

**OSCEOLA SCHOOL DISTRICT#1 BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Regular Meeting  
Osceola Jr. High Building  
January 11, 2021  
6:00 p.m.**

Members Present via Zoom: Jacqueline Baker and Ollie Collins,

Members Present on Site: James Baker, Torian Bell, Michael Ephlin and Denise Williams

Member(s) Absent: Kristain Dedmon

Others present: Alfred Hogan, Superintendent  
Dr. Toriano Green, Assistant Superintendent  
Jeanette Walker, Board Recorder  
Samantha Tippy, District Treasurer  
Steve Knox, Osceola Times (via Zoom)  
Ashley Douglas

1. Jacqueline Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Alfred Hogan offered invocation.
3. Jeanette Walker called the roll and a quorum was declared with 6 members present.
4. The Board recited the District Vision and Mission Statement.
5. Motion Michael Ephlin, seconded by Torian Bell to approve the December Regular Meeting Minutes with a correction to the meeting date. Motion passed 6-0.
6. Jeanette Walker stated that board members received a copy of their professional development hours and provided Mr. Hogan with a report of their hours. Members who received 3 hours of professional development for calendar year 2020 had enough eligible hours in previous years to carry over to give them the required 6 hours of professional development.
7. Mr. Hogan stated that January is School Board Appreciation Month and presented the members with Proclamations and Certificates of Appreciation. He stated that we hope to do something special for the board sometime this spring or when it is safe to do so.
8. Motion Michael Ephlin, seconded by James Baker to amend the Timed Agenda to 6:07 p.m. Motion passed 6-0.
9. Jacqueline Baker introduced the Financial Reports. Samantha Tippy informed the board that the ADE COVID fund is money we were reimbursed for the days our employees had to miss due to COVID. This is only one payment of three that we've submitted, we are not sure when we will get the second payment and for the third payment, they've actually run out of money before we could get that one approved but they are looking at possibly finding money from somewhere else to move into that fund to help school districts who did not get that money. The ESSER fund is the money we spent on supplies and some of our staff and they have reimbursed

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us \$173,000 just for the month of December. The COVID School Meals fund is money we were awarded for our cafeteria because a lot of schools are taking a hit with so many students doing virtual so this money will help our cafeteria out. Mr. Hogan stated that the money for the cafeteria will go back into our account to help with the money we spent on feeding the students and also for the paper items we needed to buy such as paper plates, plastic forks and spoons, etc. to follow the health and safety guidelines. Motion Denise Williams, seconded by Torian Bell to approve the financial report. Motion passed 6-0.

10. Jacqueline Baker introduced the list of bills. Mr. Hogan stated, I always review the list of bills each month and I get with Mrs. Tippy or Ms. Hale if I have any questions. There's not a lot of in persons meetings state wide but we are doing a lot of virtual and virtual meetings are drastically lower so we are saving some money there but some things are opening back up. We are in good shape with our light bill. The high school bill looks high but it's our most active campus with all the different buildings and different activities going on. The Konica Minolta contract was renewed about three years ago and each campus pays so much out of their federal funds. Motion James Baker, seconded by Torian Bell to approve the list of bills as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

11. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Green stated that Commissioner Keys made a statement that the state of Arkansas will go forward with the end of the year summative assessments which will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> grade ACT Aspire in Math, Reading and Science. We are doing IReady for Kindergarten – 1<sup>st</sup> grade and we are doing our second benchmarks now and they will test again toward the end of the year. Mr. Hogan stated that we have a lot a students across the state that have not signed up at any one school so testing is going to hurt a lot of us this year.

Dr. Green stated that as of December 31, the federal funds that the government allotted for people to miss for COVID expired, as well as the mandate to provide the ten days and ten days from the state so what we are exploring as a district, because the COVID absences are not going to stop, is developing ten days that we can provide that won't strain our budget to ensure that we still have classes covered and we can still get subs if teachers need to be out. We can use some of the ESSER II funds for that. We want to provide our staff with some leniency so that they are not forced to come to work under conditions that are not safe. He stated you have a sample of a policy that ASBA has done to cover this.

Dr. Green also stated that we have an opportunity to upgrade our ventilation systems using ESSER II funds so we are looking at a couple projects to ensure our students are breathing the cleanest air possible. We have the best systems in the state but there's always room for improvement.

Mr. Hogan asked Mrs. Walker to talk about the updated policies for COVID Emergency Leave. She stated there are two policies, one for licensed staff and one for classified staff. The board can approve these policies tonight and the personnel policy committee could meet and conduct a staff vote on it the next day or the personnel policies committee could meet later and conduct a vote from the staff then the board can take action on the policies next month and if approved

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have it be effective retroactive to January 1, 2021. It was the consensus of the board to take action next month.

Mr. Hogan addressed a petition that has been generated online and stated that the District does not approve of this petition. Mr. Hogan stated, I cannot shut schools down, that's Secretary Key's decision. I don't know the person who started the petition and I am not a part of this petition. I try to work with the school Board to keep our District in good standings. I do not want our staff to be part of it so I emailed the staff encouraging them to not be a part of this and the email has been posted on our website and Facebook page.

12. Executive Session was called at 6:34 p.m. and ended at 6:46 p.m. with no action taken.

Jacqueline Baker presented the personnel report.

Motion Torian Bell, seconded by Michael Ephlin to hire Courtney Williams for Sr. High Assistant Football Coach and to approve the resignation of Bailey Williams, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

Motion passed 6-1.

13. Motion James Baker seconded by Denise Williams to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0.  
6:47 p.m.

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(Signed) Jacqueline Baker, President

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(Signed) Torian Bell, Secretary