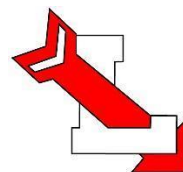


# Board Briefs



Regular Meeting of December 8, 2025

## **STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT**

Gianna Gates-Duprey reported that the high school is very busy. A Positive Youth Conference was held which taught students the dangers of social media. The conference was very impactful and helped students realize how much time they spend on social media and electronic devices. Winter sports are in full swing. The Links basketball team has started their season. Seniors are starting to work on college admissions and financial aid.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

The Board approved the November minutes, payment of bills, Superintendent's evaluation and the second reading of policies.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION**

Pat Nugent, Board Secretary, presented the Superintendent's Evaluation. The Board rated Superintendent Fowler Effective (99%). Nugent stated that the evaluation process started two months ago. Each Board member scored the Superintendent individually, then the Board came together, in Closed Session (which the Board is allowed to do for evaluation purposes) and came to a consensus on the final scores. The Board then met with Superintendent Fowler (at his request in Closed Session) to talk more specifically about the scores. Superintendent Fowler stated it is an honor to serve as Lowell Area Schools Superintendent and thanked the community for their support. He also appreciated staff and administrators working together as a team. He is going to continue to work on programs and communication within the district and with students and parents. Laurie Kuna stated that each Board member was able to make comments in each of the sections. She felt this was a good way for Mr. Fowler to hear the Board's different perspectives.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE**

Dustin Cichocki stated that an informal meeting is being held with the Bus Drivers to discuss wages, insurance, retention, recruitment, contract language and comparisons to other districts. Mr. Cichocki is currently scheduling interviews for the Director of Student Services and a middle school art teacher.

## **BUDGET UPDATE**

Sonia Hodge stated the Business Office is working on a budget amendment to present to the Board in January. She will include future projections now that the LESPA and LEA contracts have been settled. The Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference will take place in mid-January.

### **CURRICULM UPDATE**

Steve Gough stated the K-5 math and reading grade level meetings took place this week. These teams are reviewing curriculum, resources and assuring the district is aligned throughout all grade levels and buildings. The math team is working with Reveal Math and the reading team is working with Open Court. He thanked Carmen Tawney (math) and Kyndera Lee (reading) for their work leading these teams. Kyndera Lee is also the district Literacy Coach, so the reading team will be transitioned over to Jill Kirkpatrick. The middle school flex schedule, modeled after the high school, has begun and is working well.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Three audience members made public comments. No action taken.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Fowler stated that books are available in Destiny and we have communicated how to find the books in our library. Staff did discuss Amazon purchases. The District is not trying to hide anything but the work it would take to publish and organize every purchase through Amazon is not something that will be done on a monthly basis. If someone has a specific request that they would like to see, contact the Business Office. Last week the Grand Rapids Symphony performed at the high school and students were able to join them for a couple of songs. The symphony spent time coaching the students as well. Mr. Fowler stated that the District submitted the grant application for the 31aa funds. Lawsuits are still pending on these funds throughout the state. Many holiday concerts and events are taking place this month. He thanked all the teachers and parents for a good year of teaching and learning. The next Board meeting will take place January 12.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

- Jennifer Dougherty stated that sometimes you don't know what you have. Through the Superintendent's evaluation process she appreciated the fact that the District does not have any glaring issues. She also stated that if parents have issues with books they should contact Christine Beachler. If a parent is struggling and would like parental advice, Mrs. Boone has offered her services.
- Jared Blough congratulated Molly Burnett on her nomination as "Most Inspiring Principal."
- Annie Whitlock acknowledged and congratulated the retirement of Laurie Summerfield after 40 years of service.
- Laurie Kuna stated that she read the book "Kingdom of the Cursed" that was mentioned at the November Work Session. The passage that was read at the Work Session was a very small percentage of the book. The Miller test for obscenity in a book is considered obscene if the book is taken as a whole/entire work. We have a system in place and Mrs. Beachler knows whose kids have restrictions and whose do not.