

Minutes
Joint Meeting
Muscatine City Council
Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Muscatine School Board of Education
September 27, 2022
7:00 p.m. - Muscatine High School

The Muscatine City Council, Muscatine County Board of Supervisors, and the Board of Education of the Muscatine Community School District, in the County of Muscatine, State of Iowa, met in a work session on Tuesday, September 27, 2022. Board President Dabeet called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. School Board Directors Matt Conard, Ken LaRue, Mike Morgan, Lindsey Phillips and Denny Schuur were present, Director Karen Cooney was absent. City Council Members; Mayor Brad Bark, Dennis Froelich, Jeff Osborne, Peggy Gordon, John Jindrich, Angela Lewis and Dewayne Hopkins were present. City Council member Nadine Brockert was absent. Board of Supervisors, Nathan Mather, Santos Saucedo, Scott Sauer, and Jeff Sorensen were present. Supervisor Doug Holliday was absent. Also present were Superintendent Clint Christopher, Muscatine City Administrator Carol Webb, County Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber and Muscatine School Board Secretary Daphne Donald.

Board President Dabeet welcomed the visitors and thanked the City, County and School Board members for working together. Mr. Dabeet also thanked the Muscatine Police Department for their service and for their work on recent events at Madison and McKinley Schools. Mr. Dabeet thanked Superintendent Christopher and the over 800 school district employees for making a difference in our student's lives. President Dabeet explained that the Joint Council Meeting was considered a work meeting and encouraged visitors to speak individually to the council or board members after the meeting if they had any questions.

Mayor Bark introduced Muscatine County Assessor, Randy Spies to present the property tax information. Mr. Spies reviewed the information about property taxes and shared a brochure "*Understanding Your Property's Assessment*" with the joint council members. Mr. Spies explained the process of how property is assessed in Muscatine. Every odd year is a reassessment year. Mr. Spies pointed out that citizens can ask for an informal review of their property's assessment and can file a protest with the Board of Review if they don't agree with the assessed value. Mr. Spies reminded everyone that we are providing city, county and direct services to our constituents. Mr. Spies said if anyone has any questions, he would be happy to speak to them after the meeting, or they could call his office.

Mayor Bark spoke about the current housing needs in Muscatine. Mayor Bark noted that the Colorado Senior Lofts are finished. Mayor Bark said Meghan Custis, of Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine, is working on a Grant for funding homes at moderate prices.

Mayor Bark gave an update of the current city projects including; updating the bike & pedestrian paths in Muscatine, and the Grandview Corridor Neighborhood Revitalization Project. Mayor Bark shared a video about a local business located on Grandview Avenue. The video featured the small business, Precision Machine and business owner, Brian Lee. Mr. Lee talked about the Forgiveness Loan Program for small businesses in Muscatine and how it helped his business.

County Supervisor Jeff Sorensen shared information about services offered by the Eastern Iowa Mental Health and Disability Service. Supervisor Sorensen explained that last year children's mental health services were added to the regional system. Each school district will have an AEA contact that works with the Eastern Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services. Mr. Sorensen wants to make sure school districts know that services are available to students and families. Mr. Sorensen shared a handout "*Mental Health Services, Supports & Programs, Community Education Presentation*" with the joint council.

Superintendent Clint Christopher stated the district's vision of Daily Desired Experiences (DDE), the operational plan and the District Vision Card guides the work being done across the district. Superintendent Christopher said that we learned through the DDE survey conducted last spring that staff would like to have more opportunities for district wide interactions and celebrations. The district held an end of the year cookout in May, a staff breakfast in August and formed a district wide events committee to plan group activities throughout the year. The Daily Desired Experiences Survey will be conducted in October this year.

Superintendent Christopher shared information about the new teacher orientation held in August called Muskie University. New teachers were given the opportunity to learn about the work we do in the district as well as information about the Muscatine Community. As a result of the DDE the district is adjusting professional development time throughout the year to meet the needs of the teachers and staff. The district held a full day of professional development for support staff at the Merrill Hotel that focused on Social Emotional Learning and building relationships.

Superintendent Christopher shared an updated District Vision Card noting the progress that is being made and the work that still needs to be done. One area of the Vision Card focuses on improving the graduation rate. Mr. Christopher discussed how elementary experiences and community relationships impact the graduation rate. Muscatine Schools has excellent partnerships with HNI, AIM (Aligned Impact Muscatine) and community members that are helping the district move in the right direction. Mr. Christopher shared how the district is working to improve the Chronic Absenteeism rate by working with parents to see what support they need. The district uses Muskie Connect at the beginning of the year so that students can meet their teacher and spend some time one on one with the teacher before the school year begins. Superintendent Christopher stated the district has a great working relationship with the County Attorney, Jim Berry and we are working together to improve the chronic absenteeism rate. Superintendent Christopher reported over 400 elementary students participated in S.P.A.R.K. held at Jefferson School this past summer. S.P.A.R.K. (Summer Program for the Arts, Recreation & Knowledge). S.P.A.R.K. offers enrichment opportunities for kids.

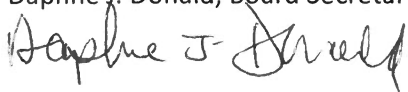
Superintendent Christopher shared that the district has received a Roy J. Carver Grant to look into an Alternative High School Program. The grant allows staff to focus on the preliminary work and visit other Alternative programs and see what is working well in other school districts. Staff is currently working through the process. Mr. Christopher noted this is not a program for chronically absent students.

Superintendent Christopher reviewed the facility committee work and upcoming construction projects. Including; creating secure entrances and Madison, Grant and Susan Clark Junior High, building onto Jefferson, getting rid of Central but maintaining the Auditorium and gym, building a gym at SCJH, building a Centralized Kitchen, and the Softball/Baseball Complex. Superintendent Christopher said that the district has hired Russell Construction for Construction Management Services. Mr. Christopher shared a preliminary construction budget for the projects noting that this is as it exists today. The district will be using SAVE Dollars and PPEL funds to support the capital projects. Superintendent Christopher stated the projects will be spread out over the next few years and we hope to have them completed by the fall of 2025. Superintendent Christopher led the group on a tour through the high school including the STEM Wing, the newly Renovated Student Center including counselor and nurses office and the Fine Art Wing, which includes the Orchestra, Band and Choir Rooms. Mr. Christopher noted that the Student Center was designed by students working closely with staff from the HON Company.

In other business, Mayor Bark shared information about the Haunted Hallways event that will be held at the old Central building on October 28 from 6:00p.m. - 9:00 pm. No other business.

A motion was made by Board Of Education Director Denny Schuur and seconded by County Supervisor Santos Saucedo to adjourn the meeting. All ayes; motion carried. Time: 8:41 p.m.

Daphne J. Donald, Board Secretary



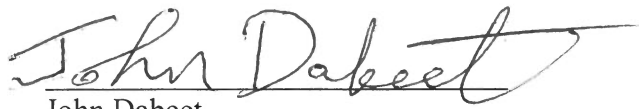
ATTEST:



Brad Bark
Mayor



Carol Webb
City Administrator



John Dabeet
School Board President



Scott Sauer
Board of Supervisors