated based on the GED-O2 program. This program literally saved a handful of our students from becoming drop outs who did not earn a diploma. That reality has big consequences in life, so the fact that we have a very effective program in place that provides a safety net to students who become dramatically credit deficient is something I really value. The success of this program has everything to do with Nan Gabrielse, Jess Dekker and Josh Cole. One of the students said to me after the commencement ceremony that he was sorry he was so difficult to deal with at times but he was really thankful that the school continued to be willing to work with him and provide a path to success and a diploma. All I could say is that I was really happy that he took advantage of that opportunity and earned a diploma, but the more I thought about that handful of students, my thoughts returned to the caring people who support these students day by day and make that success on the GED possible.
- ✚ Summer school at the HS is limited to Drivers Education and Summer Fitness, however, we once again have very nice participation. Driver Education has 88 students enrolled and Summer Fitness has about 45 but that appears to be climbing.

Board Update

Oostburg Middle School

To: Board of Education

From: Sherri Stengel

CC: Kris DeBruine, Scott Greupink, Kevin Bruggink, Ann Steenwyk, Bryce DeRoos

Date: 6/10/16

Re: Oostburg Middle School Principal Report

1. Due to the fact that I just labeled my board report “May 2016” goes to show that it’s hard for me to believe that it is June and the 2015-16 school year has officially come to an end...at least with students! Reviewing progress made in student learning and staff learning through SLO and professional practice goals for the year is exciting and encouraging. We accomplished a lot at OMS throughout the school year and have ourselves in a good position to improve upon this next school year.

One of the highlights of end of the year meetings with staff was in a team meeting with the staff involved in teaching Read 180 at OMS. Since the inception of Read 180 three years ago we have seen some tremendous growth in lexile scores and self confidence in a good number of students. The Read 180 program is only as good as the teachers that are teaching it. Nancy DeJong, Barry Kloeping, and this year, a combination of Wendy Hoffmann and Heather Sawdon have been instrumental in implementing the program with fidelity. I’m optimistic that Sara Ketterhagen will be able to pick up the program where Nancy DeJong left it. Specifics results will be shared at the board meeting.

2. As alluded to above, Read 180 will see some staffing changes next year. On the agenda, you will notice approval of the hiring of Mrs. Sara Ketterhagen. Below is information regarding Sara that was included in last month’s report:

“Sara has a 5017 Reading Specialist license and Elementary and Regular Education teacher licenses (1-8). She has worked in the Cedar Grove-Belgium School District for the past 14 school years; first as an elementary school classroom teacher and then, for the past nine years, as their reading teacher and reading specialist at their 5-8 middle school. More specifically, she started their READ 180 program and has expanded their interventions around reading. Sara is passionate about student learning and using data to improve instruction. She is certified through the Response to Intervention (RTI) Center as an instructional coach with RTI. Over the years, she has become a staple in the district and a leader around their reading initiatives.

We are excited for the experience and expertise that Sara will bring with her to OMS. She has background in intervention that can help make our intervention time during the day more intentional and impactful. She was the only applicant that had specific experience and training of Read 180. We are looking forward to picking up with the success of the program that Nancy DeJong and Barry Kloeping have built over the years. I’m confident that under Sara’s direction, the success of the program will continue to improve. For the instruction/data coordinator piece of the position, Sara will be looked to to support our ELA/Lit department as we refine our curricular scope and sequence, build assessments around the standards, and use data to improve our instructional impact.

3. Wendy Hoffmann and Heather Sawdon both worked as instructional aides this school year. Heather was hired as a long term substitute while Wendy covered a long term substitute position at the high school. Mrs. Hoffmann has resigned and Mrs. Sawdon is no longer available to remain in the position. Therefore, this is a position that will need to be filled over the course of the next couple of weeks.

4. The annual Eighth Grade Recognition Ceremony was held last evening. It was a well-attended event. The students certainly show a sense of pride preparing for the night and being the guests of honor during the ceremony. The 8th grade team, along with band and choir, do a lot behind the scenes to ensure the night goes off smoothly and results in a celebration of the students and their accomplishments while in middle school.

5. You will notice an agenda item for increasing the middle school band position held by Mrs. Jill Hanes from 50 to 55%. The reason for this increase is because along with teaching 7th and 8th grade band and accompanying lessons next year, Jill will also be teaching general music to 6th and 8th grade. In order to plan for and teach these additional classes, while not hindering the success of the 7th and 8th grade bands, we felt this extra time was necessary. Please let me know if you would like more detail about how this came about and the reasoning behind this request.

6. After 32 years of service to the students, staff, and community of the Oostburg School District, we said our farewells to Mr. Jack Rauwerdink. Jack has been a staple at OMS and I've thoroughly enjoyed working alongside of him both while he was in special education, and most recently, in regular education. We thank Jack wholeheartedly for his passion to build the reading program at OMS and the many lives he's impacted in a positive way throughout the course of his career.

