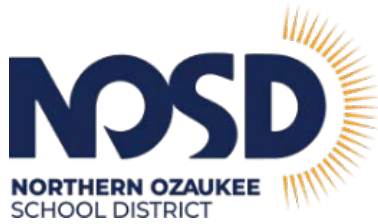


The following Minutes were provided by the Village of Fredonia.



JOINT MEETING MINUTES
FREDONIA VILLAGE BOARD AND NOSD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Thursday, September 5th, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Fredonia Government Center - Board Room
242 Fredonia Avenue, Fredonia, Wisconsin

1. President Gehrke called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Trustees Present:** President Gehrke, Trustee Eippert, Trustee Franck, Trustee Abegglen, Trustee Dohrwardt, Trustee Bartz, Trustee Meyle.
Board Members Present: President Neis, Vice President Large, Treasurer Clark, Board Member Klas, Board Member Burmesch, Board Member Decker, Board Member Miller.
Staff Present: Superintendent Dave Karrels, Director of Business Services Josh McDaniels, Administrator Jenkins, Clerk Johnson.
Other Present: Rene Colbert, Press
3. Public Comments: none
4. Items for Discussion and/or Action
 - a) **Report by NOSD District on School District Operations:** *Superintendent Karrels shared that the new school year was off to a great start. Teaching staff returned early to prepare, and the annual kick-off picnic had an awesome turn out. Superintendent Karrels highlighted an increase in enrollment for the second year in a row. He said the twenty additional students are a testament to the reputation of the district. The staff continues to be challenged by larger class sizes. Necessary funding is required to hire teachers and reduce class size. Superintendent Karrels reported that a generous donation from the Class of 1967 resulted in a new auto lift and upgrades to the auto facilities. He also shared that a generous grant and in-kind donations resulted in an upgraded locker room and new furniture and technology in the Warrior Flex Room. Superintendent Karrels gave a brief overview of the operational referendum on the November 5th ballot. He shared that the Board has taken seriously the*

feedback from the two previous referendums that failed, and changed the referendum by decreasing the ask and eliminating projects like a new track. The referendum funds day-to-day operations, competitive salaries, and fills a budget deficit created when Covid assistance expired. The Board of Education is committed to keeping the school's portion of the tax bill the same by paying down existing debt early and use those funds to pay for day-to-day operations. President Neis thanked the voters of the Village of Fredonia for consistently passing the previous referendums.

- b) **Report by Village of Fredonia on Municipal Operations:** President Gehrke welcomed the NOSD Board of Education. Administrator Jenkins said his update would follow the Village's strategic priorities.

Smart Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Growth: Administrator Jenkins shared the Village is currently working on grading, road, and utility build out of the industrial park, located in TID #3. He said the development has attracted 8 businesses, and there are two remaining parcels to be sold. The Village will be considering an offer to purchase the smaller remaining lot, and the larger lot is being reserved for a large manufacturing business. He said most new businesses plan to begin construction in 2025 and would bring 40-50 new jobs and potentially new families to the area.

Responsible Fiscal Policy: Administrator Jenkins has implemented a long-term CIP and revamped the Village's outdated fiscal policy. Staff has conducted a road study and will prioritize construction projects annually. He shared that work on Highland Dr. would be completed soon.

Public Safety: The Village has hired a new Marshal, Eric Leet, who is a towering presence in the community. The Village was a recipient of grant funding to establish a Joint Paramedic program with the Village and Town of Belgium and the Town of Fredonia. The Village has a referendum on the November ballot to fund the joint venture after grant money runs out.

Open Communication and Collaboration: the Village has updated the website and an increased presence on social media.

Strong Sense of Community: Administrator Jenkins highlighted the generous donors who have made new recreational events like the Mudonia Mud Run, Tuesday Tunes, and the 150th Anniversary Celebration, possible. He shared that the Village has been fundraising for a splash pad and is \$30,000 from the fundraising goal.

Mr. Burmesch asked how the Village was planning to attract businesses to the Industrial Park. Administrator Jenkins responded that he was limited in how he could respond outside of closed session, but buyers are paying competitive prices for the Land. Trustee Abegglen shared that he has three little ones at NOSD and commended teachers for their excellent work. He thanked NOSD for their leadership and for their large presence in the Village. He looks forward to stepping up collaboration between the Village and NOSD. President Gehrke shared that Nine Ladies Dancing, a dance studio currently located in Saukville, recently closed on a property in the Industrial Park. They plan to build a large facility that will draw students and families to the area. He said that in the last three years, the Village has focused on growth. President Gehrke thanked NOSD for being leaders in the community. Vice President Large asked if the Village had plans to stimulate residential growth. President Gehrke responded the vacant

development to the south was almost ready to be sold to a developer. He explained that the two houses in that development were taken down to create a clean slate for potential developers, not in response to the rumors about mold and contamination. He added that the developer Hillcrest plans to build condos on Deer Meadow, and additionally, a potential builder is looking for ready lots. Administrator Jenkins added that the owners of the northern part of the Nueun's property is still for sale, and the owners are interested in a potential collaboration for a mixed-use lot. Trustee Meyle said, as development increases, so does the critical need for EMS services. He said that he is personally not excited about raising taxes, but the paramedic referendum is necessary, and the \$200,000 ask is reasonable. Trustee Meyle reinforced that there are three other jurisdictions contributing to the program. Trustee Dohrwardt said that the development tools available to the Village hit a snag with the Hillcrest developers, and that the Village's best shot to raise money for the school district is with development within the Industrial Park. He added that the TID may even close early and share the increased increment earlier than expected.

- c) **Discussion of Joint and Collaborative Opportunities:** Superintendent Karrels said there are many members of the community with Luxembourg roots. An anonymous donor has fostered a United States/Luxembourg partnership. Teachers from sister schools visited this summer, sharing culture, language and deepened relationships. Students participate in Zoom collaborations. The program is fully funded for eight years. Administrator Jenkins and President Gehrke attended a collaborative meeting with NOSD and Luxembourg officials. President Gehrke thought an opportunity for collaboration might be for the summer school program to utilize the planned splash pad at Marie Kraus Park. Administrator Jenkins also highlighted the Village's history with hiring local students, saving a few dollars and hopefully inspiring the next generation of public servants. Trustee Dohrwardt suggested creating an internship program to include more students. Trustee Bartz said that students could volunteer for Village-run events, and it might count towards their National Honor Society volunteer hours.
5. Items for Future Consideration: The Board of Education and the Village Board of Trustees agreed to reconvene in the spring.
6. **Motion to Adjourn** Made by Trustee Meyle.
Seconded by Trustee Bartz.
Passed by unanimous voice vote.