

Litchfield Community Unit District No. 12  
Board of Education  
Radius Room of Litchfield High School  
1705 N State St. Litchfield, IL. 62056  
Tuesday, August 17, 2021  
6:00p.m.

The Litchfield Board of Education held their monthly meeting beginning at 6:00p.m. in the Radius Room of Litchfield High School, 1705 N State Street, Litchfield, IL. 62056. Board members in attendance included: Julie Abel, President; Ron Anglin, Vice President, Valerie Cain, Secretary, David Belusko, Mike Fleming, and Gregg Hires. Also in attendance were: Dr. Gregg Fuerstenau, Superintendent; Jennifer Thompson, Director of Curriculum & Instruction/ Special Education Liaison; Kris Adamson, Recording Secretary and Administrators: Juleta Ellis, Hilary Wagenblast, Dr. Russ Tepen, Jeremy Heigert, Adam Favre. Attending: Chris Kuntzman, Technology Director; Shane Cress, LEA President; Steve Dougherty, Mayor of the City of Litchfield; Mary Herschelman, Journal News and John Hanafin, Litchfield News Herald. Emily Spindler, FGM Architects and Eric Lohman of Poettker Construction. Concerned parents and citizens.

Citizens Agenda

Speakers contacted Dr. Fuerstenau prior to the meeting to be included during the citizens' agenda portion of the meeting. Speakers addressing the Board were each given five minutes and were reminded that no student or staff names were to be used. Kyle Bishop was the first to address the Board. He read the concerns of his son, a student. His student's concerns were the mandated use of masks in the school buildings. He believes that masks give students a false sense of security and could interfere with learning. Craig Hires addressed the Board second. He voiced his concerns over transparency and protocol of the District. He stated that communication from the District to the public was confusing on multiple applications. He did not agree with the mask mandate. Mr. Hires questioned the hiring process for recent coaching staff. He stated that he had volunteered his services to help with the baseball field but was denied. Gregg Hires, Board Member, was the final request to address the Board. Mr. Gregg Hires reiterated his previous voiced concerns on the mask mandate.; students having a normal as possible experience at school. He spoke with several parents and they requested that masks be optional. He stated that as a board they should have discussions with Dr. Lett, the district's Career and Technical Education Coordinator. Dr. Lett is also on the Illinois State Board of Education. Mr. Hires also suggested working with the other schools in the county to address the State of Illinois mask mandate.

Consent Agenda

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

Approve regular and closed session minutes from July 20, 2021

Approve minutes from the special meeting August 5, 2021

Approve monthly bills

Approve Treasurer's report

Bills payable for August 2021 total \$354,535. From Education fund, \$253,280; from Operations & Maintenance, \$35,294; from Transportation \$21,301; from Capital Projects \$38,975; from Tort \$5,685. Ending balance in all funds at July 21, 2021 is \$31,148,111. Balance in operating funds is \$8,143,180. Balance in Capital Projects is \$13,504,439; Health/Life/Safety balance is \$7,707,903. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming. Present: Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

Old Business

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the second reading of board policy, administrative procedures, and exhibits:1:10; 1:20;1:20-AP;1:30

2:10;2:20;2:30;2:120-E1;2:120E2;2:125-E3;2:130;2:150-AP;2:200-AP;2:220-E4;2:220-E7;2:240;2:240-E1;2:240-E2;2:250-E2;2:250-E3  
3:30;3:30-E;3:70-AP 4:15-E1;4:15-E2;4:15-E3;4:40-AP;4:60-AP3;4:140-AP4;140-E1;4:140-E2;4:140-E3;4:170-AP5

5:10;5:30;5:30AP2;5:30AP2,E1;5:30-AP2,E2;5:40-AP;5:125-E;5:170-AP1;5:170-AP2;5:170-AP3;5:170-E1;5:190-E1;5:190-E2;5:190-E3;5:240-AP6;100;6:100-AP;6:100-E1;6:100-E2;6:120-AP4;6:145;6:160;6:170;6:17-AP1;6:170-AP1,E1;6:170-AP1,E2;6:170-AP2;6:190-AP;6:235;6:235-AP1;6:235AP1,E1;6:235-AP1,E2;6:235-AP2;6:235-E3;6:35-E4;6:250-P;6:255;6:260;6:260-E  
7:220;7:230;7:240-AP2,E1;7:280;7:340-AP1,E3;7:340-AP1,E4;7:340-AP2;7:345-AP,E4 8:90;8:95-E2

Voice Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming. NAY: Hires. Motion carried 6-1.

### New Business

Eric Lohman of Poettker Construction presented the bid package information and recommendations to award the precast concrete and the Structural steel work for the new elementary school located on South State street. A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Ron Anglin to award bid package #1- precast concrete to MPC Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$ 1,596,400.00. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming. Present: Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Ron Anglin to award bid package #2 – structural steel to Tri-County Welding and Fabrication, LLC in the amount of \$1,013,00.00. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming. Present: Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve a budget hearing for the 2021-2022 fiscal year (beginning July 1, 2021) for Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Litchfield High School, and that the budget as prepared by the district's chief fiscal officer, Superintendent Dr. Gregory Fuerstenau, will be available for public inspection for at least thirty (30) days prior to its adoption on September 21, 2021; and that proper notice be given. School code requires that the tentative budget be on display thirty (30) days prior to final action taken on the budget. The budget must be adopted within the first quarter of the fiscal year, which ends September 30, 2021. The September 21<sup>st</sup> budget hearing will be in compliance with the required amount of time between public review of the budget and adoption of the 2021-2022 fiscal year budget. Dr. Fuerstenau reiterated that the district ended better than expected due to the ESSER funds for COVID19 relief. He is working on a three-year plan that includes the additional ESSER funding. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming. Present: Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mike Fleming to authorize the District Administration to submit the School Maintenance grant application. The is a matching grant and funds will be used for the parking lots and sidewalks the Middle School/ High School complex. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming. Present: Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

### Information

School started for students on Friday, August 13, 2021. Universal masking is mandated. The District is utilizing the "testing to stay" method in order to keep students and staff in the classrooms. The three nurses have organized a system to follow all contact and to keep all of the staff and students as safe as possible. All students are required to attend school five days a week with full hours each day. Last year, the district started with a hybrid plan and the option for remote learning. This year remote learning is not an option unless physically necessary. Mr. Favre state that this has been a stellar year for number in the pre-kindergarten program. 116 students are enrolled with 120 as the maximum. There is also a waiting list. At Madison Park there are a total of 144 students with 73 kindergarteners and 71 first grade students. Mr. Heigert stated that at Colt school there were 180 students and 166 students at Russell Elementary. Dr. Russ Tepen said that 277 students for grades 6-8. Juleta Ellis, principal at the high school reported that 399 students were enrolled at this time. Things were just getting starting in the buildings. Board member, Valerie Cain inquired about differences in enrollment from last year and then also the mask mandate. Enrollment is down from last year all around.

The Board chose not to enter into closed session.

### Personnel

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the family medical leave request for Hannah Tomazzoli beginning September 26, 2021 and continuing until January 2022. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming. Present: Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mike Fleming to accept the resignation of Elbert Jones, Construction Trades teacher, as of August 6, 2021. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming. Present: Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the hire of Sandra Mullen as a Special Education Classroom aide at the high school beginning the 2021-2022 school year. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming. Present: Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

Seeing no further action to be taken, a motion was made Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to adjourn the meeting at 7:12p.m. Voice Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, Hires. Motion carried 7-0.