

THE BELL RINGER

GAVEL-TO-GAVEL MEETING UPDATES

SNAPSHOTS OF SUCCESS: HSE EDUCATORS

The Snapshots of Success for February 10 honor our HSE Food Services, which has remained a constant during the every-changing global pandemic, providing nutritious meals for students of Hamilton Southeastern Schools. [Watch the video as we say THANK YOU.](#)



BLACK LIVES MATTER

Board President Janet Pritchett read a statement at the start of Wednesday's meeting regarding Black Lives Matter. It reads as follows:

"I want to open the meeting with a statement that is shared unequivocally by the majority of board members: Black Lives Matter. We are committed to uniting and not further dividing our school community. We thank every student, parent, and stakeholder who has written to us expressing both compliments and concerns regarding (cont.)"

your child's educational experience and your expectations in HSE.

Like any community, district leadership is not a monolith. We share different perspectives, ideas, personal values and strategies for how to advance HSE Schools. We have and will make mistakes both individually and collectively. However, we are united in demonstrating leadership by role modeling how to learn from mistakes and being as transparent as possible.

We ask students to not view mistakes as failure, but as an opportunity to learn and grow. We, as adults, also have the opportunity to model this critical life skill. The letter issued by our administration Monday caused harm. While we are deeply sorry, we know that our students, teachers, and community deserve more than an apology.

We must commit work to repair relationships, restore trust, and prevent this hurt in the future. As HSE's new Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer Dr. Pettigrew stated when the board approved her hire last month, this work does not just belong to her, but to all of us.

A portion of the HSE Schools non-discrimination and non-harassment policy reads, "Hamilton Southeastern Schools will foster a culture and environment that does not marginalize, treat unfairly or disrespect any member of our school community and will recognize the uniqueness and individuality of all students, educators, staff and (cont.)"

administrators, so they have an opportunity to succeed." In honor of this policy and covenant, we hold with our community; we must not reduce a student's or staff member's humanity to that of a political movement.

As I did in my opening statement as president, I continue to urge us to hold these difficult conversations, give grace whenever possible, model civil discourse, and find common ground in the idea that education can build community.

Last but not least, I challenge us to all continue to stand in solidarity against injustice, racism, and violence and to continue the quest for equality."

Board Member Suzanne Thomas also read a statement. [Click here to listen.](#)

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

No comments were received during the additional appropriation public hearing. Proceeds from the bond sale will fund various building projects and upgrades. Board members then approved a series of resolutions in connection with financing the following: renovations at Fishers Junior High and Fall Creek Junior High, resurfacing a parking lot at Hamilton Southeastern High School and technology upgrades throughout the school corporation.

ARCHITECT FOR FCJ RENO

The board approved the recommendation for Barton-Coe-Vilamaa to provide architectural services for the Fall Creek Jr. High School renovation project. The proposal from Barton-Coe-Vilamaa was \$759,000. The base bid from CSO Architects was \$855,000.

Director of Facilities Harry Delks also requested approval to use the CMc method of construction for the upcoming renovations planned at the school. Delks says this method has been (cont.)

successfully utilized on the recent Southeastern Elementary School project and is the same method being used currently for Deer Creek Elementary. Board members approved the recommendation as presented.

In addition, the recommendation of a Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment to the contract with Hagerman, Inc., for construction of Deer Creek Elementary School for \$29,050,000 was also approved.

HUB & SPOKE MAKERSPACE MARKET

Coming this fall, the Hub & Spoke Makerspace Market, a thoughtfully-designed Makerspace lab filled with resources that can be further developed for curricular use on-site for fifth grade STEM classes. According to Elementary Education Director Dr. Stephanie Loane, the physical Makerspace on-site would offer an extension to traditional Engineering Design units and could also help us think a bit differently about our HSE21 design work. A team of fifth grade teachers will be working with the Hub & Spoke Makerspace Manager, Amy Knerr, a TDS for Intermediate STEM and Loane to develop the partnership. Teachers will drive the curricular plans and we can expect much of the relationship to mimic our work with Nature First. Loane says HSE Schools will determine future scope, responsibilities and compensation for an employee leading this work long-term.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The board listened to a recommendation from Director of Educational Technology Jeff Harrison on Wednesday in regard to deleting and destroying old audio recordings of past board meetings. Prior to the board meetings being livestreamed, audio recordings were taken from 2007 to 2019 to assist in creating the official board minutes, and members of the public could also request to listen to the (cont.)

meetings, if needed. Harrison recommends to delete and destroy these recordings as to keep the files will involve on-going costs to transfer, store and purchase software to listen to the recordings. The board will vote on this recommendation at its next meeting on March 10.

HIGH SCHOOL TESTING SCHEDULE

Board members heard information Wednesday from Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Dr. Matt Kegley on the upcoming ISTEP test for high school juniors and affected seniors. This is a required test by Indiana Department of Education and must be completed on-site. Students will come into their respective high schools on Friday, Feb. 12 to take the math portion. Students will return on Friday, Feb. 19 to take the Language Arts portion. Kegley told the board that because there are no in-person classes on Fridays, both schools will be able to utilize their staff members to allow for students to be spread out across the building to take the test. Transportation and lunch will be provided for students who need it.



GAME DAY
Friday, February 19, 2021 • 6:30 p.m.

OPERATIONS PLAN

Superintendent Dr. Allen Bourff recommended to the board to allow high school students who opted for in-person learning to attend classes on-site Monday through Thursday.

The recommendation passed 4-3 and takes effect on Wednesday, Feb. 17.

A survey was sent to families with students in grades 9-12 on Feb. 1 to select their preferred learning mode: in-person four-days a week or 100% virtual to better determine school-wide attendance percentages.

As it stands currently, 46% students at Fishers High School have selected to be in-person Monday through Thursday, and 54% at Hamilton Southeastern High School. Students who chose to be 100% virtual will not be able to change learning modes until after Spring Break. This will ensure student occupancy of the building will not exceed 50-55%. In-person students may pull back to 100% virtual if they find they are not comfortable attending on-site.

If particular classes exceed guidelines for COVID safety, adaptations will be considered.

Following CDC guidelines will continue to be stressed as distancing will not always be possible.

Students in grades 7-8 will remain hybrid at this time. The number of in-person students currently exceeds the 50-55% threshold for student occupancy of the building.

Mark your calendar and recruit your team! Back for its 9th season, Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation's (HSEF) Game Day returns on Friday, Feb. 19, 2021 as they host a fun, interactive virtual trivia competition featuring Hambone's Trivia. Register your team [here](#).