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Board Meeting Report

March 21, 2019 - Recognition



ASHTON ROGERS ... Timberland High School senior Ashton Rogers was recognized for having been selected as a tenor for two prestigious ensembles – the National High School/Collegiate Honor Choir and the Missouri Choral Directors Association All-State Honor Choir. Ashton was selected for the elite choirs based on recorded auditions. He performed with the American Choral Directors Association National Honor Choir at the ACDA National Conference earlier this month in Kansas City and he performed with the MCDA All-State Honor Choir at the Missouri Music Educators Association Conference the end of January at the Lake of the Ozarks. Ashton will attend the University of Missouri - Kansas City, to be a part of their conservatory and major in music education.



HALLIE ANDERSON ... Hallie Anderson, a junior at Liberty High School, was recognized for having been selected for the 2019 U.S. Paralympics Swimming National Team. The team, which was announced by the U.S. Paralympics (a division of the United States Olympic Committee), features 35 women and 13 men, including 21 past Paralympians who have won 62 medals for Team USA. The team is gearing up for the Paralympic Games in Tokyo next year. Hallie made the Emerging Team for USA Paralympics last year and the National Team this year. She suffers from brittle bone disease, in addition to other medical conditions that affect her muscles.



ESTHER HAN ... Holt High School freshman Esther Han was recognized for having

made school and Wentzville School District history when she was crowned State Champion in her weight class (136) at the inaugural Missouri Girls Wrestling Championship at the University of Missouri-Columbia last month. Missouri became the ninth state this year to begin hosting a separate state wrestling tournament for girls. Han's state championship caps off an undefeated freshman season at 26-0 with 23 falls, 2 technical falls and 1 major decision.



NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS ... The Board recognized Jasper Pendino from Holt and Rishi Kondapenini from Liberty for having both been named National Merit Scholarship Finalists. (Unfortunately, neither Jasper nor Rishi were able to be in attendance.) They represent less than 1% of high school students across the country that are now eligible to compete for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million.



DISTINGUISHED STUDENT LEADERS ... The Board recognized 15 WSD seniors for having earned the Distinguished Student Leader Award from the Missouri Association of Student Councils. From Holt: Taylor Bell, Sophia Dattilo, Steven Marion and Kylee Orick; Liberty seniors Megan Maetten and Gillian Sanford; and Timberland seniors Megan Auringer, Jordan Banze, Morgan Buesse, Josie Campanella, Makenzie Lucas, Jonny Paneitz, Megan Reiter, Kamile Stuckey and Anna Turner have all been named recipients of the award, which recognizes Missouri students who demonstrate superior student council leadership skills and knowledge based on state criteria and evaluation procedures.



LIBERTY BELLES DANCE TEAM ... the Liberty Dance Team was recognized for capturing first place at the Missouri Dance Team Association State Competition held at the Family Arena February 23. The "Liberty Belles" earned first place with their "Pom" routine and first place with their "Lyrical Dance" routine in Division 4, earning the most points combined out of 14 teams to take the State Championship. This marks the second time in school history that the Liberty Belles have earned the state title; in 2016, they were state champions in Division 2. The members of this year's championship Liberty Belles Team are Bella Bahr, Kara Collier, Delaney Engelhardt, Hailey Forck, Megan Maetten, Katie McVey, Avery Thomas, Aimee Weber, and Anna Weber. They are coached by Amanda Miller.

Personnel



The Board of Education has approved the hiring of Megan Sutton as principal of Heritage Primary for the 2019-2020 school year. Mrs. Sutton, who had been serving as an assistant principal for the last three years at Crossroads Elementary, was named interim principal at Heritage Primary in January following a resignation. Prior to becoming an administrator, Mrs. Sutton taught kindergarten at Heritage Primary for 10 years, where she earned Teacher of the Year in 2015-2016.



The Board of Education has approved the hiring of Pete Johnson as a new assistant principal at Duello Elementary for the 2019-2020 school year. This is a new position created based on Duello's growing enrollment. Mr. Johnson is currently a special education teacher at George M. Null Elementary in the City of St. Charles School District.

Superintendent Reports

Angela Basse, Assistant Director of the Barfield Early Childhood Special Education Center, along with Kathy Twellman, Parents as Teachers Coordinator, presented the [Early Childhood and Parents as Teachers Program Evaluation](#).

CFO Pam Frazier presented the [Preliminary Budget Report](#), which included updates on local, county, state and federal revenue, as well as expenditure considerations. Mrs. Frazier also shared that expenditure priorities include additional staffing to keep up with enrollment growth, wage increases in order to stay competitive, and analyzing and prioritizing building and department requests.

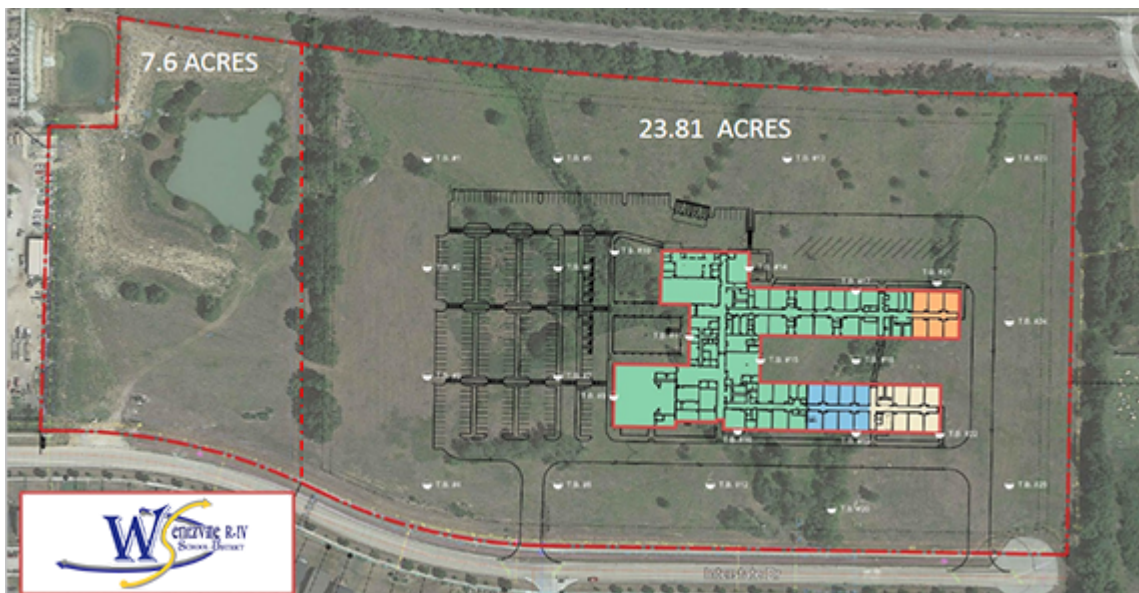
Susan Raster, Director of Child Nutrition, presented [an update](#) related to the move away from the National School Lunch Program. She shared that participation is up across the board compared to last year. The school cafes are serving an average of 46 more breakfast meals per day, 707 more student lunch meals per day, and 60 additional staff meals per day. Additionally, ala carte sales are up \$1,166 per day compared to last year. She also shared that it has not been enough to offset the cost of moving away from the National School Lunch Program and that her department is currently operating at a deficit. Mrs. Raster said she would be back before the Board next month to make a recommendation as to whether or not the District should continue to opt out of the National School Lunch Program next year.

Old Business



The Board approved the refinancing of the District's outstanding Series 2012 Lease Participation Certificates through Clayton Holdings, LLC at a fixed rate of 2.71%. The interest savings to the District will be \$716,000 on a cash flow basis, or approximately \$60,000 each year through April 1, 2031. Since 2009, the District has completed 11 refinancing transactions securing cash flow savings in excess of \$31.6 million.

New Business



LAND PURCHASE ... The Board approved a resolution giving Dr. Cain and CFO Pam Frazier the authority to execute closing documents on the purchase of 31 acres located at 290 Interstate Drive in Wentzville for the location of the new elementary school scheduled to open in the fall of 2020. Executive Director of Facilities John Blanton shared that the final geotechnical testing results revealed that there is

minimal soil compaction required and that [the building can be situated on the site](#) where it was originally drawn up. CFO Pam Frazier also shared that the District will defer to the contractor who is chosen following the bid process as to whether or not they can complete the entire building by August 2020, or if some classrooms will need to be completed in stages. Closing on the property is scheduled for next week, on March 27.

PRELIMINARY TAX RATE ... CFO Pam Frazier shared information about the [Preliminary Tax Rate](#). Mrs. Frazier shared that the current data we have from the county shows that preliminary property values have increased 9.8% since December 31, 2018, and that the assessed valuation has increased 11.5% since last March. A District, by law, is only allowed an increase of what the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is, minus the value of new construction for all of the tax rates except the debt service rate. At this time, the CPI is 1.9%. Due to the fact that the assessed valuation increased more than the 1.9% the rate has to be decreased. **Mrs. Frazier recommended reducing the current tax rate by 24.78 cents.** The Board approved submitting a preliminary tax rate of \$4.7358 to St. Charles County (the District's current tax rate is \$4.9836).

2019-2020 STAFFING REQUEST ... The Board approved the addition of [55.32 certified staff and 18 support staff](#) for 2019-2020 at an estimated cost of \$4,155,097. This request includes a new position at each elementary school for a school support interventionist to help meet the growing social/emotional needs of the District's youngest students.

NEW WAREHOUSE ... The Board approved hiring Freise Construction to build a new warehouse located behind the Administrative Center for office and storage space to help meet the needs of our growing District.

***Next (Special) Board Meetings:
April 3, 2019, and April 16, 2019***

Next Regular Board Meeting: April 18, 2019