

BOARD OF EDUCATION
The School District of Independence

The Board of Education met in a special session Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Administration Building, 201 North Forest Avenue, Independence, Missouri.

Members Present: Mrs. Carrie Dixon, President
 Mr. Anthony J. Mondaine, Vice President
 Mrs. Denise Fears, Treasurer
 Mrs. Jill Esry, Director (by Chromebook)
 Mr. Blake Roberson, Director
 Mrs. Brandi Prunte, Director
 Ms. Wendy Baird, Director

Also Present: Dr. Dale Herl, Superintendent
 Dr. Lance Stout, Dr. Cindy Grant, staff, patrons, and Ms. Annette Miller.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Carrie Dixon. She stated the purpose of this meeting was for a Board of Education Work Session and minutes of the meeting were recorded by the secretary, Ms. Annette Miller.

Mrs. Dixon said the first item for discussion would be the World Café event scheduled for November 21st in the Cafeteria at Central Office at 6:00 p.m. She shared a copy of information on conducting a World Café event (Page 12678). She explained that 7-9 tables would be set up to accommodate community members and a Board member would be at each table. The Facilitator (Dr. Jim Finley) will explain the process and that the focus is to share ideas and encourage discussions regarding the two specific topics/questions that will be used. After a few minutes of discussion at each table, the participants will move to a new table. This encourages a process of sharing ideas of each other's thoughts and having meaningful discussions. District Administrators will also be at the tables to answer questions. The Board member's role is to actively listen to what the participants are saying, stay neutral, do not lead or direct, and do not offer answers. At the end of the evening, a graphic artist will gather the information that has been shared and put it into a document for the Board. The President will then thank the participants for their attendance and for their commitment in sharing their ideas and thoughts.

The Board of Education then reviewed the District's 2024 Legislative Platform and the 2025 Legislative Platform provided by the Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City (CSDGKC). Several suggested changes were made and discussed. A new 2025 Legislative Platform for 2025 was developed and will be shared with the Board of Education for further review. (Page 12679)

The motion was made by Blake Roberson, second by Anthony J. Mondaine, to adjourn the Special Session at 5:46 p.m. The motion was approved as follows:

| | | |
|-------|---------------------|-------|
| Ayes: | Carrie Dixon | Nays: |
| | Anthony J. Mondaine | |
| | Denise Fears | |
| | Jill Esry | |
| | Blake Roberson | |
| | Brandi Prunte | |
| | Wendy Baird | |


Secretary


President

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS WITH THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ISD BOARD MEMBER TRAINING

OBJECTIVE

Equip board members with an understanding of the World Café model. Board members will be confident in the engagement approach and be able to help facilitate open, structured conversations that engage and gather meaningful insights from stakeholders.

EVENT INFORMATION

Purpose of the Community Conversations Event:

The goal is to provide a platform for community members to share their thoughts about the Independence School District .

- Board Members and Cabinet Members will pair up and sit at different tables throughout the room. We will provide two questions for the community. Community members will change tables after each question, but host/reporters will remain at their table. The two questions will be: “What is going well in the ISD?” and “What are you wrestling with in the ISD?”
- Board Members are positioned at each table and serve as a host to listen and capture key themes, while cabinet members will serve as the table recorders/reporters for each question. Cabinet Member will report key themes to the whole room.
- Stay on Topic: Remind participants to keep the conversation centered on ideas rather than individual cases. Specific student issues are best addressed via email, not at this event.
- Each question will be discussed for a scheduled amount of time. The facilitator will help keep everyone on schedule.

ROLE OF BOARD MEMBERS

Board Members should be engaged listeners:

- **Help Create a Welcoming Space:** Set a positive tone by welcoming everyone and showing appreciation for their presence and input.
- **Stay Neutral and Observant:** Your role is to listen, not to lead, direct, or offer answers. This time is for community voices.
- **Stay Focused and Present:** Avoid distractions (e.g., phones) and actively listen to each speaker.
- **Use Nonverbal Cues:** Show you are listening with open body language, eye contact, and nodding.
- **Ask Clarifying Questions (if needed):** Only if it helps clarify a point, ask brief, open-ended questions to ensure understanding.
- **Note Themes:** Write down recurring or significant ideas from the discussions on the tablecloth. Your role includes identifying common threads that will later be summarized for the reporter to share.
- **Express Appreciation:** At the end, thank community members for sharing their thoughts and encourage future engagement.

REFLECTION AND QUESTIONS?

