

TREMONT COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #702
MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING
MS/HS Cafetorium, 400 W. Pearl Street, Tremont, IL 61568
December 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call -	Kaiser – present	Sumer – present
	Ropp – absent (7:01 p.m.)	Smith – present
	Kilgus – present	Ulrich – present
	Gierich – present	

Conduct of a public hearing for the issuance of working cash fund bonds for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District.

Motion by **Sumer** that the Hearing be adjourned. Second by **Smith**.

Roll Call Vote:

Roll Call -	Kaiser – yea	Sumer – yea
	Ropp – yea	Smith – yea
	Kilgus – yea	Ulrich – yea
	Gierich – yea	
		Motion Carried: 7-0

Meeting Adjourned: 7:02 p.m.

LEVY HEARING

Call to Order: 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call -	Kaiser – present	Sumer – present
	Ropp – present	Smith – present
	Kilgus – present	Ulrich – present
	Gierich – present	

Superintendent Berry presented the levy proposal:

The proposal calls for a 4.99% increase. The estimated EAV is \$126,265,307, including \$1,584,120 in first time property. The estimated total tax rate will be 5.30 or 4.34 without bonds; bond tax rate of .96. The projected bond tax rate for this year was .97.

Last year's actual total tax rate was 5.26, including a bond rate of .97. Last year's projected bond rate was .9775.

Recommended: adoption of a levy of \$5,547,750, plus bond levy of \$1,218,119 for a total levy of \$6,765,869.

Levy Hearing Adjourned: 7:14 p.m.

Call to Order: 7:14 p.m.

Roll Call -	Kaiser – present	Sumer – present
	Ropp – present	Smith – present
	Kilgus – present	Ulrich – present
	Gierich – present	

Persons Desiring to Address the Board – None.

Consent Agenda –

1. Approval of previous meetings' minutes as published/corrected
2. Acceptance of treasurer's report
3. Approval of activity fund
4. Approval of bills, payroll, and Imprest Fund
5. Approval of agenda

Motion by **Sumer** to approve the consent agenda. Second by **Kaiser**.

Roll Call -	Kaiser – yea	Sumer – yea
	Ropp – yea	Smith – yea
	Kilgus – yea	Ulrich – yea
	Gierich – yea	

Motion Carried: 7-0

Correspondence Received – None.

Administrative Reports – The principals were not in attendance due to the group size restrictions, but they submitted written reports.

Superintendent's Report – The Superintendent presented a written report updating the board on the building projects. The locker rooms are functional now and being used by students, although they are not entirely complete yet. New flooring will be installed in the downstairs locker room over winter break and new doors will be installed once they arrive. Mr. Berry also shared that the Administration met with a former student on December 4th, who suggested the possible formation of a diversity board. The diversity board would be high school-focused and facilitate conversations regarding field trips, staff activities, student assemblies, and community projects that might help raise awareness about racial issues among our students and staff. Raising awareness and emphasizing empathy would be two key goals.

Old Business

Information Items

COVID-19 Updates

The High School shifted to remote learning due to 9 positive COVID-19 cases in a week and 128 students moving to quarantine. This impacted seven school days around Thanksgiving. Students returned on Dec. 7th and the quarantine numbers are far more manageable as a result (from 128 to 28 by the time students returned). We have been fortunate regarding staff cases and quarantines. Although there have been a few times when we've cut it close on subs and coverage, we've been able to manage so far. We are currently working through the best way to implement the new CDC quarantine guidelines. The new guidelines decrease quarantine times, but create a whole new set of potential issues as a result.

Financial Updates – Monthly Financial Discussion

Mr. Berry updated the Board on some recent developments regarding FY21 and beyond. He shared a few graphs that showed how monthly fund balances compare over the last five years. We should see some increases in local revenue next year based not only on the levy, but also some properties coming back onto the books. The administrative team has been discussing potential ways to save money on staffing either through reassignments, combining positions, or cutting.

Action Items

Closed Minutes Review

Motion by **Kilgus** to review minutes of closed session since last review (June 2020) and declare that all closed minutes should remain closed. Second by **Ropp**.

Yea – 7

Nay – 0

Motion Carried 7-0

Central States Bus Proposal

Motion by **Gierich** to accept the bid from Central States Bus Sales from Big Rock, Illinois, in the amount of \$209,068.61. Second by **Ulrich**.

Roll Call -

Kaiser – yea

Ropp – yea

Kilgus – yea

Gierich – yea

Sumer – yea

Smith – yea

Ulrich – yea

Motion Carried: 7-0

Property Tax Levy

Resolved by **Sumer**.

Be it resolved that the Tremont Community Unit District #702, Tazewell County, shall adopt a 2020 levy in the amount \$5,547,750, without bonds. Be it further resolved that the aggregate 2020 levy, with bond payment, be adopted in the amount of \$6,765,869.

Motion by **Kaiser** to adopt the resolution establishing the tax levy for tax year 2020 and placing one copy in the minutes. The amount of the resolution shall be certified and returned to the County Clerk of Tazewell County on or before the last Tuesday in December 2020. Second by **Smith**.

Roll Call -

Kaiser – yea

Ropp – yea

Kilgus – yea

Gierich – yea

Sumer – yea

Smith – yea

Ulrich – yea

Motion Carried: 7-0

New Business

Information Items

Board Policies - Press Plus Issue 106

Most of the updates in this issue are revised legal references and language “clean-up” to match recent changes in School Code, state laws, or the addition of pandemic-related language. The updates to these policies do not impact the policy itself. A few policy updates go beyond legal or language updates. These policy updates will be action items next month.

Action Items

Resignation(s)

Motion by **Ropp** to ratify the acceptance by the Superintendent of the resignation of Amelia Light as HS Scholastic Bowl coach, effective August 2020 and Ian Wilkey as a part-time Turk Center employee as of December 4, 2020. Second by **Kaiser**.

Yea – 7

Nay – 0

Motion Carried 7-0

Employment

Motion by **Sumer** to employ Claire Fink as HS Scholastic Bowl coach for the 2020-2021 school year, per salary agreement. Second by **Ropp**.

Roll Call -	Kaiser – yea	Sumer – yea
	Ropp – yea	Smith – yea
	Kilgus – yea	Ulrich – yea
	Gierich – yea	

Motion Carried: 7-0

Motion by **Smith** to approve Andrew Aberle, Zoe Harding, Jordan Neville, Justin Slager and Nicole Switzer as new subs for the 20-21 school year. Second by **Kilgus**.

Yea – 7

Nay – 0

Motion Carried 7-0

Adjourned to Closed Session: **9:12 p.m.**

Closed Session - under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee

Motion by **Sumer** to adjourn to closed session under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee. Second by **Kaiser**.

Roll Call -	Kaiser – yea	Sumer – yea
	Ropp – yea	Smith – yea
	Kilgus – yea	Ulrich – yea
	Gierich – yea	

Motion Carried: 7-0

Reconvened: **9:24 p.m.**

Meeting Adjourned: **9:24 p.m.**

Volkan Sumer, President

Renee Kaiser, Secretary