

**MINUTES OF A  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF  
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF  
DWIGHT TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #230**

**HELD BY ZOOM  
On November 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

Board President Brian Perschnick called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT: Kevin Berta; Betty Gantzert; Tim Henson; Brian Perschnick; Anne Rodosky**

**ABSENT: Max Sulzberger; Paul Warner**

**Also in attendance: Dr. Richard Jancek, Superintendent; Deb Conroy, Secretary; Andy Pittenger, Principal; Cathy Ferguson, AD**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Schultz and Amy Kargle were in attendance to comment on remote learning vs. in-person learning. Kargle thanked her children's HS Teachers for their hard work.

**REPORT OF BOARD COMMITTEES OR REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. Pittenger thanked all of his Teachers and shared his appreciation for the job they are doing with remote learning.

Ms. Ferguson reported that current information from the IHSA indicates that there will likely be no winter sports this year due to COVID-19. There is a meeting of IHSA Board of Directors only tomorrow and she will await further guidance after this meeting.

Ms. Ferguson reported that she was able to hold a Green and White Night for the Basketball teams and it went very well.

Dr. Jancek reported that negotiations with the DEA and BOE are going well and they hope to have a multi-year contract agreement soon.

For Maintenance, Dr. Jancek reported that there are no major projects ongoing at this time.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Dr. Jancek reported that the state owes the district \$5,084.47 in late mandated categorical payments for the 2020-21 school year, and \$53,215.72 for the 19-20 school year. Dr. Jancek noted that at the most recent GS Board meeting a question was asked about how COVID has affected our 1-cent sales tax revenue. After compiling data on this subject, Dr. Jancek found that there has not been any significant difference to this point over what we have received over the last 3 years.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Items for consideration on this month's Consent Agenda are as follows:

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Bills
- 3) Approve Rhonda Miller, Substitute Nurse
- 4) Accept Resignation, Cathy Burke, Guidance Secretary

Moved by Gantzert, seconded by Rodosky, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Dr. Jancek presented the second reading of Board Policy 5:060-AP2, Employee Expense Reimbursement, and asked for final approval of this Administrative Procedure.

Moved by Berta, seconded by Henson, to approve Board Policy 5:060-AP2, Employee Expense Reimbursement, as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Dr. Jancek updated the Board on the status of the RES Blue Sky Solar Project. He participated in a Zoom meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup> where an abatement agreement for the farm was discussed by all of the participating taxing bodies. While the 3 Superintendents of the major taxing bodies still have questions that need answers, they are in support of this project with the information currently available. They were supposed to attend a meeting this week of the Grundy County Board, but due to new COVID-19 restrictions, they were unable to do so. They still have questions on this and if they can get this necessary information and it is acceptable to them, they plan to offer their support of the project. The abatement agreement would last for 3 years and amount to a total of \$4,000,000 over all of the taxing bodies.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Jancek made his initial presentation of the EAV, Tax Levy/Extension, and Financial Projections for the 2020 Tax Levy. He noted an increase in the EAV of approximately \$13,000,000. He is proposing a levy decrease of approximately \$0.24 while still maintaining very healthy balances across all funds. Board President Perschnick noted that we have very healthy fund balances and we should be able to drop the proposed levy further to help out taxpayers. Board member Henson responded that there are many local factors that bring uncertainty to our district, including the loss of LSC, the increased poverty level of our community, the fact that the proposed graduated income tax didn't pass and issues with teacher retention, we may need to hold off on large decreases in our tax rate. This proposal will be on display in the District Office until the December Board meeting, where he will be requesting final approval.

Dr. Jancek reported that he has spoken to the Livingston County Health Department regarding possibly going to remote learning for a 2-week period after Thanksgiving and then again after the Christmas break. Due to family gatherings that no doubt will happen for these holidays, he feels that we may be better off planning remote learning for those 2 periods and amending our calendar. Board members asked to have the transition team, as well as representatives of the DEA, meet and discuss the pros and cons of this proposal, while also reaching out to other school districts to see what they are doing. Dr. Jancek can bring this back to the December meeting for discussion on the post-Christmas break period. The goal is to try to stay in in-person learning as long as possible, even though the choice may be taken out of our hands if we continue to have more positive cases or close contacts. The GS Board asked that the decision

to stay open or closed not be determined by one school or the other, but decided on a separate basis. They were not interested in going remote after the Thanksgiving holidays.

Dr. Jancek informed the Board of a new emergency option declared recently by ISBE on classroom supervision during the global pandemic. This emergency rule would allow unlicensed individuals to serve as "room supervisors" for instructional settings at school with students present in which the instruction is being delivered by a licensed teacher from a remote location. They are to work under the direct supervision of the remote teacher. They are to not enact student discipline under any circumstances. They are not to teach. In short, you can hire anyone who otherwise passes a background check to serve in this role. This rule is only in effect for the period of the governor's current disaster declaration and any subsequent extension of said declaration. Dr. Jancek stated that our bus drivers and monitors would be ideal to work in these situations if they are so interested. The Board would need to approve the use of unlicensed supervisors. The Board consensus was that they would approve of this if needed. Dr. Jancek will bring this issue back to the Board for further discussion and possible approval at the December meeting.

Dr. Jancek introduced a proposal to install a security vestibule wall in the HS that is similar to the one recently installed at the GS. This wall would force all visitors to check in at the Main Office before entering any other part of the school and would greatly increase security. He has obtained proposals for a wall with one set of doors and one with a set of double doors for \$17,100 for the wall, with additional funding for the buzz-in system. This would integrate with the buzz-in system that we have at the front door and would remain locked until buzzed through by Main Office staff.

Moved by Gantzert, seconded by Rodosky, to approve the installation of a security wall, as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Item C-5 was discussed during Ms. Ferguson's report.

Moved by Henson, seconded by Gantzert, to go into Executive Session at 7:11 p.m. to discuss litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent in which case the basis for the findings shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting; According to Section 2, subsection c, #11 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Gantzert, seconded by Rodosky, to exit Executive Session at 7:16 p.m. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Berta, seconded by Rodosky, to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

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Debbie Conroy, Secretary, District #230

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Brian Perschnick, President, District #230