



## **NDHS June 26,2024 Board Meeting Minutes Draft**

The meeting was called to order at 8:34 in the morning. Board members attending the meeting at the school were Wendy Farrell, Keith Laytham and Sandie Martinez, Attending via zoom were Dr Grimm, Dr Cafiero, and Lynn Sparrock. Martha Moyano was in Columbia on a church mission trip.

A motion was made and the minutes from the April 2024 Board meeting minutes were approved.

There was one person from the public attending the meeting. She is the parent of two of our students. She had no opening comments. She was welcomed to the meeting.

Mike Presented the Board Training update. Everyone is currently in compliance with understanding of when the next updates are scheduled.

The NDHS reading plan was reviewed. As a charter school we have opted to go with our own reading plan which is slightly different from the Osceola County plan. Approval of this plan was motioned and adopted.

The school reunification plan was reviewed and adopted. The only suggested addition was a fallback plan should reunification be required during inclement weather. Mike agreed to prepare an amended plan which will be reviewed for adoption in our October meeting.

The school code of conduct and Parent/Student handbook remains the same as was approved in the past. The motion for approval was adopted.

The 2024-25 schedule for Board meetings was presented and adopted. Future Board meetings will continue to be held at the school starting at 7:30 AM on the last Wednesday of October, January and April for the upcoming school year. The June meeting will start at 8:30 since school will not be in session. All NDHS board meetings will be held both with in person attendance and optional Zoom remote attendance. All Board meetings will be advertised on the school web site to promote public participation whether in person or remote. Mike will pursue finding a larger room at the school with a larger screen to make it easier to accommodate larger attendance at the school.

Jeremy Mezzina our director of instruction presented an update on the current status of the school. We currently have 21 full-time teachers on staff. All teachers are certified in the subject they teach with no teachers out of field. All our teachers have signed letter of intent planning to return for our 2024 school year.

Our teaching staff has engaged in additional instruction for our students to correct deficiencies that we feel caused us to fall from an A to a B rating last year. Jeremy reviewed his assessment of what will be required to bring our student test scores back to an A grade. He feels that while nothing is certain he expects that we will return to an A grade for this past year when the results are posted hopefully during this summer. Our dual enrollment program with Valencia is increasing with our goal to have 100 students enrolled with dual enrollment for the 2024-25 school year.

Jeremy reviewed our results for recruitment and enrollment for the upcoming school year. To date our school has received 228 student applications for the upcoming year. We have accepted 122 Students for a current enrollment of 435 compared to approx. 420 for the previous year. We anticipate enrolling additional students during the summer bringing us up to our maximum capacity of 455 for the upcoming school year.

Director of Operations Mike Alfors reviewed the 2023-2024 Budget to close out the year. We closed out the school year with a surplus. The board approved the budget for submission to the district.

For 2024-2025 the proposed budget was reviewed. While many of the grants our school had received during the Covid years are going away he forecasts that there are still some remaining that can be collected. Due to the projected increase in student enrollment as well as additional non FEFP funding he presented a projected budget with a small surplus. The proposed budget supports complete staffing for the school which includes all the required teachers, subs and administrative staffing. The projected budget was motioned and approved by the Board.

There was considerable discussion about our plans for campus renovation. Previous board meetings had authorized the expenditure of a portion of our school reserves to invest in upgrades to our school campus. Mike has been working with a contractor to put the plans in place. He has received guidance and assistance from our former directors. Immediate projects being worked on or completed include complete painting of our gym and other buildings on our campus. The bleachers in the gym are being replaced. The tables in our cafeteria are being replaced, as is the floor of our cafeteria. New carpeting is being installed in our music room to absorb sound. Priority is being given to upgrading school security and safety. There will be a new guard shack constructed by our gate so that our school security officer can have his own office next to the gate keeping him in closer proximity to our campus entrance. Our front lobby will be hardened to provide more restricted access to the rest of our campus facilities. Mike stated that the investment

expenditures we are making to improve our campus will be a multiple year project which will be covered in our forthcoming budgets.

It was suggested by the parents attending our meeting that we pursue better traffic enforcement on Old Pleasant Hill road during school hours. Because this is a county owned road this issue will be taken up with Osceola County. Our parent also questions whether we should provide lockers for our students at our school. It was explained that in the past the question had been considered and decided that the provision of student lockers provided more problems than benefits. It was described how the school makes exceptions and assistance for students who face challenges handling the number of books required to attend classes in lieu of providing lockers.

It was presented that both Directors 2023-2024 evaluations were approved by the board and accepted by both directors. The evaluations will be entered into their records.

The two directors were then asked to leave the meeting so the Board could discuss the issue of their base compensation.

NDHS had adopted a pay scale for our directors for the 2020-2021 school year and beyond. The scale was increased by a defined amount for each subsequent year of service. The Director pay scale had not been modified since it was originally adopted. The subject was raised to the Board whether the pay scale should be modified to reflect the increased costs of living during the subsequent years which has resulted in pay increases for our teachers and for Osceola School District employees. The Board agreed that the pay scale for our directors should be upgraded. There was discussion about how much. The Board agreed to an amended pay scale which was established during the meeting. It was approved by a vote of the Board and is attached to these meeting minutes. The new salary for our directors will be included in their contracts for the 2024-2025 school year which will be signed by the Directors and Board Chair and then recorded. The increased director salaries for 2024-2025 can be covered under the approved total amount for the budget. The details of the budget will be amended to reflect the new salaries for our October meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM.