

Board of Education
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oak Grove School
6018 W. Lancaster Rd.
Bartonville, IL 61607
December 16, 2020 – 6 pm

1. Mr. Bender led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mr. Bender, Board President.
3. Roll Call: Those present at the meeting were Mr. Bender, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Fehl, Mrs. Quine, Mr. Strausbaugh with Mr. Heuermann being absent. Dr. Baele, Mrs. Amasi, and Jeff Miller were also in attendance.
4. Communications / Presentations – Mr. Bender thanked Unland Insurance Companies, the Regional Office of Education, and Better Banks for the Trefzger's cookies and meat and cheese tray from HyVee shared with the BOE and the staff. The staff and administration appreciated their thoughts and well wishes for the holidays.
5. Closed Session - #1

ACTION: Mrs. Quine made the motion to enter into closed session at 6:01pm, seconded by Mr. Fehl to discuss the selection of a person to fill a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3)]. The motion carried with all in favor.

6. Return to Open Session

ACTION: Mrs. Quine made the motion to enter into open session at 6:05pm, seconded by Mr. Strausbaugh. The motion carried with all aye votes.

7. Action from Closed Session

ACTION: Mr. Strausbaugh made the motion to appoint Jeff Miller to the Oak Grove Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Quine and carried with all in favor. Mr. Miller recited the Board of Education Oath of Office upon appointment.

8. Consent Agenda

ACTION: Mrs. Quine made the motion to approve the consent agenda which included the November 18th Public Hearing minutes, the November 18th Regular and Closed Session Meeting Minutes, the November Financial Report, and the November Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried with all in favor.

9. December Bills

ACTION: Mrs. Quine made the motion to approve the December bills and any other bills needed to be paid prior to the end of December 31, 2020, seconded by Mr. Miller. The motion carried with all aye votes.

10. Presentation from Audience on Agenda Items - None

11. Superintendent Report – Dr. Baele informed the Board of the current enrollment of in-person learners and remote learners prior to the move to all remote learning. Dr. Baele also presented the rationale to call for remote learning for one week prior to winter break and two weeks after. The Peoria City & County Health Department (PCCHD) are looking to implement vaccinations for school staff in late January and February, they have asked district leadership for initial numbers and information regarding quantities of vaccines needed. Dr. Baele provided some additional information for the school counselor position and funding for the position. Upcoming events were shared with the BOE.

12. Principal Report – Mrs. Almasi reported that the entire school took part in the Worldwide Hour of Code on December 11th. Mr. Lindsay and Mrs. Almasi provided instruction and lessons on coding with students receiving a participation sticker once completed with their lessons. 8th grade MAP testing was completed but the tour of the facility is delayed until such time that it is safe to provide a tour at LCHS. Mrs. Almasi is anticipating 11 new in-person learners when we return to in-person learning for quarter 3 as of this report. Mrs. Almasi is excited to present our school improvement speaker, Dr. Courtney Orzel, for the January 15th SIP Day. She will focus on the role of the school improvement planning to the staff. Finally, Mrs. Almasi informed the BOE that spirit week was still going on even when students are remote learning and that pictures will be shared of participants.

13. Old Business – Discussion Items

- a. 2021 Remote Learning Options – Dr. Baele and Mrs. Almasi discussed the guidance and recommendations regarding the return to school plan and adjustments needed for the period between winter break and the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. Due to an upsurge in positive cases the last week of the first semester, the district administration made the difficult decision to go to remote learning. This decision was extended to the two weeks between winter break and MLK weekend as well. The Board discussed the number of positive cases that led up to the administrative decisions. The need for rapid test availability was also discussed along with the need for the nurse to perform testing. It was recommended that parents be reminded prior to the return of in person learning to follow the quarantine guidelines so that we can have a good start to the 3rd quarter, especially any family that may not have followed strict social distancing while traveling. Finally, cleaning of the building was discussed with a desire to ensure that the administration and cleaning staff have acquired all necessary tools to clean the facility, such as fogging machines. The administration will continue to work on mitigation implementation and monitoring in the third and fourth quarters.

