

WILLIAMS BAY SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION
JOINT SCHOOL BOARD AND VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
Monday, October 12, 2020

School Board Members Present: J. Lothian, K. Nelson, P. Peyer, D. Ripple, D. Woss

Village Board Members Present: B. Duncan, J. D'Alessandro, D. Parker, R. Umans, L. Wright,

Administration Present: District Administrator Dr. W. White

Guests: 5

I. CALL TO ORDER

President J. Lothian called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. School Resource Officer

This spring, when school was closed due to COVID-19, there was not a plan for what the School Resource Officer (SRO) would do. Discussion centered around what happens if the district is not in school again. Village President B. Duncan, School District Administrator Dr. White, Police Chief Timm and School Resource Officer Erikson met to talk about what the best use of the SRO's time would be if we find the District closed again, to remain student focused. It was discussed that the SRO might record public service announcements, formulate programs for students for when school is re-opened, and work on the District's Emergency Reunification Plan. Village Board Member J. D'Alessandro asked what would happen at the end of five years when the referendum for the SRO expires. Dr. White replied that we would need to go back to referendum. He said that the SRO is valued by so many families that the District would like to keep the resource in the District. Dr. White also noted that when giving tours to prospective new families, having the SRO in school has been a selling point. J. Lothian asked what the SRO is currently doing in the District. Dr. White responded that his focus right now is building relationships. The SRO has also organized student presentations on the dangers of vaping and sexting for students as well as brought the "Hidden in Plain Site" program for parents. He also assists the District with truancy and other police work. School Board member P. Peyer inquired as to if the education piece the SRO provides is scheduled, like curriculum. Dr. White said that it was fluid as an opportunity arises. B. Duncan stated that he feels it is important to keep the lines of communication between the District and the Village open regarding this topic.

B. Electronic Sign

School Board President J. Lothian wanted to thank the Village Board for working with the District and revising the electronic sign ordinance. The sign has been in for about three weeks and Dr. White wanted to check with the Village Board to ensure that they were happy with the sign, its operation and if there were any concerns. B. Duncan met with Director of Buildings and Grounds Ryan Quinn and he said that R. Quinn was very responsive. He has no concerns currently. J. Lothian asked about landscaping around the sign. R. Quinn stated he was more concerned with ensuring the sign worked per the ordinance and met the guidelines for hours of operation that he has not worked on landscaping around the sign. Currently, he plans on waiting until Spring. J. D'Alessandro asked about the District's intention of installing a sign at the Elementary School. Dr. White responded that it is not on the radar at this time. The District has additional projects they would like to work on, and the MS/HS sign had some expense to it that the District would

like to pay for first. It was noted that if an electronic sign were installed it would be near to the Elementary School and not by the road.

C. Growth of the Village

B. Duncan reported that Prairie View Subdivision is mostly complete. Bailey Estates is currently on phase 3 of 7. Village Board Member D. Parker said that the village averages approximately 30 new houses a year, but the last couple of years due to the construction in Prairie View, that figure has been surpassed. He also reported that there have been no inquiries about annexation or further development in the village. B. Duncan also reported that the capacity of the water plant is a contributing factor to the Village allowing more growth. Currently, everything that is platted will work within in the existing water plant's capacity, including the future phases of Bailey Estates. School Board Member D. Woss thanked the Village Board for their support during the referendum for the new school to ensure that the education of our children is kept at the forefront. It is important for the Village and the District to work together when it comes to growth to ensure that continues. She would also like to see the two boards work together on green energy. D. Parker asked if the District keeps track of the turnover of students in each subdivision. Dr. White said that not each subdivision is not tracked and that in district enrollment is growing and that the growth is not related to open enrollment.

D. Update on Yerkes

Dianna Colman, the chairman of the Yerkes Future Foundation presented an update on Yerkes. The outside of the observatory is having masonry work done that will extend the life of the building and allow the bricks to "breathe." The decorative terracotta is being checked to ensure it is in good condition. The dome is being inspected and the Foundation is discussing how to best seal it. Inside of the observatory, paint is being removed, brickwork is being addressed and the lighting is being updated. Over the winter, the Foundation is hoping to refurbish the telescope itself. Inside the building, offices are being emptied, floors are being refinished, carpet is being removed and lots and lots of cleaning is being done. The Foundation has begun fundraising in earnest and is actively looking for an Executive Director. The Executive Director will then form a team to manage the observatory and establish programs, tours, and exhibits. The foundation is aiming to open in the late spring or early summer of 2021. J. D'Alessandro asked if there would be housing on the grounds for the Executive Director. D. Colman responded that there are two houses that are part of the property, but both need major renovation. Currently, the foundation is putting these projects on the back burner. School Board Member D. Ripple asked if GLAS will move back to the observatory. D. Colman said that at this time, she does not have an answer to that. Dr. White said that the school district is very interested in partnering with the observatory for education. J. D'Alessandro asked if it was still permissible to use the Yerkes likeness in marketing materials. D. Colman said that if it was not used inappropriately, that she did not see an issue. It is an iconic image of Williams Bay.

E. Theatre Road Walking Path

B. Duncan reported that both grants that the Village applied for to help pay for the walking path did not come through, so the Village is back to square one regarding how to pay for it. J. Lothian asked how much the walking path was estimated to cost. D. Parker answered approximately \$1,300,000. D. Ripple ask if the grants were something that the Village could reapply for. B. Duncan said yes, the Village can reapply. Further discussion took place regarding the path location and future plans for the area.

F. Park & Recreation Department / District Relationship

Dr. White introduced this discussion item by saying that the District is curious about the goals and mission of the Recreation Department. He noted that the relationship between the District and the Village Recreation Director is great. The Recreation Department currently uses District facilities, and it is great to see lots of children participating in the programs. P. Peyer noted that a strong relationship between the District and Recreation Department is a benefit for both organizations. The question was raised what can be done now to support each other. J. D'Alessandro would like to work with the District to utilize the District's baseball fields to reduce the cost for tax payers. Previously, there was conversations between the former District Administrator and the Village. Dr. White is willing to continue those conversations. Recreation Director D. Rowland spoke about the growth of the recreation program over the nine years that he has been in the position. He complimented the District on the support that has been given to his department noting that he has never experienced the School District saying no to anything he has asked to use in terms of facilities requests. He noted that the recreation department is focusing on skill building for sports and leaving the competitions to the School District. D. Rowland said that after school programs are ramping up and he hopes to start weekend activities soon. School Board Member D. Woss complimented D. Rowland on expanding the recreational offerings for adults. Village Board Member L. Wright noted that the Recreation Department could not do what it does with just the Lions Field House. The use of District facilities makes that program that much better. Additional discussion took place regarding future plans of the Recreation Department to meeting with the District's Athletic Director and High School Principal.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Community member Laverne Duncan commented that there were a lot of good conversation starts and now it is up to both boards to see where they go.

IV. ADJOURN

At 6:58 pm., D. Ripple / P. Peyer motion and second to adjourn the meeting, carried 5-0.

Karolyn Nelson, Clerk
ds: 10/13/2020