Board Update

Oostburg Elementary School

To: Board Members and Administration
From: Ann Steenwyk
Date: June 10, 2016
Re: Board Update

- We've been meeting to discuss SLO progress with individuals and teams. I've been so impressed with the intentional strategies teachers have implemented to get students to reach their goals. Although the SLO setting process can at times be challenging, the benefits of the intentional focus is very rewarding. Overall, as a school, we had 83.7% of students reach the reading benchmark. Although we didn't reach our 85% goal, significant gaps were closed, and our students continue to demonstrate qualitative gains in using reading strategies.
- I am pleased to recommend Shayla Mattson Clements for the OES art teacher position. Shayla is a graduate of University Wisconsin Milwaukee. Rachel Harder is also a graduate of Milwaukee's program and immediately recognized her solid background knowledge and ability to use correct process. We were very pleased with Shayla's positive and collaborative approach to teamwork. She is currently teaching at Messer School, a private school in Milwaukee, and she consistently integrates literacy into her lessons. One of Shayla's references referred to her as "talented, creative, and loyal to wanting to learn." All of her references commented on her exceptional work ethic and her joy and excitement for working with students. I believe she will be an excellent addition to our staff. She has a positive energy that is contagious.
- Our building plan meetings continue, with focus currently on playground and finishes. I will be meeting with teachers one more time over the next few days to finalize the details of each room. If you are interested in taking a look at the most recent renderings, please stop by my office.
- We had our 2nd parent advisory meeting on June 6 to review the results of our math instruction survey and to discuss developmental ranges in licensing for teachers. I continue to be both impressed and grateful for the parents that are willing to take time out of their busy schedules to give us constructive feedback. I'll be sharing the information with Aaron, so that this collaborative process can continue.
- Aaron and I plan to spend the day together again on June 15th. Our meeting on May 27 was very productive, and we continue to communicate via Google docs and email. Now that school is out we should be able to get considerably more accomplished.
- Our end of year celebrations were phenomenal. Our teachers made a concerted effort to keep things productive and purposeful to the end, and maybe that's why the celebrations were so fun. It was a nice close to the year. I'd be happy to share pictures with you if you'd like.

Board Update

Oostburg School District: Special Education/Pupil Services

To: Board Members and Administration
From: Bryce DeRoos
Date: June 10, 2016
Re: Monthly Update

- As the year wound down, we utilized opportunities to help several students start the transition for next school year – especially when it came to moving from 5th to 6th grade and from 8th to 9th grade. During our last inservice day, the 5th grade teachers met with the 6th grade staff to share instructional and classroom management strategies they have used throughout this year with a number of students that have academic and behavioral difficulties. In addition, we are still sorting out special education aide assignments as we look to see where the needs are going to be for next year. I always have to be reminded that even the best plans can fall apart when students move into or out of the district during the summer. I'm not holding my breath because I know things can change quite quickly. But, as of now, there doesn't appear to be any additional staffing changes.
- Last week, Angela Ring, Beth Rauwerdink, Barb Gabrielse, and I interviewed the two candidates we had for the early childhood special education aide position. We had two excellent candidates that both had significant experience in working not only with 3, 4, and 5 year-olds, but also with children with special education needs. I would like to recommend that we hire Sheenah Swoverland for the position of Early Childhood Special Education Aide. She previously worked as a Head Start teacher prior to staying at home with her children. We believe that she is going to be a great fit for our program and work really well with Angela, Beth, and Barb and we look forward to having her join our district.
- I am nearly complete with all of my Educator Effectiveness meetings (I have 1 more scheduled for Monday). This process has again demonstrated the need for a strong and comprehensive system. I have really appreciated the format and procedures required because, by the time we meet at the end of the year, everything that we have talked about previously is uploaded onto the final summative form. This makes for excellent discussions about the successes over the past year as well as what areas we can focus on in the coming year(s). A theme that keeps coming up from teachers is the desire to see students become more and more independent as well as an ownership from regular and special education staff that “these are all of our students.” This type of belief/philosophy/perspective has such a powerful impact on how staff work with students with disabilities. We are going to be tackling this on many fronts:
 - Deb Styles will continue her role in helping coach teachers (regular and special education) about accommodations and modifications that they can make in the regular education classroom
 - Our speech and language therapists (Kari Rothe & Kayla Knueppel) will put an emphasis on getting into the classrooms for their therapy as well as work with regular education teachers on providing instructional strategies to help all students

- Trevor Stultz is going to focus his goals on researching co-teaching and how that can be utilized in the elementary school for the benefit of all students

These are just a few of the things that our staff will be focused on to keep closing the achievement gap between special education and regular education student progress.

