

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

**Held in the Dwight Township High School Cafeteria
On February 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

Board President Brian Perschnick called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Kevin Berta; Betty Gantzert; Tim Henson; Brian Perschnick; Anne Rodosky; Max Sulzberger; Paul Warner

ABSENT: None

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REPORT OF BOARD COMMITTEES OR REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Pittenger reported that ASSP has been going very well so far. We started with 63 students in the beginning and are now down to 33 students that have at least one "F".

Mrs. Ferguson's report stands as read. Board member Berta inquired about how Football practice will work considering the ground may still be frozen by the time practice is allowed to begin. Dr. Jancek replied that they can work in the gym and weight room for a couple of weeks and hopefully by then the ground will begin to soften.

Dr. Jancek reported that School Nurse Erica Sandeno recently had the opportunity to meet with the Health Department to be trained to administer rapid COVID tests. At this time we are going to offer this to HS athletes and coaches only.

Dr. Jancek informed the Board that the Cheerleaders have been given a waiver to practice past 9:00 p.m. for the next couple of weeks so that they are able to perfect a routine for the state competition series. Gym time is seriously short at this time since so many sports have been allowed to just now start their seasons. The IHSA very recently afforded schools this opportunity and Dr. Jancek felt it was an appropriate allowance during this pandemic.

Dr. Jancek invited Board members to tour the updated Science Lab. He also commended Jack Connor and Brian Berta for keeping up with snow removal—they have done a great job.

Dr. Jancek reported that he had a meeting with local Superintendents regarding the second round of CARES funding, which should be in the neighborhood of \$159,000 for the HS. They have also discussed the proposed President Biden plan for CARES III funding, which could possibly double the amount

received in CARES II. Board members asked if there were any impacts from the Governor's address earlier today. Dr. Jancek stated that they were told that funding will be the same next year as it was this year, as long as the federal government helps to cover the difference in any losses projected for next year's revenues.

Board member Henson asked if snow days are now obsolete. Dr. Jancek responded that for this year they probably are. However, if the learning platform at the GS changes for 4th quarter, we may need to hold some Remote Planning Days, which, in essence are considered a day off for students.

Board member Rodosky asked why we had to pay full price for cheerleading uniforms again this year. Mr. Pittenger responded that after last year's competition season and getting the uniforms back from the cheerleaders, it was found that many of them had extreme wear and damage on them for as little as they were worn. They tried to no avail to get some sort of remuneration from Varsity Sports. He noted that we will no longer give Varsity our business and that we did need to purchase all new uniforms for this year unfortunately.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Dr. Jancek reported that the state owes the district \$6,368.32 in late mandated categorical payments for the 2020-21 school year.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Bills
- 3) Affirm Employment, Elisabeth Bland, Substitute Bus Monitor
- 4) Approve Employment, Jared Steck, Assistant Boys Golf Coach
- 5) Affirm Employment, Nick Schultz, Substitute Teacher

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dr. Jancek presented proposed bus leases for 9 regular yellow buses and 2 yellow lift buses for the 2021-22 school year. The 9 regular buses are 2019's and they are the ones we currently lease, and an extended lease for these 9 would cost \$11,150 per bus per year, or \$100,350/year. The drivers stated that these buses are running well and we have no issues with them. The outright cost to purchase these 9 buses would be \$61,836 each, or a total of \$556,524. The 2 lift buses are new (2022) and the cost to lease those for a 3-year lease would be \$18,028/bus per year (or \$36,056/year); or for a 5-year lease, the cost would be \$15,514/bus per year (or \$31,028/year).

Moved by Berta, seconded by Warner, to approve a bus lease with Midwest Transit for (9) regular yellow buses as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Sulzberger, seconded by Gantzert, to approve a 5-year bus lease with Midwest Transit for (2) yellow lift buses, as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Pittenger presented Robert Caridi as a long-term substitute, as well as a replacement for Industrial Arts Teacher Jeff Froelich, who retired last year and is currently working part-time teaching Industrial Arts this school year. Mr. Froelich does not wish to return to teaching next year. Mr. Caridi contacted Mr. Pittenger last fall regarding the position. He has a Bachelors degree in woodworking but does not have a teaching license. Mr. Pittenger contacted the ROE to see if there were any options to hire Mr. Caridi. He was told that we could hire him as a long-term sub for now and that would allow Mr. Caridi time to obtain his teaching degree. Mr. Caridi has already obtained a sub teaching license for Illinois and has entered into a Masters program that lasts 1 year and he would end up with a teaching license at the end. Mr. Pittenger wants to hire him to begin in 4th quarter and shadow Mr. Froelich. He would begin basically in a Student Teacher type of position and by the end of the 9 weeks would teach some lessons. This would allow him some actual classroom time before he had to take over an actual class by himself in the Fall of 2021.

Moved by Berta, seconded by Henson, to approve employment of Robert Caridi as a long-term substitute for 4th Quarter 2021 and as the Industrial Arts Teacher for the 2021-22 school year, as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Pittenger discussed changes to the Math curriculum. The Curriculum Committee has re-worked the entire Math curriculum due to a mandate by the State of IL that all IL schools implement a Transition Math course in their curriculum by the 2021-22 school year. We will be adding this Transition Math course along with Advanced Math Topics which will be a course that is more intensive than Algebra II but less intensive than Pre-Calculus. This course will ensure that our seniors will be ready for college level coursework in Math. The AMT course will replace Statistics and Trigonometry. Calculus and Pre-Calculus will now be offered as Dual Credit courses.

Mr. Pittenger reported that he and the faculty have discussed the learning platform for next school year and they would like to keep a modified block schedule. Both the teachers and students were more in favor of a block schedule than traditional. The committee felt that having Tuesdays and Thursdays as A days, Wednesdays and Fridays as B days, and Mondays would be C days or traditional scheduled days. For this reason, they would like to change our SIP days from Wednesdays to Mondays because most of our school holidays fall on a Monday and this would make the A-Day vs B-Day schedule for block more even.

Moved by Sulzberger, seconded by Gantzert, to approve the Modified Block schedule for the 2021-22 school year, as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Dr. Jancek informed the Board that he will be hiring current part-time Social Worker Brittani Dahlman as a full-time employee for the GS for the 2021-22 school year. Therefore, the HS will not have a Social Worker of their own beginning next year. He indicated the need to fill at least a .5 position here and is working with LCSSU to provide this coverage, or to hire an FTE Social Worker. He would use CARES Act money to fund this position for the time being.

Dr. Jancek presented the Calendar committee's proposal for the 2021-22 school calendar. He noted that this proposed calendar matches very closely the calendar for Pontiac schools, including LACC and LCSSU.

Moved by Henson, seconded by Berta, to approve the 2021-22 school calendar, as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Dr. Jancek informed the Board that last year TRS moved forward with offering a Supplemental Savings Plan (defined benefit contribution plan) that goes along with their new monthly reporting requirements. This plan is a 457(e) offered through Voya Financial and works in the same way as our 403(b) plans. TRS has required that school districts approve a resolution regarding an SSP Employer Participation Agreement so that our eligible employees may participate if they so choose.

Moved by Rodosky, seconded by Berta, to approve the resolution regarding a TRS Supplemental Savings Plan with Voya Financial, as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Berta, seconded by Warner, to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Debbie Conroy, Secretary, District #230

Brian Perschnick, President, District #230