

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 19, 2022

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 1, Coles and Cumberland Counties, Illinois met in regular session on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at the Administration Building – 410 West Polk Avenue, Charleston, Illinois 61920

At 6:30pm, President Coe called the meeting to order and asked Secretary Daniels for roll call.

The following members were present:

Jason Coe, President
Scott Clarke, Vice President
Charles Jarrell, Treasurer
Susan Daniels, Secretary
Brandon Wright

The following member was absent:

Brian Gough
Eva Ritchey

The following staff members were present:

Todd J. Vilardo, Superintendent of Schools
Chad Burgett, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services
Kristen Holly, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Genia Lang, Recording Secretary

Visitors 24 and 0 Members of the Press

Under Good News Reports, Recognition:

Dr. Vilardo complimented the artwork display provided by the students in Carl Sandburg Elementary School in grades 1 – 3. Art teacher – Heather Bryan

Charleston High School Special Olympics:

Charleston High School students participated in the Special Olympics Illinois State Games on June 18, 2022 at Illinois State in Bloomington, Illinois. Students that participated and placed at the games included Aaliyah Blair Pugh, Connor McQueen, and Spencer Myerscough. Coaches included CHS LBS1 teachers Amy Jackson, Tracy Cole, and Angel Warman. CHS Principal Aaron Lock introduced the participants and coaches and provided information on their accomplishments.

National Principals Month:

October is designated National Principals Month, with Principals Week celebrated October 16-22, and Principals Day celebrated Friday, October 21. Dr. Vilardo commended the CUSD #1 Administrative Team for doing an exceptional job, especially considering the current load of responsibilities required of them and asked that everyone share their appreciation in honor of Principal Appreciation Week. The Board of Education recognized the CUSD #1 principals and assistant principals.

Illinois Bus Driver Appreciation Day

October 17 is Illinois Bus Driver Appreciation Day. Illinois Central School Bus provides CUSD #1 with student transportation. Their drivers and monitors are the first and lasting impression of each school day for many of our students. While their first focus is on the safety of students and everyone on our roads, their care for our students is noteworthy. The Board of Education recognized our bus drivers, represented at the meeting by Leann Jones, Illinois Central School Bus Site Manager.

Under Public, Staff Comments or Questions, Written Communications, President Coe asked if there were requests to address the Board of Education. There were no requests received.

Under Consent Agenda, Mr. Coe asked if there were any items under the consent agenda that the Board of Education would like to remove for discussion. There were no requests from the Board of Education.

At that time, Dr. Vilardo reviewed the recommendations under the consent agenda.

IV. Consent Agenda: Standard Items

- A. Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 21, 2022.
- B1. Approve the bills and payrolls for the month of September 2022.
- B2. Approve the Activity Fund Reports for the CUSD #1 attendance centers, period ending September 2022.
- B.3 Approve the summary of revenues and expenditures year to date as presented by Assistant Superintendent Chad Burgett.

VI. Consent Agenda: New Business

- Contingent that all graduation requirements from the State of Illinois and CUSD #1 have been met, approve the CHS early graduates at the end of first semester of the 2022-23 school year.
- Declare referenced inventory from the Technology Department as surplus and available for sale or disposal by the District.
- Declare referenced inventory from the Charleston High School Athletic Department as surplus and available to donate to the Trojan Booster Club and/or disposal by the District.
- Assign the responsibility for the overall direction of its program of library media services for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year.
- Approve the request to grant 265.25 (two-hundred sixty-five and a quarter) gifted sick leave days to Jennifer Bales, a Spanish teacher at the Charleston High School.
- Approve the request to grant 296.5 (two-hundred ninety-six and a half) gifted sick leave days to Angel Warman, an LBS1 teacher at the Charleston High School.

