

Evaluations, policy revisions head school board discussion

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Evaluation of Supt. Bret Miles, a self-assessment of the board and Section J policies on students highlighted the Oct. 19 discussion of Holyoke School District Re-1J Board of Education.

Following a 35-minute executive session with Supt. Miles, the board released a written summary which was prepared as part of the evaluation process.

Miles was evaluated on criteria specific to ongoing goals, five-year goals and 2009-10 key deliverables in each of five domains.

These domains include instructional leadership, leadership/personnel management, budget development/management, facilities management and community outreach.

The board reported Miles exceeded expectations in four of the domains, as well as other board/superintendent goals. In the area of instructional leadership, he met expectations.

Question by question, the local school board reviewed its self evaluation at last week's meeting.

Valuable input was shared by board members as they took an honest look at their self-reflection.

Board president Dan Kafka noted the self evaluation gives them a chance to look at how well they've done in the past year and how they can improve the next year.

Supt. Miles said he admires the board for committing to a self-evaluation as a priority.

The board recognizes it must be working as a team, on the same goals and utilizing the same strategies as the superintendent in order for the district to be successful.

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As a result, all goals and strategies from the superintendent's evaluation were included in the board self-reflection.

The board looked at five-year goals, strategies and 2009-10 governance commitments, ranking their performance. They shared individual thoughts on where those rankings would be and reasons for their assessments.

In addition, the board evaluated effective communication in four settings: board member/board member, board/superintendent communication with community, board/superintendent and board/superintendent communication with staff.

Further evaluation will take place in January when they review the goals and assess their direction.

Student policies reviewed

In the board's thorough review of district policies, Section J was the target last week.

Specific policies addressed in the section on students follow:

Student conduct; dress code; code of conduct; bullying prevention and education; school-related student publications; distribution of noncurricular materials; concerns, complaints and grievances; student discipline; suspension/expulsion of students; and student use of the internet and electronic communications.

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CASB conference reported

Board members and Supt. Miles reported from the Oct. 15 fall conference of the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB).

Miles said there was a single focus at every session, and he enjoyed an especially good presentation on Senate Bill 191.

Linda Jelden mentioned sessions on technology and one on school policy regarding cyberbullying. Kim Killin reported on a session which, in addition to cyberspace, addressed First Amendment rights on and off campus, tying into technology.

Jelden also reported on the Oct. 16 CASB delegate assembly, at which she represented the Holyoke school board.

Other business

In other business Oct. 19, the Re-1J board:

—accepted nonresident student Shobi Burris, coming from the Haxtun School District.

—hired Kandice Kramer, Sarah St. Martin and Sharon Floripe as elementary teacher aides; Kate Shoemaker, assistant HS girls' basketball coach; and Corey Zeiler, assistant HS softball coach for 2010-11.

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—approved second reading of Policy BG on school board policy process.

—approved application for Type V substitute teaching authorization for Terri Biersdorfer.