

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

**Held by Zoom Meeting
On January 13, 2021 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

None

NOTICES, COMMUNICATIONS or RECOGNITIONS

An email from Mike Vigna was received regarding the farm crop for 2020. He also sent a check in the amount of \$865.40 for the district's portion of the crop revenue. These funds will be put into an Activity fund for use on outdoor projects.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OR REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. Schultz reported that the current enrollment is now approximately 79% hybrid and 21% remote, which has been typical for the past 2 quarters.

Mr. Jenkins informed the Board that the IESA and IHSA will again be revisiting Winter sports at a meeting on January 25th. Until that time all Winter sports are on hold as per the Governor's restrictions.

Mr. Jenkins also reported that the Administration has been working on a letter to send out to parents informing them that their student may be retained this year if they are unable to raise their grades. Jenkins noted that there are more of these letters going out to parents this year due to the pandemic and remote learning. It is their hope that these letters will encourage parents to motivate their students to make use of additional resources that will be offered, which would include expanded tutoring hours.

Dr. Jancek informed the Board that we have received ballot information for the April 6th election. We will definitely have 2 new Board members—Tara Hansen and Lori Bowman—based on the number of candidates running.

Dr. Jancek reported that we have a bleacher inspection slated for later this week. He also noted that Jack Connor is looking into possible repair or replacement of the walk-in cooler. The floor has rusted due to condensation over time. He is getting quotes on the cost of both repairs and replacement, and Dr. Jancek noted that due to the increased reimbursement we are receiving from the federal government for meals during the pandemic, those additional funds may be used to cover the costs. He also reported that we have been having issues with our dishwasher, and we are also looking at replacement of that.

Dr. Jancek reviewed a 3-year comparison of our 1-cent sales tax funds. He noted that he does not yet see any sharp decline in revenues due to the pandemic.

Board member Stipanovich inquired about the hiring of the additional Teacher that was approved at the December meeting. Mrs. Schultz responded that they are currently conducting interviews and she hopes to have a candidate soon.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Dr. Jancek reported that the state currently owes \$34,580.40 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) Employ Health Aide, TBA (Allison Schantz)

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dr. Jancek informed the Board that the taxing bodies have agreed to a tax abatement for the RES Blue Sky Solar Project. They had earlier rejected a \$4,000,000 abatement agreement. The current agreement states that the taxing bodies will abate up to a total of \$2,000,000 over 2 years (80% abatement in year #1 and 20% abatement in year #2). Dr. Jancek reported that at some point this project will increase the overall EAV by \$12,000,000 and should result in approximately \$300,000 in additional tax revenue if we tax to the max.

Moved by Cornale, seconded by Ellis, to approve the Abatement Agreement Regarding RES Blue Sky Solar Project, as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Dr. Jancek held the 2nd reading of proposed IASB PRESS Plus Policy Issue 106 updates and asked for final approval.

Moved by Ferguson, seconded by Scheuer, to approve the IASB PRESS Plus Policy Issue 106 updates, as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Jancek informed the Board that the government will be releasing another round of COVID Relief funding and the GS portion should be approximately \$350,000. This will be a one-time lump sum payment and after discussion with the Administration, they are looking at using it for the following:

- 1) After-school tutoring from 2:00-3:00 (Mon-Thurs)
- 2) After-school tutoring from 3:00-4:00 (Mon-Thurs)
- 3) Saturday morning tutoring sessions
- 4) Evening tutoring sessions (Mon-Thurs)
- 5) Summer School sessions
- 6) After school snacks
- 7) Possible extra bus route for tutored students (Mon-Thurs)
- 8) Increasing our Social Worker to 1.0 FTE

Dr. Jancek noted that our current Social Worker is split between the HS and GS, and he would recommend moving her to 1.0 FTE at the GS and have LCSSU cover the HS. Board members also asked about using this funding for air sanitizers. He responded that Jack Connor has looked into some of these but they were worried about the noise from the machines and also the continual cost of replacing filters. They will continue to look into these as an option.

Board members asked whether extending the remote learning days after Christmas Break was effective and the Administrators believe that it did help. Currently things are running smoothly since our return.

Board members also asked whether the district is going to extend the FFCRA sick days since this was left out of the most recent COVID funding bill. Dr. Jancek stated that we will extend to a total of 10 days per person for the entire school year if needed. He noted that we only had a few employees use any of those days as most were able to continue to work from home when they were quarantined.

Moved by Ellis, seconded by Stipanovich, to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Debbie Conroy, Secretary, District #232

Bo Partney, President, District #232