

Litchfield Community Unit District No. 12
Board of Education Meeting
Basement of G.A. Sihler School
601 South State St. Litchfield, IL. 62056
Thursday, February 18, 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; Valerie Cain, Secretary, David Belusko; Mark Bloome, Mike Fleming and Gregg Hires. Ron Anglin was absent. Also in attendance were: Dr. Gregg Fuerstenau, Superintendent. Kris Adamson, Recording Secretary. Administrators: Jennifer Thompson; Russ Tepen; Jeremy Heigert and Adam Favre. John Hanafin of News Herald and Mary Herschelman, Journal News.; Amy Newkirk, LEA representative. Juletta Ellis; newly hired high school principal. Concerned parents and citizens. Masks were worn and social distancing was adhered to the guidelines.

Public Input

Mike Fleming asked to address the board. He stated his encouragement to the administration, staff, students, and parents for working so hard to keep our doors open and our students moving forward with their educational year. His second item of concern was the new grade school project. There have been many obstacles and challenges for the school district to move forward with the building projects. He voiced his frustration with the lack of support the City of Litchfield has shown the district with these projects.

Consent agenda

A motion was made by David Belusko and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approve minutes and closed session minutes from January 21, 2021
- Approve minutes and closed session minutes from January 26, 2021
- Approve minutes and closed session minutes from January 27, 2021
- Approve minutes and closed session minutes from February 4, 2021
- Approve monthly bills
- Approve Treasurer's report

Bills payable for February 2021 total \$385,730. From Education fund \$158,594; from Operations & Maintenance \$66,690; from Transportation \$29,263; from Capital Projects \$121,992; from Tort \$9,192. Balance in all funds at January 31, 2021 is \$31,434,257. Balance in operating funds is \$8,848,424. Balance in Capital Projects is \$13,456,115; Health-Life Safety balance is \$7,662,177. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

New Business

Approve the intergovernmental agreement with the Regional Office of Education #3 for the said Safe School Programs and Alternative High Schools. This intergovernmental agreement provides our district alternative safe school services through the ROE #3. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

Information

Enrollment for January was 1322. Kelley Walker, director of the MAKE IT program, submitted her monthly report. Dr. Fuerstenau introduced Joletta Ellis, newly hired high school principal for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Doug Hoster, current principal will retire at the end of the current school year. Through funds from the CARES Act grant, the Litchfield School District will have a school wide sum program. The Summer program will run from June 1st to July 1st. At the elementary level (PreK – 4) will focus on literacy as well as have extracurricular activities. Campers grade 5-8 will focus on kids with the need to catch up in the areas of literacy and math. High School will focus on credit recovery. Camp will be Monday through Thursday, 8:00am to 1:30pm. Parents have until March 26, 2021 to register online. There is no cost to attend. Breakfast and Lunch will be served to the campers as well. Transportation will be provided. Many staff have asked to be a part of this program.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Valerie Cain to enter into closed session at 7:12 pm. 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) Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 6-0. A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Valerie Cain to return to open session at 8:11pm. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

Action Following Closed Session

Agenda item to purchase property located at 120 West St. John St., Litchfield, Il. was tabled.

A motion was made by Gregg Hires and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the family and medical leave for Jenna Stewart, elementary teacher, beginning approximately April 8, 2021 through the end of the school year, May 24, 2021. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Gregg Hires and seconded by Valerie Cain to accept the resignation of Megan Stewart as Middle School Girls Track coach effective immediately. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Gregg Hires and seconded by Valerie Cain to hire Mitch Hughes as Middle School Girls Track coach effective immediately. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Gregg Hires and seconded by Mike Fleming to approve Jon Yoch; Jamie Mortensen; Scott Zobrist; Stacy Carter; and Scott Durbin as prom sponsor chairpersons for the 2020-2021 school year. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the hire of Candace Mazza as Family Engagement Coordinator effective immediately. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Mike Fleming to approve the hire of Hilary Wagenblast as Assistant High School Principal for the 2021-2022 school year. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Gregg Hires and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the hire of Chris Kuntzman as Technology Director beginning March 22, 2021. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

Seeing no further action to be taken, a motion was made Mark Bloome and seconded by Valerie Cain to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Voice Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 6-0