

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF
DWIGHT COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT #232**

**Held by Zoom Meeting
On December 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

Board President Bo Partney called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mark Christenson; Michael Cornale; Marc Ellis; Cathy Ferguson; Bo Partney; Eric Scheuer; Nick Stipanovich

ABSENT: None

Also in attendance: Dr. Richard Jancek, Superintendent; Deb Conroy, Secretary; Julie Schultz, Principal; Jeremy Jenkins, Asst. Principal/AD; Jill Haacke, District Office Assistant

PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments on remote learning were received from Amy Kargle, Mary Schultz and Jana Kinkin. Chuck Butterbrodt thanked the DEA and Board negotiation teams for their work getting the new DEA/BOE contract.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OR REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. Schultz noted that on December 16, during PLC time, HS Teacher Lindsey Jensen will be presenting professional development on Evidence Based Tips for Online Learning.

Mr. Jenkins reported that next Friday the IESA will hold a meeting to discuss winter sports. He also noted that due to a lack of funding, the IESA has started a GoFundMe page.

Dr. Jancek recognized our Arbor Management team and our Transportation Department, noting that for the month of November, our staffs worked together to make and deliver over 10,000 meals for our students. He thanked them for working so hard to make that happen.

Last month a keyless entry system was discussed for the main entrances of the school. We have received a quote from Velocita for this system that would integrate with our other entry and camera systems. That quote was for \$24,993.00. The Board was mostly in favor of moving forward with this project; however, they would like to see if there are any other companies that are offering the same type of system that would integrate with our other systems and what that cost may be. They left it up to the discretion of our Tech team and the Superintendent to move forward with the best choice. Approval will come when the bills go through the approval process. This system is being paid in part through our Maintenance Grant.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Dr. Jancek reported that the state currently owes \$1,306.52 in late mandated categorical payments for the 2020-21 school year. The 2019-20 school year is caught up at this point.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Bills

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dr. Jancek presented his final proposal for the 2020 Tax Levy and Extension. He noted that there have been no changes requested on this proposal since the November Board meeting and so the proposal stands as read at the November meeting.

Moved by Cornale, seconded by Ferguson, to approve the proposed 2020 Tax Levy and Extension request, as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Dr. Jancek informed the Board that after much discussion with the other major taxing bodies we have decided to not back a \$4M tax abatement agreement for the RES Blue Sky Solar Project. They want to discuss a smaller abatement agreement due to the fact that this project is not one that will increase jobs in the area. Also, the solar company has been through most of the approval process and the major taxing body reps don't believe the deal would fall through if a smaller deal was negotiated. This is the only solar farm in IL that would get an abatement agreement, and it is also the largest solar farm in IL. More discussion will be held regarding this issue and Dr. Jancek will keep the Board informed on the progress.

The Pre-K Team, 5th Grade Teacher Kathy Stewart and 6th Grade Teacher Chuck Butterbrodt presented on how they use Google Classroom, Zoom or other platforms for remote learning in different grade levels. Discussion was held on the possibility of getting devices for all students. Currently devices are 1:1 from 3rd Grade through 8th Grade. The lower grade teachers feel that there is a definite need to connect their students through technology to keep them as current as possible in their respective grade levels, as well as for the social/emotional welfare of their students. Dr. Jancek informed the Board that up to 30% of our devices at any given point are suffering damage from normal use that need repairs and that if we do decide to provide devices for those other grade levels, we would need to purchase an extra 30% of needed devices to account for repair down time. Dr. Jancek noted that he would like to look into hiring an additional elementary teacher for 2nd semester that would be able to help with subbing for teachers that

are sick and additional support for remote students. This would help that teacher to show what their abilities are, and then if they work well, they may be able to be the replacement for Laura Vigna after she retires. He also asked to hire additional help for School Nurse Erica Sandeno. This employee would help with all of the contact tracing, phone calls, return to school/work letters etc... freeing up Sandeno to do the work she needs to do. This person could be a CNA or simply administrative in nature to help with this work. The Board indicated they want to support whatever means needed by the staff to accomplish learning across all platforms in the district. Dr. Jancek recommends offering the same learning platforms that we have offered during 1st semester, either fully remote or a hybrid A/B schedule. We simply don't have the space to socially distance all of our students. Dr. Jancek asked for a consensus on what we will do when we return from Christmas break. Dr. Jancek had previously proposed a 2-week period of remote learning after the normal Christmas break was over due to families gathering over the holidays and the possibility of another COVID outbreak. The Board did not want to extend this break any longer than necessary and so as a compromise, all students will remain remote through January 8th and those who chose the hybrid platform will return to in-person learning starting January 11th.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Jancek held the first reading of proposed IASB PRESS Plus Policy Issue 106 Updates. He will bring these back to the January meeting for a second reading and ask for final approval at that time.

Dr. Jancek announced that the DEA has approved the following providers for employee insurance as follows for the 2021 calendar year:

Health Alliance for Medical Insurance
Humana for Dental and Vision Insurance
Dearborn National for Life Insurance

Moved by Ellis, seconded by Stipanovich, to approve 2021 Employee Health Insurance Provider, Health Alliance, as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Cornale, seconded by Ellis, to approve 2021 Employee Dental Insurance Provider, Humana, as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Ellis, seconded by Scheuer, to approve 2021 Employee Vision Insurance Provider, Humana, as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Scheuer, seconded by Christenson, to approve 2021 Employee Life Insurance Provider, Dearborn National, as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Ellis, seconded by Scheuer, to go into Executive Session at 7:38 p.m. to discuss collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; According to Section 2, subsection c, #2 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Ellis, seconded by Scheuer, to exit Executive Session at 7:47 p.m. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The DEA/BOE came to an agreement on opening up their 2020-21 contract to allow an increase of the monthly employee insurance stipend by \$50, raising it from \$680/month to \$730/month for January 2021 through August 2021.

Moved by Ellis, seconded by Cornale, to affirm the 2020-21 DEA/BOE Contract Amendment (adding \$50/month per employee towards medical insurance stipend), as presented. Roll call. Stipanovich abstained. All others voted aye. Motion carried.

The DEA/BOE have come to an agreement on a new 3-year contract that will cover the 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. The main changes to this contract are the increase of the insurance stipend every calendar year of \$62.50/month and the annual salary increase on the base of 3% for 2021-22; 3.25% for 2022-23; and 3.5% for 2023-24. Also, there is a new salary matrix which will go into place for the 2023-24 school year, with the individual placement representing that 3.5% salary increase. Again, salary increases are capped at 5.75% for teachers in the last 10 years of the teacher's retirement eligibility. Any increase over that limit will be paid out in a post-retirement payment.

Moved by Ellis, seconded by Cornale, to approve the DEA/BOE 3-year contract for 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24, as presented. Roll call. Stipanovich abstained. All others voted aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Ellis, seconded by Scheuer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Debbie Conroy, Secretary, District #232

Bo Partney, President, District #232