

Minutes of the April 1, 2019 Special Board of Education Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Johnson at 5:00 p.m. in the MES Board Room.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call: Scheller, Forbes, Hollman, Pohl, Pethke, J. Johnson.

Absent: R. Johnson who arrived at 5:01 p.m.

Verify Publication of Meeting – Dr. Oppor verified

New Business: School Safety – Lengthy Discussion

Present from the City / County: Chief Jim Gorman, Mayor John Smith, Alderman Mike Frazier, Clerk Logan Hass, and Sheriff Tim Wilz. School administrators were also present.

Chief Gorman voiced his concern when the City lost liaison position; and safety is a concern. Cost of investigations; etc. he felt that liaison on premise to address the issue such as a bomb threat. He noted mental behaviors and takes it seriously that we need a resource officer. Asking for reconsideration of the position. He said that they are ready to move forward on their end.

Financials were discussed: Mayor Smith said 70/30% was the past split. He recognizes mental health issues and the staff training.

Alderman Frazier talked about active shooter and potential custody battles. He asked if the school district has worked out the cost? Clerk Logan Hass shared a spreadsheet with Admin and the Board of the costs of an officer. Business Manager Carmen O'Brien conveyed that 70% 182 contract days. For an officer with family health benefits equates to \$43,078.55 which approximately adds 11 cents to the mill rate. For a single person equates to \$34,585.22 and adds approximately 9 cents to the mill rate. If run through fund 80 there are a lot of unknowns for the budget. Increase to Fund 80 is a call for Meeting of the Whole at the annual meeting. Could ask for repurposing the \$40,000 in fund 80.

Treasurer Helene Pohl mentioned that \$60,000 spent on all employees last year for the raises for staff. It is important to talk about common grounds and solutions are more complex. We address training of staff regarding active shooter and we can't prevent every disaster. We want the children safe.

School budget cuts for SY1920 are at \$150,000 and potentially \$300,000-400,000 will need to be cut for SY2021.

Mrs. Pohl asked about accessing DHS services. Experiences non-response in surrounding districts. Mayor said that DHS has extended olive branch to him and Dr. Oppor indicated to the school district as well.

J. Johnson indicated one parent indicated in favor. We are in the business of education. As a parent looking at deeper cuts at the school. Meeting at Little Wolf discussions. Asked if there is a police officer grant; it would off-set the cost.

Sheriff Wilz asked about the resources and being called. Calls fall on the City. Work hand-in-hand with the City and continue with the situation. Trying to get more officers and working with the county board. The office response would be a half hour response as officers are throughout the county. Sheriff Wilz believes that DHS would be part of open discussion. We all have shortages and funding concerns.

Motion by Scheller / Pethke to adjourn at 6:34 p.m.

Bobbi Jo Pethke, Clerk