

THE BELL RINGER

GAVEL-TO-GAVEL MEETING UPDATES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SECONDARY EDUCATION ANNOUNCED

The Hamilton Southeastern Board of Education approved the hiring of Michelle Brittain-Watts for the position of Executive Director of Secondary Education, effective July 1, 2021. Brittain-Watts is currently the principal of Bloomington North High School. She has served many roles as an educator. In addition to being a principal at a very large high school, previously she worked as assistant principal, curriculum and special education compliance coordinator, teacher, and even athletic director, just to name a few. Brittain-Watts earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio. She later received her teacher certification from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. Brittain-Watts also earned master's degrees in education administration at Butler University and in psychology at Martin University in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Brittain-Watts



Dowling

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ANNOUNCED

Hamilton Southeastern Schools also named Katy Dowling as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Dowling is currently the CFO of Crown Point Community School Corporation. Dowling will be responsible for overseeing the financial and business obligations of the district including budgeting, financial analysis, payroll and benefits, accounting, investing and insurance. She is an experienced Financial Officer with a successful history of working in public sector finance. She is working on her Master's degree focused in Public Administration from Indiana University-Northwest. Dowling will report to Superintendent Dr. Yvonne Stokes and be a member of the district's executive leadership team. Dowling was approved at the June 23 school board meeting and will begin July 19.

CONSTRUCTION AT FJH

Energy Manager Bob Rice addressed the board regarding the Phase 4 Renovations Project at Fishers Jr. High. Board members unanimously approved and awarded the FJH construction contract to CPM Construction Planning & Management, Inc., as the lowest responsible qualified bidder. The total project cost was \$3,859,000. This figure includes the Base Bid of \$3,369,000 plus Alternate Bid Items #1, #3-#7, and mandatory Alternate Item #8b, for an addition of \$490,000. Renovation completion Date: 11/22.

POLICIES

Board members approved updates to the following policies on a second reading:

- J05.00 Student Behavior
- J05.01.01 Bullying Prohibited

RESOURCE ADOPTION

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Dr. Matt Kegley requested and received board approval of the social studies resource adoption for High School Social Studies Extended Extracurricular Materials.

2021/2022 K-12 TEXTBOOK RENTAL FEES

The board approved a recommendation made by Business Manager Stephanie Madison for textbook rental fee changes. The request was a result of modifications made that included the adoption of new resources, a change in consumables selected or pricing adjustments.

TRANSITION 401(a) AND 457(b) VOYA PLANS

A recommendation was made by CFO, Cecilie Nunn to transition 401(a) and 457(b) plans from MetLife to Voya. These accounts have been used to deposit funds from sick days sold by teachers and administrators. 401(a) accounts were originally used until guidance changed and 457(b) accounts became the allowable account for this purpose. The board approved the recommendation and now all 401(a) accounts will be transferred to Voya. These accounts are older and there are no fees to participants if they are moved. The goal is to have all 401(a) accounts transitioned to Voya by the end of October 2021. Some 457(b) accounts would incur fees if transferred. With this in mind, 457(b) accounts could remain at MetLife or participants could choose to move their account. This process is similar to our transition of 403(b) accounts from previous providers to Voya. This will require us to maintain a 457(b) plan with MetLife.

RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION PLAN APPROVED

Several members of the community signed up to speak before the board on the district's Return to In-Person Instruction Plan. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Dr. Matt Kegley presented an initial draft of the Return to In-Person Instruction Plan as required by the federal government to qualify for funding under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund. This return to in-person instruction plan was board approved, 6-1. As part of the plan, students will receive in-person instruction at 100% capacity, five-days a week for the 2021-22 school year. Using feedback from the community and information provided by the HSE Department of Staff and Student Services, the Fishers Health Department (FHD), the Indiana State Department of Health and the Governor's office, masks will be encouraged for all students and staff, but not required while on school grounds. Masks must be worn on the school bus, in accordance with current federal regulations. Information regarding this plan has been placed on the district website as required in the guidelines to receive ESSER funding.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Dr. Matt Kegley sent congratulations to the Fishers Tigers baseball team for finishing State Runner-Up. Kegley also gave a shout out to Jojo Ramey and Kyle Ponsler from Fishers FAST Swim Team for competing in the Olympic trials swimming event. He also recognized HSE's Noah Malone who broke the US record 400 meter dash in the Paralympic trials.

Kegley also mentioned that the Federal Free Lunch program will continue through the next school year and encouraged families that qualify for the Free & Reduced Lunch Program to fill out the (con't)

application because that will help offset costs of book fees.

Kegley gave an update on the flood at HSE High School. He thanked the custodial and facilities staff for quick action as the result of a fire suppression line that busted in the wall affecting the front office. Clean-up continues.

Kegley also reminded everyone that Dr. Stokes will officially start, July 1st. He and the entire HSE Admin Team are looking forward to working with her.