

Board of Education  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Oak Grove School  
6018 W. Lancaster Rd.  
Bartonville, IL 61607  
October 28, 2020 – 6 pm

1. Mr. Bender led the Pledge of Allegiance and the meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Roll Call: Those present were Mrs. Quine, Mr. Fehl, Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Lindsay, Mr. Heuermann, Mr. Strausbaugh, and Mr. Bender. Others in attendance were Mrs. Almasi, Dr. Baele, and Mrs. Martin. Michelle, Brock, and Brody Fehl were present for the presentations portion of the meeting.
3. Communications / Presentations
  - a. The Soaring Eagle Award was presented to Brock Fehl, son of Brian and Michelle Fehl for his volunteer work this summer with the baseball and softball field reconfiguration. Dr. Baele commented on Brock's work ethic and assistance during community workdays and thanked him for his efforts. Once the fences are completed and Brock is playing on the field once again, he will know that he had a part to play in the construction of the diamonds. Mr. Bender presented the Soaring Eagle Award to Brock who was nominated by Dr. Baele.
  - b. The Board of Education recognized Mrs. Whitney Heflin as the Spring 2020 Best of the Nest Award winner. Mrs. Heflin worked to build an inclusive environment at Oak Grove during the 2019-20 school year as the Student Council sponsor. She built ownership and responsibility for students at Oak Grove through student representation, including the incorporation of a student developed and managed coffee and drink cart. The Student Council was also instrumental in raising \$2,586 dollars for Easter Seals. Additionally, Mrs. Heflin advocates for her students and tirelessly plans and implements lessons that seek to educate the whole child. Congratulations Mrs. Heflin for your leadership and dedication to the students of Oak Grove!
  - c. The Board of Education recognized Ms. Kelly Sams as the Fall 2020 Best of the Nest Award winner. Mrs. Almasi wrote, "Ms. Sams has been working really hard with remote learning, bending over backwards to make connections with students and offering her own time to make sure kids have the opportunity to learn. She connects with kids here in school, even those not in her homeroom, to make sure they keep up on their work and provided accommodations to help kids who have struggled to stay organized with the format of virtual assignments. She attended professional development over the summer to prepare for remote learning, and has stepped out of her comfort zone in many ways to make sure kids are learning this year." Congratulations Ms. Sams for your outstanding efforts to make Oak Grove School the very best!
4. Consent Agenda

**ACTION:** Mrs. Quine made the motion to approve the consent agenda which included the public hearing minutes on September 23rd, the regular and closed session meeting minutes on September 23rd, the September Trial Balance Report, and the September Treasurer's Report as well as all policies associated with Press Packet 104 & 105. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heuermann and carried with all in favor. No Imprest fund transfer was completed this month.

5. October Bills

**ACTION:** Mrs. Quine made the motion to approve the October bills, seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion carried with all aye votes, with Mrs. Lindsay abstaining.

6. Presentation from Audience on Agenda Items - None

7. Superintendent Report – Dr. Baele gave the BOE an update on the 2019-20 financial audit being conducted remotely by Gorenz and Associates. Gorenz requested an ROE and ISBE waiver extending the time needed to complete the audit which was approved. Once the audit is finalized, Dr. Baele will inform the Board. Dr. Baele requested a building committee to look at the priorities for the 2012-22 summer and school year. Dr. Baele ran through a few projects that may warrant consideration and the committee members will look at their calendars. Dr. Baele provided the link to the Peoria County election information for those needing to submit their paperwork for the School Board election held in April of 2021. Upcoming events were presented as well.

8. Principal Report – Mrs. Almasi informed the Board that 40 students return to school as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter transition, along with schedule changes and a new self-certification system in the morning, all has been going well. School Improvement goal setting was the topic of the October 9<sup>th</sup> with staff completing a needs assessment survey. Mrs. Almasi also let the Board know that parent teacher conferences were held last week, which were well attended and constructive for both parents and teachers. The Halloween parade will be on the 30<sup>th</sup> with SIP day activities to take place in the afternoon. This year will be different than in years past with a live stream of the parade and the monster mash being performed outside along with a Student Council drive-thru trick or treat on Friday the 30<sup>th</sup>. Student Council is holding a spirit week this week in honor of Khia Frauenhoffer, the activities planned each day coincide with National Bullying Prevention Month. PTO is hosting a LaGondola Community Day Fundraiser on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> with 20% proceeds going to the PTO on that date.

9. Old Business – Discussion Items

- a. 2017 & 2020 Commemorative Plaques – The Board was presented options for the commemorative plaques used to identify major construction within the school building. Discussion centered on cost, locations, and quantity of the plaques that would be purchased. Dr. Baele informed the Board that there was remaining money in the capital projects fund to cover the cost of the plaques.

10. Old Business – Action Items - None

11. New Business – Discussion Item

- a. Waiver Application for Staff Students – Dr. Baele presented information about the waiver process used to eliminate tuition for employees who want to send their students to Oak Grove School. The Board discussed the benefits and potential risks associated with this waiver. They also believed that it would be a benefit for the recruitment and retention of teachers to the school district. Dr. Baele will move the waiver application forward and submit the necessary documentation to the State Board of Education, a public hearing will be conducted in November as well as Board action necessary to approve the waiver.
- b. School Board Convention Alternatives – Due to the cancelation of the Joint Annual Convention in Chicago, alternatives were discussed including a potential Board of Education retreat that week. The Board discussed what a retreat would look like and Dr. Baele informed the members about the format for such a meeting. Dr. Baele will continue to look into options.

12. New Business – Action Item

- a. Insurance Renewal

**ACTION:** Mrs. Lindsay made the motion to approve the Insurance Package Renewal with Unland Insurance Company and Selective Insurance for the 2020-21 insurable coverage period of November 15, 2020 to November 15, 2021 with a total of all packages of \$43,098, seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion passed with all aye votes.

- b. Acceptance of the Financial Statements

**ACTION:** Mr. Heuermann made the motion to approve the preliminary financial statements and audit as presented by the independent audit firm, Gorenz and Associates, for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year and to authorize the Superintendent to complete necessary steps to finalize the 2019-20 audit, seconded by Mr. Fehl. The motion passed with all aye votes.

13. Closed Session

**ACTION:** Mr. Strausbaugh made the motion at 6:45 pm to enter into closed session for the purposes of discussing student discipline, litigation, and personnel matters, seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion passed with all aye votes.

14. Return to Open Session

**ACTION:** Mr. Taylor made the motion at 7:45 pm to return to open session, seconded by Mrs. Lindsay. The motion passed with all aye votes.

15. Action from Closed Session - None

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

17. Presentation from Board Members / Administration on Non-Agenda Business – The general consensus regarding quarter two changes were positive with Board members

thanking the teachers, staff, and administration for their continued efforts. Mr. Bender thanked Mrs. Lindsay for her years of service to the Board of Education and that she will be missed tremendously.

18. Motion for Adjournment

**ACTION:** Mrs. Lindsay made the motion to adjourn at 7:58 pm, seconded by Mr. Taylor. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Matthew R. Bender

Matthew Bender – Board President

Chad S. Taylor

~~Jennifer Lindsay~~ – Board Secretary

Chad Taylor