**Independence Board of Education
2025 Legislative Session**

Legislative Priority Positions

In the interest of public education in the Independence School District, we ask members of the Missouri General Assembly to:

1. Support the local school district's authority to operate a four-day school week, prepare their school calendar, and establish the beginning of the school year that is in the best interest of students, staff, and community.
2. Support legislation stipulating the enactment of accurate and timely property tax assessment practices and the clarification of assessment terms and timelines to promote uniformity and fairness of property tax assessments. Support uniformity in taxation as outlined in Article 10, Section 3 of the Constitution.
3. Support the full funding of state mandates in accordance with the Missouri Constitution by fully funding the Foundation Formula, transportation formula, summer school, and early childhood education.
4. Support increasing overall state funding, per pupil, in an effort to make Missouri rank in the top one-half of all states in the country in support of K-12 public education.
5. Support local school district's authority to make decisions about matters such as: open enrollment; employee compensation and working conditions; class sizes; educational placement, curriculum, and instructional materials; professional development; program and employee evaluation; and Board member election terms and dates.
6. Support a line-item appropriation of state funding for safety measures for local school districts to protect students from harm and/or violence.
7. Support a consistent set of standards and tools to measure the progress of students and meet their educational needs while allowing districts to respond and implement these changes without further disruption to state standards or tests.
8. Strengthen laws that control tax abatement programs (TIF, CH-100, CH-353, et. al.).
9. Support funding for Early Childhood expansion.
10. Ensure all local tax funds should be under the control of a publicly elected board and revenue should not be diverted to non-public educational entities and Charter schools not be expanded.

President, Board of Education

BOARD OF EDUCATION
The School District of Independence

The Board of Education met in regular session Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Board of Education Office, 201 North Forest Avenue, Independence, Missouri.

Members Present: Mrs. Carrie Dixon, President
Mr. Anthony J. Mondaine, Vice President
Mrs. Denise Fears, Treasurer
Mrs. Jill Esry, Director
Mr. Blake Roberson, Director
Mrs. Brandi Prunte, Director
Ms. Wendy Baird, Director

Also Present: Dr. Dale Herl, Superintendent
Dr. Lance Stout, Dr. Cindy Grant, Dr. Randy Maglinger, Dr. Pam Boatright,
Dr. Anthony Robinson, Mrs. Leslie Hochsprung, Mr. Kevin Lathrom, Mr.
Todd Theen, Mr. Greg McGhee, Ms. Madysen Grant, MSTA, INEA,
interested patrons, staff, and Ms. Annette Miller.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Carrie Dixon, and minutes of the meeting were recorded by the secretary, Ms. Annette Miller. Mrs. Dixon welcomed everyone including two students from Longview Community College. Mrs. Dixon also announced that the Board of Education meeting is being recorded so it can be shown on City Chanel 7.

Denise Fears made the motion to approve the November 12, 2024 Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Brandi Prunte and was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Mrs. Dixon said there were no requests to address the Board of Education.

Blake Roberson made the motion, second by Jill Esry, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Dr. Herl stated that the Bills total for November 12, 2024 was \$15,458,669.24 which is a little high. This total includes expenditures of \$1,000,000 more in capital, \$2,000,000 more in general funds consisting of \$250,000 for Blue Cross/Blue Shield claims, \$100,000 for IPL, federal taxes of \$100,000, \$200,000 to PSRS/PEERS, \$400,000 in the teachers fund, and \$200,000 for Nutrition Services. Also, the District gave the largest raise in ISD history last year. Dr. Herl said the District is requesting to publish a proposal for a Construction Manager at Risk for the Fairmount School project and to Let Bids for District Wide Fuel Service which does not include propane fuel as it is a separate bid.

1. Minutes – October 8, 2024
2. Approval of November 12, 2024 List of Bills totaling \$15,458,669.24
3. Approval to Publish a Request for Qualifications and Request for Proposal for a Construction Manager at Risk
4. Approval to Let Bids for District Wide Fuel Service

The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Herl reported that release of the APR has been pushed back to November 18. He reminded everyone of the World Cafe event on November 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria at Central Office. Dr. Herl reported that a fire occurred at Hanthorn School and was contained to the break room. The fire was small but the cost of the clean-up was large due to the ventilation system spreading soot throughout the building. The SERVPRO Company has completed the clean-up which was very expensive as their team of 40 worked around the clock. The students were able to return to Hanthorn today. At the end of the fiscal year, the District will need to make a transfer to replenish the funds that were used for this clean-up. The District is in preliminary stages of working with the Metropolitan Community Colleges to extend the Academies Program model so that students would be allowed to access certificate programs during the school day. This would allow students to be released from their high school to travel to MCC-Blue River for classes. The MSBA Conference was held in October in Kansas City. Dr. Herl asked if any of the Board members wished to share information regarding the Conference or sessions they attended. Brandi Prunte said the sessions were really informative and one of the sessions was on conducting a World Cafe event. She said the presenters at lunch were very interesting and suggested bringing some of the presenters to the District.

