

Chippewa Valley strategic planning committee begins

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Chippewa Valley Director of Career Technology Education Claire Brisson addressed the Chippewa Valley Board of Education on Feb. 23 to give a curriculum update on career and technical education. (Photos by NICOLE TUTTLE)

On Feb. 23, Chippewa Valley Schools Superintendent Ron Roberts announced at a school board meeting that the district's strategic planning team was about to be put to work.

"Next week we start strategic planning and we put our team in place," Roberts said. "We are excited about it. We have a group of about 75 people as our team, with large numbers represented with parents, teachers and administrators, smaller numbers, yet still as important from representing support group, the business and community. And we have some reps there.

"We also have two board members who will be with us. We are still making the final arrangements to have some high school students. So we are excited about that and that first meeting is next Tuesday, starting at 1 p.m. So emails have been going out. We started last week to get our team together. So that starts next week and looking over the first agenda, I think it is going to be, and I use this word very seriously, a lot of fun. I really do. It is a good agenda and when I think about the people that are there coming together to talk about our district I think it will really make a difference."

The Chippewa Valley Board of Education approved a contract award for parts and labor for grounds and equipment repair on Feb. 23, based on time and material contract costs. Spartan Distributors was one of the vendors approved at an hourly labor cost of \$95 and at an approximate annual spend of \$10,900. The other vendor approved was Weingartz at an hourly labor cost of \$88 and approximate annual spend of \$13,740. Funding will come from the district's general fund, said Chippewa Valley Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations Scott Sederlund.

Also on Feb. 23, the board approved a new board policy regarding epinephrine auto-injectors.

"This new policy addresses the requirement of Public Act 187 of 2013 regarding administration of medication, specifically the use of epinephrine auto-injectors at school," Roberts said. "This policy, which was signed by the governor on Dec. 17, 2013, reflects the current state of the law and should be adopted to maintain accurate policies."

On Feb. 23, the board also approved a revised board policy for emergency situations at schools.

“Revision to this policy is required by the recent enactment of Public Act 12 of 2014, signed by the governor on Feb. 25, 2014. These provisions are effective as of July 1, 2014 and reflect the current state of the law. The policy should be revised to maintain accurate policies,” Roberts said.

Roberts also said the district’s human resources department had done a lot of work this year to bring the district into compliance in this matter.

“We can put something together to show you what that looks like. They are still working on it. The main thing is putting the procedures and policies online, accessible to all staff and that is what they're working on now,” Roberts said. “Most of the emergency plans are in place and there is a countywide template. We have someone from the county that goes around to districts and helps our schools in each district develop a plan that meets the law.”

Chippewa Valley Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Ed Skiba said that districts have had policies in place for years, but having an actual plan with scheduled drills is an addition.

“For years districts have always had policies in place, or procedures in place, but they've never had a plan in place...Everybody has the same template so we actually have a plan now in place for every building. Outlines, when to have drills and so forth. And those drills have to be, we have to keep a record of when the drills happen and then turn those plans in, so everything is monitored,” Skiba said.

In addition, on Feb. 23 the Chippewa Valley Board of Education approved a revision to a board policy regarding cardiac emergency response plans.

“This policy is part of the recent enactment of Public Act 12 of 2014 signed by the governor on Feb. 25, 2014. The provisions are effective as of July 1, 2014 and reflect the current state of the law. The policy should be adopted to maintain accurate policies,” Roberts said.

Roberts also updated the Chippewa Valley Board of Education on a meeting with several state representatives held on Feb. 23 at the Macomb Intermediate School District. The meeting was one of several being held around the state to talk with school superintendents, business officials and board of education members regarding education in the state, according to Roberts.

Chippewa Valley Director of Career Technology Education Claire Brisson addressed the Chippewa Valley Board of Education on Feb. 23 to give a curriculum update on career and technical education. Brisson particularly commended Dakota High School construction teacher Joseph Churches for his safety measures.

“I want to talk about construction trades next, and safety. Because in any of our programs when we’re using equipment, safety is of paramount concern,” Brisson said. “And in our construction program in particular, we have got a lot of safety concerns with equipment, with height, with scaffolding, with chemicals, you name it...But Joe Churches has done a marvelous job on... safety, and he has a student chapter connected with the National Association of Home Builders.

“And they have the International Builders Show in Las Vegas. Joe went with 13 students and three parents this year, and they received a National Safety Award. This is not their first time to receive a safety award, but what I wanted you to know about Joe Churches is that he went above and beyond what the state asked us to do with regard to safety. They embed the 10-hour OSHA safety training into our state requirements, but Joe went above and beyond ...He spent about two weeks last year getting training so that he could certify students to get a 30-hour OSHA safety training which is highly valued in industry.”

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