

ATTACHMENT NO. X-B: Special Education Personnel

Potential motion: Move to approve one additional Special Education certified staff member to service students at North Boone Middle School, one additional Social Worker or School Psychologist to service students at Capron Elementary, and one additional .5 Speech Language Pathologist to service students in NBCUSD 200.

Recommended action: Approve the motion.

### **Additional Special Education Staff**

#### **NBMS 2021-2022**

Currently North Boone Middle School is staffed with two Special Education teachers. An additional Special Education teacher working with current staff is needed to allow us to better meet the needs of our students by increasing the number of Co-Taught courses, providing special education support for students within the general education setting, along with their same-age peers. Currently, a majority of our special education students in grades 5-12 are only spending 40-79% of their day in general education courses. This staffing increase aligns with the North Boone Middle School SIP goal that states that “By the end of the 2023 school year, all students will receive core instruction in the general education setting.” This staffing addition will allow for more students to be in the General Education setting vs. Self Contained as additional sections of Math and ELA will be taught with Special Education teachers providing instruction as co-teachers. The SIP Goal was created as a result of data from the IAR and MAPs assessments, which found that our special education population as a whole was far below meeting standards and making projected yearly growth. The addition of one FTE would directly impact the ability to meet the SIP goal.

**Proposal:** Post and hire one additional Special Education certified staff member to service students at North Boone Middle School.

#### **Social Work/School Psychologist**

In order to achieve high quality inclusive classrooms an additional support staff member is needed. An additional social worker or school psychologist would meet this need. Additional support staff is needed due to high student needs both in our K-4 programming, but our PK programming.

Currently, Manchester and Capron share a social worker. It was determined through committee work on our Pre-K Indicator 6 Improvement Plan, that a full time on site social worker is needed at Capron to help consistently integrate social work services into our blended preschool classroom. These social service needs could also be met by a school psychologist. The social worker or school psychologist would also perform evaluations on incoming Pre-K students and services for all identified students at Capron Elementary.

The addition of a full time social worker or school psychologist at Capron to support the PK- 4 students would allow Manchester to receive full-time support from Social Work as their needs in the building have shown an increase. All buildings would then have a dedicated social emotional support person on site.

**Proposal:** Post and hire one additional Social Worker or School Psychologist to service students at Capron Elementary.

**Speech**

Currently we employ three speech pathologists that service 130 students in the district. Due to caseload size at Poplar Grove Elementary and Capron Elementary, those buildings are serviced individually. Our third speech pathologist services the remaining 4 different buildings. The proposed position would reduce travel time and caseload numbers for our pathologist that services 4 buildings. In order to continue to provide high quality Speech Services, the district would require a .5 Speech Language Pathologist to meet IEP needs.

**Proposal:** Post and hire one additional .5 Speech Language Pathologist to service students in NBCUSD 200.