Wendy Baird said the Conference provided an opportunity to connect with other Board members from around the state and how they could learn from each other.

Denise Fears talked about the 2025 legislative preview that was shared and to see what lobbyists think about information before it comes to legislators. She said the Conference provided some very good information.

Carrie Dixon thanked the District for the investment spent to send Board members to the Conference. She said she had received some good information during the three days.

Dr. Herl stated broadcasting of the Board meetings on City Chanel 7 would be on Wednesdays and Sundays at 5 p.m. and there is no charge to the District.

Wendy Baird thanked Dr. Herl and other District staff members for taking their time and showing her around the District which included visits to all 30 schools.

Several new business items were presented for the Board of Education's consideration.

Anthony J. Mondaine made the motion, second by Blake Roberson, that the Board of Education approves the bid and contract from Central States Bus for the purchase of (10) ten 77 passenger Propane Powered Conventional School buses at \$184,360 each for a total of \$1,843,600. Dr. Stout explained that the District operates a fleet of 130 buses. He said this purchase is through the Sourcewell Contract and the District will receive a rebate of \$55,422.50 per bus from the Leo Academy making the total cost \$1,289,375.00. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Anthony J. Mondaine made the motion, second by Brandi Prunte, that the Board of Education approves the bid and contract from Broadway Ford for the purchase of a Ford F-750 Diesel 26-Foot Box Truck for Nutrition Services through State Contract #CC240138002 in the amount of \$112,073.00. Dr. Stout said Nutrition Services operates two box trucks and the Administration recommends accepting the bid and contract from Broadway Ford truck sales to replace the current 2001 truck. He said the current truck will be put on the surplus list. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Brandi Prunte made the motion, second by Wendy Baird, that the Board of Education accepts the bid and contract of \$153,516 from Eichman Sales Associates, LLC for the two Lathes and two Mills and associated tooling and rigging to be purchased for the Metal Shop at Van Horn High School. Dr. Herl said the Administration recommends approving this bid and contract even though it was the only bid received due to the required specifications in the bid listing. The District has received an Enhancement Grant from DESE of \$101,460.00 for the purchase of this equipment. He also said that the Metal Shop at Van Horn is the capstone for this program which means that students from William Chrisman and Truman High School attend the program at Van Horn, The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Anthony J. Mondaine made the motion, second by Brandi Prunte, that the Board of Education approves the bid and contract of \$1,445,467.00 from Timekey Enterprise, LLC for Replacement of Windows at Clifford H. Nowlin Middle School. Dr. Herl said all windows will be replaced except for the newer part—including the gymnasium area. He said this is a huge undertaking/job and will need to be done in phases using Mondays, weekends, next summer, and into fall. The completion date will probably be December 2025. Dr. Herl said the cost is more than expected but things are just more expensive and he explained the District applied for a Bi-State Corridor Grant but did not receive it. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Jill Esry made the motion, second by Denise Fears, that the Board of Education approves the one-year contract renewal with Smithereen Pest Management for District Wide Integrated Pest Management Services at a yearly cost of \$51,395.00. Dr. Herl explained that this one year contract renewal of the original contract from six years ago with Smithereen Pest Management has a price increase so it needed to have Board approval. He said the District would like to resubmit the bid next year for a three year contract. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Denise Fears made the motion, second by Brandi Prunte, that the Board of Education approves the Audit for the 2023-2024 school year as presented. Dr. Herl said there were no material weaknesses reported on the Audit. He thanked Mardie Gardner and the Business Office staff for their hard work. Dr. Herl noted one finding was listed due to the Phil Roberts Scholarship Fund. This donor donated over \$2,000,000 through Tennessee Valley Authority Bonds and their maturity date is greater than five years. Mrs. Fears commended the District on having a clean audit. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, Denise Fears made the motion, second by Blake Roberson, to adjourn the meeting and go into closed session for legal §610.021(1), RSMo; real estate


§610.021(2), RSMo; personnel §610.021(3) RSMo; issues at 6:32 p.m. The motion was approved as follows:

Ayes: Carrie Dixon
Anthony J. Mondaine
Denise Fears
Jill Esry
Blake Roberson
Brandi Prunte
Wendy Baird

Nays:



Secretary



President