

**Joint Meeting
Muscatine School Board of Education
Muscatine City Council
Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Thursday April 27, 2023
6:30 p.m**

Mayor Brad Bark called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Councilmembers present: Jeff Osborne, Nadine Brockert, Peggy Gordon, John Jindrich, Dennis Froelich, and Dewayne Hopkins. Councilmember Angie Lewis was absent. Police Chief Tony Kies (sitting in for the City Administrator) and Administrative Secretary Cinda Hilger were also present.

School Board Directors Present: Matt Conard, Ken LaRue, Mike Morgan, Lindsey Phillips, John Dabeet, Denny Schuur and Karen Cooney. Superintendent Clint Christopher and Muscatine School Board Secretary Daphne Donald were also present.

County Board of Supervisors Present: Jeff Sorensen, Danny Chick, Kurt Kirchner, Scott Sauer, and Nathan Mather. County Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber was also present.

Superintendent Clint Christopher gave a presentation on the Muscatine School District Updates. Mr. Christopher stated that the Centralized Kitchen was in the process of being constructed on Lucas Street. He shared information regarding how this would be a more cost-effective way of prepping food for the school district and the sanitary benefits that this facility would have.

Mr. Christopher then shared an update on Tom Bruner field. He stated the project would include new lighting, updated stands, concessions, restrooms, scoreboard, parking and foul ball netting. Work on this project is scheduled to begin following the 2023 baseball season and is projected to be completed for the start of the 2024 season.

Mr. Christopher shared the plans for the projected Softball complex to be built at the Muscatine High School. He stated this would include updates to the concession area also used by the visiting football teams during that season.

Mr. Christopher then spoke about new secure entrances being built at Susan Clark Junior High, Grant Elementary and Madison Elementary. Mr. Christopher also stated that Jefferson would be seeing a new addition with more class space. In addition to the construction being done, he stated that the classroom portion of Central Middle School would be torn down leaving the gym and auditorium intact. He added that Susan Clark Middle School is also projected to have a new auditorium/gym space built, a new bus lane behind the school that is to be gated and refinishing of the Junior High track.

Mr. Christopher finished up his presentation by sharing information regarding an improvement in the number of students doing annual testing as well as an improvement in overall attendance. Mr.

Christopher stated he appreciates the help and work by the County Attorney's office with Chronic Absences.

School Board Director Nathan Mather had questions regarding building codes with the schools upcoming projects and if they were having any troubles working around code requirements. Mr. Christopher stated that the school had been working with the contractors and the city to meet the code requirements.

Danny Chick, County Board of Supervisors, started a discussion regarding the possibility of having a School Resource Officer present in each of the Muscatine Schools. Mr. Chick shared information regarding mass shootings around the country. Mr. Chick stated he understands that the biggest issue with making this happen would be the funding, which is estimated at \$600,000/year. He stated he would like to see the City, County and School share the financial responsibility in making this happen. Mr. Chick asked if there was a process to work on for making this move forward.

Mr. Christopher stated that school performed a safety study and the school will be awarded \$50,000 (one time funding) per building to use to address safety issues. Mr. Christopher shared that one of the major safety components being looked into is a communication program.

There was discussion within the groups regarding the number of schools in the County, who currently pays the School Resource Officers, and what the School Resource Officers do during the summer months.

Chief Kies stated the first steps to helping our children be safe is to teach them what to look for, and to report anything that seems out of the normal. Mr. Kies stated the Police Department has education programs they can teach such as: Run, Hide, Fight and ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) and Stop the bleed Training.

Jeff Sorensen, County Board of Supervisors, stated that legislation had passed a law to have Public Safety Radios in all schools. Chief Kies stated they had been ordered and are on backorder currently.

Mayor Brad Bark shared information regarding the preparations being done for the upcoming visit of RAGBRAI to Muscatine. Mayor Bark gave an overview of the route that will be used for the bike riders as they come through Muscatine. Mayor Bark shared information regarding the multiple committees that have been formed and the work they are doing to prepare safety, recreation, entertainment, refreshments etc. for RAGBRAI. Mayor Bark stated the Muscatine theme would be "Muscatine, One in a Melon" and the world's largest watermelon slice was in the works for the Riverfront.

There was group discussion regarding the detour routes for the College Search Kickoff Soccer Tournament and questions regarding the use of UTV's that were addressed by Chief Kies.

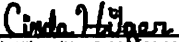
Mayor Bark gave a quick update on the current status of the flood and thanked all those that have helped in preparing to protect the downtown from the flood waters. Mayor Bark stated that it was great to see the City, County and private businesses working together to mitigate the flood. Mayor Bark

stated when the flood recedes there will be a great need for volunteers to help with the cleanup process.

There was a request for an update on the proposed sports dome to be built at Soccer West. Mayor Bark stated we have received a one-million-dollar Destination Iowa Grant and are now working on getting cost estimates for the Dome.

Councilmember Peggy Gordon moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Submitted By:


Cinda Hilger (May 8, 2023 08:28 CDT)
Cinda Hilger, Administrative Secretary

Attest:

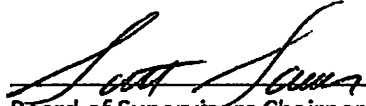


Mayor Brad Bark


Carol Webb (May 5, 2023 17:11 CDT)
City Administrator, Carol Webb



School Board President, John Dabeet



Board of Supervisors Chairperson, Scott Sauer