

Litchfield Community Unit District No. 12
Board of Education Meeting
Basement of G.A. Sihler School
601 South State St. Litchfield, IL. 62056
Thursday, May 20, 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: Ron Anglin, Vice President; Valerie Cain, Secretary, David Belusko; Mark Bloome, Mike Fleming, Gregg Hires. Julie Abel, Board President attended via phone. Also in attendance were: Dr. Gregg Fuerstenau, Superintendent. Kris Adamson, Recording Secretary. Administrators: Jennifer Thompson; Doug Hoster; Russ Tepen; Jeremy Heigert and Adam Favre. John Hanafin of News Herald and Mary Herschelman, Journal News. Concerned parents and citizens.

Public Input

Spencer Hoehl, a junior at Litchfield High School addressed the board. During his speech, he asked the board to reconsider their transfer of Mr. Josh Hughes from his position at the high school to the middle school for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Hoehl was passionate with his support of Mr. Hughes and the impact he left on the lives of students he has taught in his years at the high school. Several students showed their support while waiting outside. Covid-19 guidelines were followed for the board meeting.

Citizens Agenda

Mr. Dan Napier, a resident of Litchfield, addressed the board. He presented an article to the board on critical race from Hillsdale College. Mr. Napier wanted the board to be aware that new curriculum on this subject may be mandated in schools in the near future.

The district's retirees were honored with a plaque and gift certificate at this meeting. Mrs. Patrice Corso, Elementary Music teacher, was honored for her twenty years of service. Mrs. Corso also dedicated many years and hours to coaching in the district. Mrs. Debra Horrocks from the cafeteria has been a dedicated employee for twenty-eight years. Mr. Doug Hoster, principal of Litchfield High School will retire after six years with the district. Mrs. Pam Senjan, Elementary Teacher, started with the district in 1994. The Board was very appreciative of all of the years of service from these dedicated employees.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approve regular and closed session minutes from April 15, 2021
- Approve regular minutes from special meeting on April 29, 2021
- Approve monthly bills
- Approve Treasurer's report

Bills payable by fund May 2021: Education \$175,622; Operation & Maintenance \$48,262; Transportation \$32,320; Capital Projects \$31,725; Tort Immunity \$1,596. Ending balance in all funds at April 30, 2021 is \$30,032,261. Balance in operating funds is \$7,737,823. Capital Projects balance is \$13,533,691; Health-Life-Safety balance is \$7,668,023.

A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

New Business

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Mike Fleming to approve Mrs. Christy Holliday, Mr. Chris Kuntman, and Mrs. Jennifer Thompson as the district's Student Online Protection Act (SOPPA) Officers. This is one of many steps that the district will put into place to protect a students' data from vendors etc. Next will be updated website and protection of staff data. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Gregg Hires and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the athletic co-operative agreement with Gillespie School District for High School boys' soccer during the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Gregg Hires and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve an Intergovernmental agreement between the school districts of: Hillsboro, Litchfield, Nokomis, Panhandle, Bunker Hill, Carlinville, Gillespie, Mt. Olive, Southwestern and Staunton to create the Montgomery and Macoupin Counties Consortium for Innovation and Career Pathways. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

Information

Enrollment for April was 1307. Kelley Walker, director of the MAKE IT program, submitted her monthly report. The Make- It program will be in session for the summer as well. Summer School and Camp Panther will begin June 1st and continue to July 1st. Donations have been received to cover incentive prizes for Camp Panther. Elementary Principals, Mr. Heigert and Mr. Favre, stated the donations will include bikes and electronics. Prekindergarten screenings have begun and for the first time in many years there will be a waiting list. Mr. Hoster confirmed that the graduation ceremony will take place outside this year on Friday, May 21st. Even during COVID-19, many events such as prom and the musical were still accomplished. The district was able to begin instruction in August 2020 and continue through May due to the students, parents, community, staff and school board. The Illinois State Board of Education recommends that districts move to full days for five days and no remote unless necessary on a case by case basis starting the fall. The District received a FOIA request for a list of vendors. The request was satisfied. A public hearing will take place prior to the June 17, 2021 meeting for discussion of amending the 2020-2021 budget. A special meeting for updates to the new elementary building will take place on June 2, 2021.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Gregg Hires and seconded by Valerie Cain to enter into closed session at 6:44 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) 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) A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0. A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Valerie Cain to return to open session at 7:36p.m. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

Personnel

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by David Belusko to accept the retirement letter from Debbie Horrocks, cafeteria worker at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Gregg Hires to accept the resignation of Victoria Knoche, as Head High School Cheer Coach at the end of the 2020-2021 school term. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Mark Bloome to accept the resignation of Hilary Wagenblast as National Honor Society sponsor at the end of the 2020-2021 school term. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by David Belusko to accept the resignation of Scott Durbin, High School Art teacher and Rembrandt Society sponsor at the end of the 2020-2021 school term. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the family medical leave request for Megan Becker, Elementary Special Education Teacher. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by David Belusko to approve the hire of Shayla Ortega as a substitute teachers' aide for the summer Make It program. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Gregg Hires to approve the hire Sara Anderson as a teachers' aide for the summer Make It Program. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Gregg Hires and seconded by Julie Abel to approve the involuntary transfer of Josh Hughes from High School Social Sciences to 7th grade Social Studies teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Cain, and Hires. NAY: Belusko, Bloome, and Fleming. Motion carried 4-3.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by David Belusko to approve the hire of Patricia Goforth as High School Spanish teacher beginning the 2021-2022 school year. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Mike Fleming to approve the hire of Drew Logan as 8th grade girls' basketball coach beginning the 2021-2022 school year. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming. PRESENT: Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Gregg Hires and seconded by Julie Abel to approve the voluntary transfer of Mitch Hughes from Head Volleyball Coach to Junior Varsity Volleyball coach beginning the 2021-2022 school year. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the voluntary transfer of Abby Carlson as Junior Varsity Volleyball coach to Head Volleyball coach beginning the 2021-2022 school year. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Mike Fleming and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the addition of a paid Freshmen Volleyball coaching position beginning the 2021-2022 school year. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Gregg Hires to recognize the declaration of collective bargaining negotiations and establish Julie Abel and Dr. Gregg Fuerstenau as Board negotiations team members. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

Seeing no further action to be taken, a motion was made Valerie Cain and seconded by Mike Fleming to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Voice Vote: AYE: Able, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming and Hires. Motion carried 7-0