

Litchfield Community Unit District No. 12  
Board of Education Meeting  
Basement of G.A. Sihler School  
601 South State St. Litchfield, IL. 62056  
Thursday, January 21, 2021  
6:00p.m.

The Litchfield Board of Education held their regular monthly meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. at G.A. Sihler School ,601 South State Street, Litchfield, IL. 62056. Board members in attendance included: Julie Abel, President; Ron Anglin, Vice President, Valerie Cain, Secretary, David Belusko; Mark Bloome, Mike Fleming and Gregg Hires. Also in attendance were: Dr. Gregg Fuerstenau, Superintendent. Administrators: Doug Hoster; Jennifer Thompson; Russ Tepen; Jeremy Heigert and Adam Favre. John Hanafin of News Herald and Mary Herschelman, Journal News.; Mark Elvers, LEA representative. Concerned parents and citizens. Masks were worn and social distancing was adhered to the guidelines.

#### Consent agenda

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Gregg Hires to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approve minutes and closed session minutes from December 17, 2020
- Approve monthly bills
- Approve Treasurer's report

Bills payable for January 2021 total \$201,458; from Education fund, \$115,154; from Operations & Maintenance \$32,982; from Transportation \$27,779; from Capital Projects \$7,121; from Tort \$18,422. Balance in all funds at December 31, 2020 is \$24,010,726. Balance in Operating Funds is \$8,272.153. Balance in Capital Projects is \$14,053,663. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0

#### Old Business

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain approve a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of board revisions to Policy, Administrative Procedures, and Exhibits (Press Plus #106). The following revisions will need to be reviewed for a second reading: 2:20-E

3:40; 3:40-E

4:10;4:55;4:60-AP1;4:80;4:90;4:120-AP; 4:150; 4:175;4:175-AP1

5:30;5:30-AP2; 5:185-AP; 5:190;5:270

6:15; 6:20;6:40;6:235-E5; 6:280; 6:300;6:300-E2; 6:300-E3; 6:310; 6:310-E; 6:315

6:320;6:340

7:100;7:140;7:140-E;7:300; 7:325; 7:340-AP1; 7:340-AP1,E1;7:340-AP2; 7:340-AP2,E1;

Voice Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0

#### Information

Enrollment for December was 1317. Kelley Walker, director of the MAKE IT program, submitted her monthly report. Dr. Fuerstenau started his report by stating that the district would be receiving an additional \$1.5 million dollars through the federal governments stimulus package. The District is allowed three years to spend the money. Purchases are made and paid for by the district and then submitted for reimbursement. Technology will be the main use of funds. \$7.5 million dollars' worth of health, life, safety bonds were sold. Local banks were central in helping to secure these bonds. The money will be used for the elementary projects. Summer school was discussed by Administration. Although in the planning stages, the goal is cover K-12 grade students. It will be a great opportunity for students to keep their minds busy as well as credit recovery for some. Elective courses are also being discussed. Student population is at 85 percent in-person learning. Mr. Elvers, Athletic director, gave the Board a status report on athletics. Middle School Volleyball will begin practice on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Their first game will be February 2, 2021 at Vandalia. At this time, the IHSA is only allowing practices and scrimmages for Middle School Boys basketball as well as High School Boys and Girls Basketball. The IHSA will review rules on January 27, 2021. The South Central Conference Superintendents and Athletic Directors meet regularly to discuss rules and future events. The District is working to live stream events on their YouTube channel. Mr. Hoster, high school principal, announced "*High School Musical*" will be the school play this year. The High School Student Council is working on activities to increase student morale. Dr. Russ Tepen stated the Middle School were in the middle of MAP testing. Food service is seeing an increase in breakfasts and lunches. Jeremy Heigert, principal, addressed the Board. The elementary art teacher, Anne Perry-Wetzel has been honored for work with "Art as

the Agent of Social Change” by the Illinois Art Education program. Students have been given art opportunity in the classrooms and through remote learning. Ms. Perry –Wetzel has several online tutorials that are great for kids. Colt and Russell schools are also in the middle of MAP testing. Mr. Favre is working with Patrice Corso, the elementary music teacher. The Spring Music program is the topic for discussion. Jennifer Thompson, stated that WI-FI hotspots were still available parents should contact her or their students’ building for more information. New Math curriculum is being looked at for next school year. Colt School had two water breaks. The entire school was closed on January 6, 2021. Student from Colt School were given remote learning on that day. The District will participate in a rapid COVID19 testing program for students and staff. The District’s nursing staff will have the rapid tests available to test students and staff that are showing signs of the virus. Waivers must be signed prior to each volunteer testing. There will be no cost to participants. The district will have to pay to dispose of the tests properly. The Montgomery County Health department will hold a vaccination clinic on Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> for Litchfield and Panhandle school districts. Interviews for the High School Principal position will take place Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### Closed Session

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome at 6:57 p.m. for the board to enter into closed session for the purpose to discuss: The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) Roll Call Vote: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming and Hires. Motion carried 7-0 Valerie Cain left meeting at 9:12 p.m. At 9:13 p.m. a motion was made by Gregg Hires and seconded by Mark Bloome to return to open session. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Fleming and Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

#### Action Following Closed Session

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve that the need for confidentiality still exists pertaining to the minutes of closed sessions for the months of January 2020 to December 2020 and that the Board has determined for those minutes to remain closed. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Fleming and Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Gregg Hires to approve the purchase of property located at 2001 Eilerman Avenue, Litchfield, IL. for the amount of \$682,112.76 from Litchfield Community Development Association. It is being considered as the Montgomery County Career and Technical Education Consortium – Innovation Center. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Fleming and Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Gregg Hires to Accept the letter of retirement from Lea Jones, Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher, at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Fleming and Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to Approve family medical leave for Jostlin Rademacher, middle school teacher beginning approximately May 12, 2021 until the end of the school year on May 24, 2021. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Fleming and Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Gregg Hires to Approve a 2-year extension to the current contract for Superintendent, Dr. Gregory Fuerstenau. This extension would include July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Bloome, Fleming and Hires. NAY: Belusko. Motion carried 5-1

Seeing no further action to be taken, a motion was made Mike Fleming and seconded by Ron Anglin to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m. Voice Vote: AYE: Able, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 6-0