VII. Consent Agenda: Employment

- Accept a letter of retirement from Jennifer Bales, a Spanish teacher at the Charleston High School, effective at the end of the 2026-2027 school year.
- Accept a letter of retirement from Angel Warman, an LBS1 teacher at the Charleston High School, at the end of the 2026-2027 school year.
- Grant an intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence to Yvonne Larson, a 5th grade teacher at Jefferson Elementary School.
- Accept a letter of resignation from Laura Hawk, a Media Center Specialist at Carl Sandburg Elementary School, effective September 30, 2022.
- Accept a letter of resignation from Maria Cline, a paraprofessional at Jefferson Elementary School, effective October 14, 2022.
- Accept a letter of resignation from Chelsie Doughty, a Co-Student Council Advisor at Charleston High School, effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
- Accept a letter of resignation from Joshua Stice, as the Boy's Head Track Coach at Charleston High School, effective immediately.
- Approve a voluntary transfer of Eric Craft into the Head Custodian position at Mark Twain Elementary School, effective December 5, 2022.
- Approve the employment of Robert Brachear as a full-time District Custodian, effective September 15, 2022. This employment was contingent upon receipt of all information required for employment.

- Approve the employment of DeVondre Gaston as Infrastructural Technology Support for the District, effective September 28, 2022. This employment was contingent upon receipt of all information required for employment.
- Approve the employment of William Brown as a full-time Science teacher at Charleston High School, effective September 26, 2022. This employment was contingent upon receipt of all information required for employment.
- Approve the employment of Virginia Stephens as a full-time Paraprofessional at Charleston High School, effective September 28, 2022. This employment was contingent upon receipt of all information required for employment.
- Approve the employment of Laura Hawk as a full-time Paraprofessional at Mark Twain Elementary School, for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year.
- Approve the employment of Sarah Gisondi as the Assistant Girls' Track and Field coach at Charleston High School, effective for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Approve the list of substitutes and volunteers, effective October 19, 2022.

Mr. Jarrell moved and Dr. Clark seconded the motion to approve items under IV through VII inclusive on the Consent Agenda.

On roll call vote:

AYE: Jarrell, Clarke, Wright, Coe, Daniels

NAY: none Abstain: none

Motion carried

Under the Superintendent's Report: 2022 Illinois School Report Cards

Dr. Vilardo announced that state and federal laws require public school districts to release School Report Cards to the public each year. Assistant Superintendent Kristen Holly reported that this year, the Illinois State Board of Education will release the School Report Card information to the public on the evening of October 27, 2022.

She let Board members know that the numbers are grim, however, a decline was expected. Math and ELA achievement showed a concerning decline. Attendance data is also low with a high percent of students considered chronically absent, or absent 10% or more of the year. This data has likely been affected by the impact of COVID-19. Conversations with administration are being held to discuss how to address the attendance issue. Solutions such as summer school, tutoring, school improvement, and professional development for teachers have all been a part of the discussion to address learning loss.

The Board commented that this seems to be a worldwide issue. They also questioned the current CHS graduation rate. Charleston High School Principal Aaron Lock, who attended the meeting, stated that there is a 72.1% graduation rate. Their five-year goal is to reach 90%, while always hoping that 100% will be reached. Mr. Lock stated that the new block schedule with longer class periods has helped students become more successful in moving toward graduation. He also spoke on the success of the Credit Recovery Program.

Mrs. Holly shared that new opportunities for hands-on learning such as CHS Industries are creating more opportunities for students. These and other hands-on learning opportunities are getting students re-engaged in school, which will in turn increase the graduation rate. More information about how district staff use information in School Report Cards to plan for and implement continual school improvement measures will be provided to the Board at its regular meeting in November.

Annual Status Report of the District's Gifted Program

Dr. Vilardo began by recognizing Jodi Cline, Dr. White, and Board member Susan Daniels on keeping the gifted program going when, in the past, funding had been cut. In accordance with Board Policy 6:130,

Assistant Superintendent Kristen Holly provided a report on the status of the District's gifted program. Mrs. Holly reported that Jodi Cline is now a Competency Based Education (CBE) Pilot teacher. She also provides push-in gifted services in some elementary classrooms. Mrs. Holly also acknowledged and thanked all volunteers who dedicate their time to the program.

