



**Educating All Children To Meet
Tomorrow's Challenges**

Board Report July 20, 2023

GOOD NEWS, RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



With no students on campus this month, Dr. Ruess [reported](#) on all of the good news regarding summer projects around the District.

High School - Roof recoating project is underway

Middle School - Geotechnical work is complete for the classroom expansion, just waiting on the report.

Intermediate School - Playground renovation and drainage work is nearly complete

Elementary School - Abatement work is being done in the 1st grade stacks. Abatement work is completed in the 2nd grade hallway. Renovation work has begun in those rooms. The nurse area is undergoing renovation.

Early Childhood Center - Renovations to the reception area, and classrooms are nearly complete. New flooring installed and waxed in the hallways. New paint throughout. Keyless access system and new cameras are installed. The playground has been updated, a fence removed to provide more room and the roof to the building has been repaired.

Student-based Wellness Center - Renovations are beginning at the house on Mid-Meadow Lane. The garage has been removed.

Transportation building - Work will soon begin to connect the building to city water and sewer. Once that is completed, the parking lot will be repaired and get new asphalt.

[Summer Projects](#)

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda. Items were:

- [Last month's Board minutes](#)
- Bills payable for the month
- [June 2023 Financials](#)
- [July Ledger](#)
- Re-adopts/approve BOE Policy BBFA Conflict of Interest and Financial Disclosure
- Communications Surplus Items
- Varsity Tiger Baseball Surplus Items
- Approval of 2023 Distinguished Service Award Nominee
- Approval of 2023 Hall of Fame nominee
- Approve student flu clinic September 19, 2023
- Approve staff flu clinic September 20, 2023
- Approve staff wellness reimbursement
- Approve Ameren Storm Site License - allows Ameren to stage equipment on campus in exchange for making the area around campus a priority when it comes to power restoration

COMMUNICATIONS AND/OR REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

- Information for the Board regarding the Missouri School Board Association meeting in November
- The Early Childhood Center Grand Opening will be August 8 from 6pm - 8pm
- There is Board work session on Thursday, July 27 beginning at 6pm regarding R-VI in 2026 Strategic Plan
- Missouri passed a new law requiring all districts to incorporate the 5 components of reading in Grades K-5. This is already being done in K-3, but will require some teachers to receive new training in the "Science of Reading" in grades 4 & 5. District will be reimbursed. Teachers can receive a stipend from the state for completing and scoring 80% or better on the course.
- The Community Newsletter was in The Leader earlier this month will all important back to school information inside.
- Online registration began a soft launch with teachers to test the system. All things went well. Parent portal creation and online registration will go live on Monday, July 24.
- Convocation is scheduled for 8am on August 17. Will begin with breakfast in the High School gym, then will move to the Performing Arts Center for the program.
- Preliminary MAP data has been received and the principals are already digging into the numbers.
- Kudos to all of the agencies (Festus Fire & PD, surrounding PD and fire departments, Joachim Platin Ambulance District) for participating in the Emergency Response Training on July 7. Spotlight theater also sent actors to participate as victims.

Budget Update

- The final FY'23 budget revenues were higher than projected - Ended the fiscal year on June 30, 2023 in a strong financial position
- Preliminary Assessed Valuations have been received. They are up 7.3% from last year. That will trigger the Hancock Amendment, meaning the district can collect 5% of that on existing structures. New construction can collect the full 7.3% Projected tax rate will go from 4.0883 to 4.0585. The tax rate hearing will be held in September.
- Investments of \$14.5 million earlier this year have resulted in about \$500,000 in returns. Those returns have been rolled over into existing investments. These investments are aimed at helping to fund the classroom expansion and eventual gym projects.

Summer School Report

- Had 1245 students that is an increase of 58 students from last summer
- Attendance was 81%

SRO Statistics Report

- School SRO's issued 334 citations from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 - most of those citations were issued when they were working patrol for the city.
- Some were issued after school hours on patrol following complaints of reckless driving in nearby neighborhoods

PRIOR & NEW BUSINESS

Facilities Report

- Middle School Classroom Expansion - the Geotechnical work is done. Waiting on the report to see if/how much rock is underground. Still on schedule to go to bid in October with groundbreaking soon after.
- The middle school electronic sign was damaged by a storm and vandalism. The service crew is expected to have repairs done by Monday.
- The board approved moving forward with improving drainage issues in the thrower's area a Tiger Stadium. Improvements include adding 4 drains in the area, then putting down sand and sod this fall so it is ready for spring meets.
- There is a major roof leak in the Performing Arts Center. It is still under warranty and a report has been filed with the company.
- The board approved the purchase of two golf carts that will be used to help shuttle people who have to park far from events on campus (football games, track meets, concerts in the PAC, etc). The carts are \$13,500 each. Dorlac Sign Company will wrap the carts in Tiger logos

Communications Report & Plan

Mr. Pope [reported](#) on the communications efforts over the past year. Including:

- Increased reach of Facebook posts
- Increased usage of Instagram - both attributable to the use of Class Intercom, a new tool used for the 1st time this year

Mr. Pope submitted a [comprehensive Communications Plan](#) to be followed during the 2023-24 school year.

MOCAP Procedures

The board [approved new procedures](#) for MOCAP following new guidelines from DESE.

Bus Bids

The board approved the bid from Midwest Transit for a 77 passenger bus and a 24 passenger bus with a lift for a total of \$E328,285.

[Communications Report](#)

[Communications Plan](#)

[MOCAP Procedures](#)



[Website](#)