

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 16, 2021

7:30 p.m. Jr. High School Library

CALL REGULAR BOARD MEETING TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL.

President Chad Ruppert called the regular board meeting to order and roll call was taken with seven board members present. Board members present were Janssen, Ruppert, Eisenbarth, Bauman, Fesser, Tarter, and Gasparich. Also present were Superintendent Doerr, Principal McDowell, Assistant Principal McDonald, and Principal Reedy.

Guests present remotely included Ellen Christner and Randy Rieke.

I MOVE TO APPROVE THE BOARD MEETING AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 16, 2021 AS PRESENTED.

Motion by Janssen seconded by Tarter to approve the Board Meeting Agenda for February 16, 2021 as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

The Consent Agenda included the January 19, 2021 regular and closed minutes, bills, payroll, and Treasurer's Report for approval.

I MOVE TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 16, 2021 CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Motion by Gasparich, seconded by Fesser to approve the February 16, 2021 Consent Agenda as presented.

Eisenbarth – YEA, Bauman – YEA, Fesser – YEA, Tarter – YEA, Gasparich – YEA, Janssen – YEA, Ruppert – YEA. Motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The monthly spreadsheet shows that the State owes us \$92,754.83. The interesting part of this report is that they paid the 2nd quarter categorical transportation payments in January that were due in December – that is amazing. Of course, they are digging themselves into a hole in the other categorical payments, especially Early Childhood. I am positive that the Free Food Program money that is owed to us will be paid by the end of the week.

It is anticipated that the State of Illinois will release the grant forms for CARES II by the end of February. In addition, Congress is working on CARES III, which is scheduled to release \$130 billion to public schools throughout the country. Although we do not know our share of that money yet, CARES III does have one stipulation, which is 20% must be used for learning loss. At this time, we are working on a summer school plan.

The Governor will be providing his Budget Address this week. It is anticipated that his proposal will include flat funding for education – so that means the same amount of money for three years in a row. I will be able to give more details at a later date.

As we discussed last month, I have been working on some Technical and Careers Pathway Programs. Some of these, we are working with through the Montgomery County Consortium, such as Education and Computer Science. I am also working with LLCC (as well as the Consortium) for Agriculture and Culinary Arts. I have met with several individuals from LLCC and we are working on getting staff certified with LLCC as well as courses.

At this point, I will be making one change in the calendar. Our teachers and staff will be getting their second immunization on February 20; however, there are growing concerns that the second immunization has some side effects that last longer than 24 hours. Therefore, we will be joining our counterparts, mainly due to the lack of substitute teachers, aides, etc., in classifying Monday, February 22, 2021 at a Remote Learning Planning Day. This is an actual attendance day, but students will not attend school or remote in; but, rather teachers will work on their remote learning skills and other professional development.

We have had one FOIA request this month from the Illinois Retired Teachers Association asking for information on any retirees at the end of the year – at this point, we have none.

The NEF met this week and came up with two fundraisers for this year. First, is a Nickel Raffle and the second is back by popular demand, the Pork Chop Carryout Dinner. Details on those will be posted on social media soon.

As we continue to think about next year, the Admin Team sent out a survey to all teachers. In this survey, a question of all JH and HS teachers were asked about Block scheduling and if they want to continue it. The results:

- a. 42.3% said YES
- b. 11.5% said YES, but conduct a Modified Block
- c. 26.9% said go back to traditional scheduling
- d. 19.2% said they had no opinion either way.

As you are aware, I like block scheduling because it gives teachers and students more time to conduct experiments, labs, and other hands-on activities. A modified block could be created as well fairly easily. Plus, it might give our JH kids more experience in some vocational classes. The principals and I will continue this discussion along with the guidance office on creating a new master schedule.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principals provided the Board with written reports.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates on remote learning as of 02/16/2021:

- e. Full-time remote learners for JH: 9
- f. Full-time remote learners for HS: 8
- g. Short-term remote learners for JH/HS: 47
- h. Full-time remote learners for North: 8
- i. Short-term remote learners for JH/HS: 8

As soon as we move to Phase V or the Emergency Executive Order is lifted, we can discontinue remote learning, except for those who are in quarantine. I am hoping that is sooner than later. With athletes and other extra-curricular activities beginning, the rules are if one person is infected or quarantined, the entire team is quarantined. Thus, I think at this time, we need to stay at our current situation with student dismissal at 2:30 p.m. However, if our numbers start to decline even more by March, I think we might consider another option, but we have a lot of variables to consider.