Competency Based Education Progress Update

Kristen Holly updated the Board on the progress of CBE implementation throughout the District. The Illinois State Board of Education renewed the pilot program and recognized Charleston for its efforts. Mrs. Holly announced that the ISBE is planning a site visit to our District in the future. Recently, CUSD #1 hosted Parent Q & A Night sessions in all of the schools. Teachers have also been informing parents about the progress of their students by sending home Empower progress reports and training them on Empower. Mrs. Holly also spoke on the recent trip back to Kettle Moraine, Wisconsin. She closed by inviting Board members to observe CBE classrooms if they have an interest.

2022 Tax Levy Information

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Chad Burgett presented preliminary information in establishing the 2022 tax levy to the Board. He indicated that this is the first year since our district has been a PTELL county that the Consumer Price Index has been greater than 4.99%. Although our district can request a levy amount greater than the previous year's extension, that would include a Truth and Taxation Hearing. Mr. Burgett recommended continuing a levy request at 4.99%. This would leave money on the table; however, due to the economic environment it would be the best option. The Board generally spoke in favor with his recommendation. This year's Consumer Price Index is 7% for non PTELL districts and 5% for PTELL districts, which is a 3.6% increase from the previous year. Board action on the Levy will take place at the November 16, 2022 meeting.

Mr. Wright moved and Dr. Clarke seconded a motion to accept the Superintendent's Report.

On roll call vote:

AYE: Wright, Clarke, Jarrell, Coe, Daniels

NAY: none Abstain: none

Motion carried

Under New Business: Lake Land College Transitional Math Agreement (amended)

It was the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the amended agreement for the Transitional Math Partnership between Lake Land College and Charleston CUSD #1. Dr. Clarke moved and Mr. Jarrell seconded the motion.

On roll call vote:

AYE: Clarke, Jarrell, Wright, Coe, Daniels

NAY: none Abstain: none

Motion carried

Renewal/Intergovernmental Lease Agreement for Lerna School Building

It was the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education enter into a lease agreement with the Regional Office of Education #11 Safe Schools Alternative Education Program, effective July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025. Mr. Jarrell moved and Mr. Wright seconded the motion.

On roll call vote:

AYE: Jarrell, Wright, Clarke, Coe, Daniels

NAY: none Abstain: none

Motion carried

Intergovernmental Agreement for General Law Enforcement and School Resource Officer MOU

Dr. Vilardo thanked Chief of Police Chad Reed, Officer Erica Roa, and Officer Heath Thornton for being in attendance for the Board meeting. In consideration of the request and subsequent investigation, the Superintendent of Schools finds that the benefit of implementing an SRO program, that public schools serve as social settings reflective of society and strive to prepare children for success in life, including a mindset that law enforcement officers are a beneficial aspect of our social framework, is an investment in both our students and school community.

Mr. Burgett shared that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Leadership Team will meet on November 1, 2022 to discuss logistics and prepare staff communication.

It was the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Charleston. Dr. Clarke moved and Mr. Jarrell seconded the motion.

On roll call vote:

AYE: Clarke, Jarrell, Wright, Coe, Daniels

NAY: none Abstain: none

Motion carried

At 7:35pm, President Coe recommended that the Board of Education adjourn into closed session to discuss collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2/(c)(2)

Dr. Clarke moved and Mr. Jarrell seconded the motion.

On roll call vote:

AYE Clarke, Jarrell, Wright, Coe, Daniels

NAY: none Abstain: none

Motion carried

At 8:52 pm, Mr. Jarrell moved to reconvene from closed session. Dr. Clarke seconded the motion.

On roll call vote:

AYE Jarrell, Clarke, Wright, Coe, Daniels

NAY: none Abstain: none

Motion carried

At 8:53 pm, Mr. Jarell moved to adjourn from the board meeting. Mr. Wright seconded the motion.

On roll call vote:

AYE: Jarrell, Wright, Clarke, Coe, Daniels

NAY: none ABSTAIN: none

Motion carried

Scott Clarke

President Pro-Tem, Board of Education

Susan Daniels

Secretary, Board of Education