It was a really, really good year...I'm just going to miss Ann.

Board Update

Oostburg School District: Finance

To: School Board Members, Administrators

From: Kris De Bruine

Date: 6/10/2016

Cash Position:

	Current Year 5-31-16		Prior Year	
	Balance	Interest Rate	Balance	
OSB Checking	\$119,802.40	0.35%	\$191,465.80	0.35%
OSB Dental Acct	\$36,266.45	0.10%	\$39,681.17	0.00%
OSB Money Market	\$1,253,739.50	0.50%	\$1,790,047.26	0.50%
OSB Bond Acct	\$150,297.75	0.50%	\$162,983.78	0.00%
LGIP Savings	\$22.87	0.39%	\$22.82	0.00%
OSB - VANCO acct	\$6,645.08	0.00%	\$8,212.26	0.00%
OSB - On-Line Store	\$	0.00%	\$2,902.45	0.00%
OBS - Capital Imp	\$306,314.46	0.50%	\$0.00	0.00%
Paypal Cash	\$803.52	0.00%	\$1,136.45	0.00%
TOTAL CASH	\$1,878,469.46		\$2,196,451.99	
Fund Balance (10/27)	\$2,588,521.78		\$1,847,610.35	

- An updated (through May) report is attached as a separate document. Please let me know of any questions or concerns.

DPI Update:

- The Transportation Report will be due June 30th, Kami will be receiving all of the information from Otte Bus, and will be working on it soon.
- The School Calendar report is also due at the end of June, so Kami and I will be working on that as well.

Finance Update:

- We met as an Admin team this week to review my first draft at the detailed 16-17 budget. We made a few changes to it during the meeting. The next step is to review the July 1st aid estimate to see how that changes from my anticipated amount. We are projecting to increase the tax levy by 2%, which is what we've been discussing with you for the past month or so. I will have more information for you at the July board meeting.
- On June 1st, we closed the construction loan with Oostburg State Bank. We had a minimum draw due of \$50,000, so that's been drawn. Our invoices related to the referendum far exceed that, so that will work out fine. I don't anticipate another draw until early fall. That will save us a great deal of interest by drawing only as needed.

Other:

- **Insurance update** - Again this year I need to send a HUGE THANK YOU to Kami Van Ess. She has been great with the insurance open enrollment.

- I met with Kevin Miller, our EMC liability and workers compensation carrier rep. Our rates are increasing dramatically, almost all of which is in workers compensation premiums. We had two significant claims this year, which is a direct hit to premiums. That coverage alone is increasing over \$14,000. That is being built into next year's budget as well.
- This week I met with our sales rep from WEA Member Benefits. We worked on some plan design changes for the new employer contribution portion of the 403(b). That was necessary to meet the contract specific language for the new Elementary School Principal.

Board Update

Oostburg School District: Technology

To: Members of the Oostburg School District Board

CC: Kevin Bruggink, Scott Greupink, Ann Steenwyk, Sherri Stengel, Peter Scheppmann, Kris De Bruine, Bryce DeRoos

From: Lucas Allen

Date: 7/25/2016

Re: School District of Oostburg - Monthly Technology Report

Integration

- Grade 6 students have wrapped up their Creative Computing (Scratch) Hi-Interest Class with Pixton. This is a comic/graphic novel creation program that allows students to tell stories in unconventional ways. The projects created are highly customizable but always look very professional. There is a solid blend of graphic arts and narrative writing. Pixton has been a huge hit with all student groups who have tried it. In an informal survey, most said they would like to continue exploring both Pixton and Scratch (an online programming platform) over the summer. In fact, several summer school groups are planning to incorporate it into their language arts activities as well. These kinds of multimedia creation tools are perfect for encouraging students to share their knowledge and skills in new, modern ways.

WTI

- SMART boards and related equipment have been ordered and the laptops for the innovation room will be purchased in July.
- We are well under way in the design phase for our second innovation room. The 121 lab in the high school was disconnected today in preparation for the remodel. The general design will be more of a black and white cityscape with red highlights. We are excited to see it through over the summer months. We will be looking at a similar video setup but will likely exclude the audio portion of the room.

Infrastructure

- We are digging in to the ES building security from a camera and door access standpoint while working with the electrical engineers. Next part will be to focus on quantity of switching and routing we will need and the connectivity we may need in the next 10-20 years.

Other

It's been a few years since I haven't faced a major summer project so I am looking forward to getting caught up and to tackle some of the upgrades and items on my list that need some TLC. Our network continues to function well but the upgrade process never stops. Having time to look at new server security, backup and disaster recovery and what's up and coming in K12 IT will be a good thing.