

The Westhope School Board met in a special meeting retreat session on Jan. 16, 2019. Superintendent Martin Bratrud called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. at Marie's restaurant in Bottineau, ND. Present: Danen Lodoen, Lyndsi Engstrom and Katie Ogaard, Chuck Kveum, Ken Radtke, Ben Cartwright, Sheri Jespersen, Business Manager. Also present: Superintendent Martin Bratrud,

Strategic Planning:

Martin Bratrud opened the meeting and shared the retreat process and purpose of a retreat to use the meeting to ~~develop and discuss Board ideas, philosophies and discuss long-term strategic planning.~~ Bratrud also shared that no official business can be voted on and that no action can be taken by the Board at a retreat. It is only a planning and discussion meeting.

Developing a School Vision was discussed. The process will start with staff, then the Board, and in the last phase with the community in public meetings to be conducted in the future.

The time frame will be to develop a vision that encompasses 1, 5, and 10 years.

Meal was served and a Board vision development activity was tabled for a future regular Board meeting.

Capital Funding Planning

1. 2019-2020 Budget goal was discussed. Concensus of the members is that a balanced budget will be necessary for the long term financial stability of the District.
2. Building and Grounds: Roof Repairs, PA system repairs, and weight room key fob for community access were discussed. A new Oil and Gas Grant will be available to use in the 19-20 budget cycle.
3. Technology: The Technology Committee has a rough draft of a 1 to 1 device plan (probably Google Chromebooks) for grades 7 and 8 starting in 19-20. Elem will be 1 to 1 with iPads in 19-20. Professional development and policies will be necessary to implement 1 to 1 use in Westhope School.
4. Transportation: The Transportation Committee has developed an action plan for our aging bus fleet. Smaller buses can be used on our bus routes and should be our focus in 19-20 for the first rotation. Three larger capacity buses will still be required for activities and field trips but our current fleet should be able to accommodate those needs in the short term as they are rotated out of the route fleet.
5. Staffing: The recommendations of the Personnel Committee have been vetted by the Board Finance Committee as well as with the Goal Task Force Finance committee. Mr. Bratrud shared that community input has been supportive of a combination of expenditure cuts paired with modest tax increases phased in over a period of years. Public comment was also overwhelming supportive of looking at cooperative opportunities to share staff with Newburg, other school districts and entities such as NDCDE. Public comment was also overwhelmingly in support of finding more cooperative opportunities to partner with Newburg School in the future.
6. Mr. Bratrud Informed the Board that in any circumstance where a teachers contract is changed, a Reduction In Force process must be followed to protect the rights of the teacher and the integrity of the process. Mr. Bratrud used an example of a teacher working part time for Westhope and also part-time for Newburg but together is still full time between both schools, the language in the instructor's contract must be worded correctly to reflect that part of the contract will be purchased by Newburg and shared with Westhope School.

Mr. Bratrud reviewed the Westhope District's Reduction in Force policy (DKA), RIF Rubric (DKA-E), and the NDSBA fact sheet on R.I.F. process, timelines, and procedures for reference.

No further Discussion. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Sheri Jespersen, Business manager

Charles Kveum, Board ~~President~~

These minutes are unapproved, and as such, subject to revision or correction.