14. Old Business – Action Item

- a. Adopt Resolution of Tax Levy

ACTION: Whereas Mr. Taylor presented and motioned, with Mr. Strausbaugh seconding, and Mr. Taylor reading the resolution to adopt the tax levy 2020 (for 2021-22) and to submit the truth and taxation statement for Oak Grove School District #68 to the Peoria County Clerk. Motion carried with all aye votes and the resolution being approved.

- b. Resolution Abating General Obligation School Bonds (Alt. Rev. Source), Series 2017

ACTION: Whereas Mr. Fehl presented, and Mr. Taylor read, with Mr. Taylor making a motion to abate the taxes levied for the year 2020 to pay debt service on the General Obligation School Bonds (Alt. Rev. Source), Series 2017. Mrs. Quine seconded the motion which carried with all aye votes and the resolution being approved.

15. New Business – Discussion Item

- a. Mid-Year Financial Report – Dr. Baele provided the Board with the annual mid-year financial reports reflecting treasurer balances as of the end of November since 2014. Fund balances are healthy, and the District is in a strong financial position. The Board has done a wonderful job of coordinating finances over the past 7 years. Projects yet to complete and future projects were also presented and discussed.
- b. Board Policy Packet #106 Updates & Changes – Mr. Bender informed the Board that press policy packet #106 is currently available for review and that this is the second reading of those policies.

16. New Business – Action Item

- a. SEAPCO Hiring Survey

ACTION: Mr. Fehl made the motion to approve the 2021-22 SEAPCO hiring survey as presented, seconded by Mrs. Quine. The motion passed with all aye votes.

- b. Authorize Superintendent to Develop Budget for 2021-22

ACTION: Mr. Strausbaugh made the motion to authorize the Superintendent to begin the development of the 2021-2022 budget, seconded by Mr. Miller. The motion carried with all aye votes.

- c. Kindergarten Registration Fee Reduction

ACTION: Mr. Taylor made the motion to reduce by \$10 dollars the registration fee for families registering a kindergarten student in the months of February, March, and April as well as sending out information fliers to each household in the district, seconded by Mr. Miller. The motion carried with all aye votes.

17. Closed Session - #2 – Continuation of Closed Session

ACTION: Mrs. Quine made the motion to enter into closed session at 7:08 pm, seconded by Mr. Strausbaugh to discuss the appointments, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees. [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)]. The motion carried with all in favor.

18. Return to Open Session

ACTION: Mr. Miller made the motion to enter into open session at 7:55pm, seconded by Mr. Strausbaugh. The motion carried with all aye votes.

19. Action from Closed Session

- a. Employment – School Counselor

ACTION: Mr. Strausbaugh made the motion to approve the employment of Elissa Chapin as the Oak Grove School Guidance Counselor for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year with a base salary of \$40,183 prorated for 96 contractual days remaining with her employment contingent upon the results of her background check. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried with all in favor. The Board of Education wanted to wish Ms. Chapin a warm welcome for a much-needed position at Oak Grove School.

20. Presentation from Audience on Non-Agenda Business – None

21. Presentation from Board Members / Administration on Non-Agenda Business – The Board of Education and administration would like to wish our deepest sympathies to Gene Sanders (former Oak Grove and current LCHS BOE member) and his family at the loss of his father this past month. The Board also discussed how to support the high school and be more involved in communicating future plans as our students will become their students. Finally, discussion about Booster club support and some final gym items were discussed with the administration looking into some quotes for a scorer's table and banners for sports for the walls.

22. Motion for Adjournment

ACTION: Mr. Taylor made the motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm, seconded by Mr. Miller. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Matthew R. Bender".

Matthew Bender – Board President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Chad Taylor".

Chad Taylor – Board Secretary