

Board of Education President's Report

Matt Cellura

December 12, 2018

At our last meeting, I asked for your help in reaching out to our legislators and urging them to consider extending the graduation pathways granted to the class of 2018, to the classes of 2019, 2020, and 2021. Your advocacy efforts have helped, and for that I thank you, as now the classes of 2019 and 2020 have a clear direction and pathways for their graduation requirements once HB 491 is signed by Governor. While this Administration and Board are constantly involved in advocacy efforts for our District and its students, it is refreshing and tremendously helpful when the community steps up and adds their voices to the effort, which in many cases is just the push needed to get issues like this resolved.

Tonight this Board will consider approving the first of two resolutions required to put the \$4 million dollar renewal levy on the ballot for May. This levy is up for renewal every 10 years, and has been thoroughly discussed in this District's financial planning and Strategic Planning Flowchart for several years as being put on in this timeframe. It is important to remember that this levy is a renewal only, not a new levy and is for the purpose of supporting our operational budget. With the community's continued support of this levy, the amazing programs, opportunities, and educational accomplishments that these students here tonight get to partake in and we are here to celebrate will continue to be available to them, their siblings, and future students. I would ask that you look for information over the next few months regarding this renewal levy and reach out to the Board, the Treasurer, or the Superintendent with any questions you may have.

Lastly, in the interest of transparency and closure, I wanted to address an issue that this Board has been dealing with for the past few weeks. On October 15th, Superintendent Powers received a formal complaint alleging misconduct by a public official, and asking for legal action to be taken regarding the alleged misconduct. As with any complaint, this was given immediate attention, and subsequently an outside law firm was hired to conduct a thorough investigation and provide this Board with their unbiased and fact based findings. At our last meeting, that investigation report was provided and was discussed thoroughly in

Executive Session. I wanted to publicly share this evening that after interviewing multiple individuals named in the complaint with knowledge of this alleged misconduct, it was found and determined by the lawyer conducting the investigation that there was zero evidence of the misconduct alleged in the complaint. While I am pleased with the results, and appreciative of the effort of everyone involved, I am disappointed that the District was forced to spend resources and time investigating this false and potentially libelous allegation. This Board takes our roles and responsibilities very seriously and it is our number one priority to act within the ethical and legal bounds of which we are required to abide by. For someone to allege that these ideals were cast aside and disregarded is damaging to every one of us up here and to the work that we are trying to accomplish. It is disheartening that this was alleged and even more so that it was done with zero evidence to support it. Please rest assured knowing that this Board has the best intentions of the students, the community, and the staff of this great District in its mind with everything that we do, and we will continue to abide by the ethical and legal obligations which we have sworn to do.