

JAMESTOWN SCHOOL BOARD
Board Retreat Meeting

Minutes of the board retreat Jamestown Public School Board meeting held on Monday January 6th, 2020, at 5:15 P.M. in the Central Office Conference room of Jamestown Public Schools

Present: Vice President Heidi Larson Roger Haut, Diane Hanson, Steve Veldkamp, Greg Allen, Jason Rohr, Robert Toso, Business Manager Sally Ost and Superintendent Robert Lech. Jennifer Schmidt and Melissa Gleason were unable to attend.

The board reviewed contextual competency, discussing strengths of the board. Heidi Larson stated the board understands the mission and vision of the school. Discussion was held on how to improve speaking as one voice.

Discussion was held on board members having an opinion but when the vote is done the board needs to remember that it is a board decision.

The board discussed educational competency. The board discussed the strength of review and updating of policies. The board does attend professional development opportunities. Heidi Larson stated it takes time to have a feel for the role of the board and understand the process. Comments were made on needing to have more time to review the information for the board.

Roger Haut stated our board retreat is a strength. This allows more discussion than allowed at a board meeting. Greg Allen discussed the need to continue to grow in the respect of each board member. Confidentiality was discussed. Board members need to watch the perception of how things are handled. Dr. Lech stated that the reason the interpersonal competency is important is that trust can be cultivated.

Dr. Lech discussed the superintendent and business manager compile information and if questions asked at the board meeting without preparation can put the board and the Central Office in a difficult position.

Analytical competency was discussed. Dr. Lech reminded the board to not fall into the mindset of rubberstamp. Jason Rohr stated with the efficiency the board can leave the perception of a rubber stamp board. Roger asked if the general public knows that the board receives their information in advance.

Positive items in political competency was the meeting of legislatures. Heidi Larson stated that it is difficult to get community members to meetings for referendums. Roger stated it is difficult to make decisions when the public does not attend the meetings. Dr. Lech stated that social media is a blessing and a curse.

Strategic planning had overall positive comments. Robert Toso stated the board spends a lot of time with strategic planning. The board needs to provide feedback to the Superintendent in the evaluation process. Dr. Lech stated the numbers don't tell him areas that he could learn and grow.

The board did a board education competency activity.

Greg Allen left at 6:40 pm.

The board read researched based items effective school boards. Dr., Lech asked the board in what ways is the board already doing these eight characteristics. The board education, and professional development for the board. Heidi brought up the committees, such as the DSIC committee. Diane stated the unity with the superintendent. Jason Rohr brought up the district has moved forward by having instructional coaches. Items that could use improvement are community engagement. The idea was discussed to bring an interested person to set at the board table to see what it is like. Dr. Lech stated that the board could improve on data driven decisions.

The board read a case study and shared from the political, symbolic, structural and human resource assumptions.

The board conducted a board norming exercise. The board will bring these to a board meeting for approval.

Diane Hanson left at 7:50 pm,

The board reviewed their strength finders and where the strengths of the board are.

The board adjourned at 8:10 pm.