A discussion continued on the request from Taylorville to withdraw from NPT. I met with their attorneys on January 26. They indicated to me that they plan to respond to our letter and provide a rough draft of an early withdraw resolution within a week. However, it has been three weeks and still no response. Mr. Ruppert had a discussion with the Taylorville Board President, who indicated that they feel they can run their special education program on their own. Mr. Tarter listened in on the Taylorville Board meeting last week and indicated that there was very little discussion on the topic, but several inconsistencies were noted. Dr. Doerr indicated that our (Nokomis and Pana) 60 days to respond to their petition ends on March 16, which is our next meeting, so we will either need to call a special meeting or submit the paperwork that night after business hours. Most agreed that at this point, due to the lack of communication between Taylorville and the other 2 Member Districts, the request is lacking merit.

NEW BUSINESS

I MOVE TO APPROVE THE ATHLETIC COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH RAMSEY FOR HS GOLF FOR THE 2021-2022 AND 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEARS.

Motion by Fesser, seconded by Eisenbarth to approve the Athletic Cooperative Agreement with Ramsey for HS Golf for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. Motion passed by voice vote.

I MOVE TO APPROVE THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH ROE #3 FOR THE REGIONAL SAFE SCHOOLS PROGRAM AND ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOLS PROGRAM FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR.

Motion by Tarter, seconded by Fesser to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with ROE #3 for the Regional Safe Schools Program and Alternative High Schools Program for the 2021-2022 school year.

Bauman – YEA, Fesser – YEA, Tarter – YEA, Gasparich – YEA, Janssen – YEA, Ruppert – YEA, Eisenbarth – YEA. Motion passed.

Dr. Doerr indicated that this supplemental savings plan needs to be adopted by the end of March, but legal is suggesting we table this motion until more information from TRS can be provided as the law says the plan is to be administered by TRS and not local school districts.

I MOVE TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE TRS SUPPLEMENTAL SAVINGS PLAN EMPLOYER AGREEMENT.

Motion by Eisenbarth, seconded by Janssen to table the Resolution to Adopt the TRS Supplemental Savings Plan Employer Agreement. Motion passed by voice vote.

I MOVE TO APPROVE THE QUOTES FOR C & C HEATING AND COOLING FOR VENT CLEANING AND PLASMA SOLUTIONS KITS AND GREENHOUSE MEGASTORE FOR THE SENIOR TEACHING PACKAGE GREENHOUSE AND WAREHAM'S FOR NORTH SCHOOL SECURITY CAMERA PENDING APPROVAL OF STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS.

Motion by Fesser seconded by Eisenbarth to approve the quotes for C & C Heating and Cooling for vent cleaning and Plasma Solutions Kits and Greenhouse Megastore for the Senior Teaching Package Greenhouse and Wareham's for North School Security Camera pending approval of state and federal grants.

Tarter – YEA, Gasparich – NAY, Janssen – YEA, Ruppert – YEA, Eisenbarth – YEA, Bauman – YEA, Fesser – YEA. Motion passed.

I MOVE TO APPROVE THE BOARD REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

Motion by Janssen, seconded by Tarter to approve the Board Reorganizational Meeting for Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Motion passed by voice vote.

A brief discussion was held on the new Culturally Responsiveness Standards. Dr. Doerr indicated that the memo posted on social media was a synopsis of the standards and they are for higher education and not K-12 education. There is a lot of confusion as to the purpose of these standards. However, Dr. Doerr reminded the Board that they had sole local control over the curriculum in the district.

I MOVE TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION AT 8:56 P.M. FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATIONS, COMPENSATION, APPOINTMENT AND DISCIPLINE OF PERSONNEL.

Motion by Fesser seconded by Eisenbarth to enter into closed session at 8:56 p.m. for the purpose of employment, evaluations, compensation, appointment and discipline of personnel. Gasparich – YEA, Janssen – YEA, Ruppert – YEA, Eisenbarth – YEA, Bauman – YEA, Fesser – YEA, Tarter – YEA. Motion passed.

I MOVE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 9:20 P.M.

Motion by Janssen seconded by Fesser to re-enter regular session from closed session at 9:20 p.m. Motion passed by voice vote.

I MOVE TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF LAURI SMALLEY AS HS CHEERLEADING SPONSOR EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2021.

Motion by Gasparich seconded by Tarter to accept the resignation of Lauri Smalley as HS Cheerleading Sponsor effective June 30, 2021. Motion passed by voice vote.

I MOVE TO EMPLOY BONNIE BROWNBACK AS JH ASSISTANT GIRLS BASKETBALL COACH FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR.

Motion by Tarter seconded by Fesser to employ Bonnie Brownback as JH Assistant Girls Basketball Coach for the 2020-2021 school year.

Janssen – YEA, Ruppert – YEA, Eisenbarth – YEA, Bauman – YEA, Fesser – YEA, Tarter – YEA, Gasparich – YEA. Motion passed

I MOVE TO ADJOURN

Motion by Janssen seconded by Fesser to adjourn. Motion passed by voice vote.

Chad Ruppert, President

Denny Bauman, Secretary