

Litchfield Community Unit District No. 12  
Board of Education Meeting  
Radius Room of Litchfield High School  
1705 N State St. Litchfield, IL. 62056  
Tuesday, September 21, 2021  
6:00p.m.

The Litchfield Board of Education held a public hearing 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: Juletta Ellis, Hilary Wagenblast, Jeremy Heigert, Adam Favre. Attending: Chris Kuntzman, Technology Director; Shane Cress, LEA President; Steve Dougherty, Mayor of the City of Litchfield; Mary Herschelmann, Journal News and John Hanafin, Litchfield News Herald. Emily Spindler, FGM Architects and Eric Lohman of Poettker Construction. Concerned parents and citizens.

#### Public Hearing

Julie Abel, President called the public hearing to order. Dr. Fuerstenau presented the 2021-2022 budget which has been on display in the District Office for the last 30 days. No one came forward to address the board. A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:02 p.m. Voice Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

#### Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:03p.m. All Board members were in attendance.

#### Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- Approve 2021-2022 early graduate requests
- Approve regular meeting minutes on August 17, 2021
- Approve regular and closed session minutes from special meeting on August 23, 2021
- Approve monthly bills
- Approve Treasurer's report

**Early graduates:** The Students will have met the state and district requirements to earn a high school diploma in December of 2021 They are requesting to graduate at that time. Mrs. Ellis and Mrs. Cress have reviewed their educational status and have forwarded their requests to the Board. Packet includes letter of request as well as support letters from parent/guardians. **Bills** – Bills payable for September 2021 total \$2,140,134. From Education fund, \$254,905; from Oper & Maint, \$51,930; from Debt Service, \$1,375,934; from Transportation, \$27,641; from Capital Projects, \$425,319; from Tort Immunity \$4,405. **Treasurer's Report** – Ending balance in all funds at Aug 31, 2021 is \$31,016,052. Balance in operating funds is \$8,008,408. Balance in Capital Projects is \$13,559,600; balance in Health/Life/Safety is \$7,709,817. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

#### New Business

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by David Belusko to adopt the budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 as presented by Superintendent Dr. Gregg Fuerstenau, Chief Financial officer for Litchfield Community Unit School District #12. A tentative budget was brought before the board at the August 17, 2021 meeting. The proposed budget has been on display at the Unit Office since 8:00a.m. on Friday, August 18, 2021 for public inspection and all questions from the public were answered. Budget figures include approximately \$ 39,802,543.00 in expenditures while \$ 28,658,051.00 in revenue. Capital Projects would include the new elementary school building. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

Prior to moving on to the next business items, Eric Lehman of Poettker Construction, explained the bid process and gave recommendations on the next phases of fifteen (15) bid packages. All of the bids came within the budgeted amount. Mike Fleming, board member, voiced his concern on the total completion of each bid that was presented and received. Mr. Fleming felt that each was incomplete in some fashion, therefore he would not be voting on the business items presented. Mr. Fleming stated that he was all for the new elementary building, he has concerns with the business side of the project.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to award bid packages No. 3 & No.5 – concrete and general trades to Litteken Construction Co. in the amount of \$3,245,200.00. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Cain. NAY: Fleming PRESENT: Hires Motion Carried: 5-1-1

A motion as made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to award bid package No. 4- Masonry to Toenjes Brick Contracting Inc in the amount of \$227,775.00. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Cain. NAY: Fleming PRESENT: Hires Motion Carried: 5-1-1

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to award bid package No. 6- Roofing and sheet metal to Kehrer Brothers West Roofing, Inc. in the amount of \$375,900.00. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Cain. NAY: Fleming PRESENT: Hires Motion Carried: 5-1-1

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to award bid package No. 7-Aluminum storefronts and curtainwalls to R&R Vision Glass, LLC. In the amount of \$190,884.00. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Cain. NAY: Fleming PRESENT: Hires Motion Carried: 5-1-1

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to award bid package No. 8- Flooring to Flooring Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$ 367,780.00. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Cain. NAY: Fleming PRESENT: Hires Motion Carried: 5-1-1

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Mark Bloome to award bid package No.9- Drywall to George Weis Company in the amount of \$548,752.00. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Cain. NAY: Fleming PRESENT: Hires Motion Carried: 5-1-1

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to award bid package No. 10-Painting to Morrissey Contracting Company, Inc. in the amount of \$98,000.00. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Cain. NAY: Fleming PRESENT: Hires Motion Carried: 5-1-1

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to award bid package No. 11- Fire Suppression to Apex Fire Sprinkler Company in the amount of \$128,850.00. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Cain. NAY: Fleming PRESENT: Hires Motion Carried: 5-1-1

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to award bid package No. 12 – Plumbing to Stoops Plumbing, Inc. in the amount of \$392,800.00. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Cain. NAY: Fleming PRESENT: Hires Motion Carried: 5-1-1

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Ron Anglin to award bid package No. 13- HVAC to Kane Mechanical Group, LLC. in the amount of \$974,229.00. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Cain. NAY: Fleming PRESENT: Hires Motion Carried: 5-1-1

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to award bid package No. 14- Electrical to Synergy Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$ 959,959.00. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Cain. NAY: Fleming PRESENT: Hires Motion Carried: 5-1-1

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to award bid package No. 15 –Sitework and Utilities to Gelly Excavating &Construction in the amount of \$504,096.00. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Cain. NAY: Fleming PRESENT: Hires Motion Carried: 5-1-1

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve support to the Litchfield Community Unit School District #12 and the City of Litchfield safe routes to school program grant application. Funds would be used to make routes safer for those that walk or ride their bikes to and from school. A 20% match would be required if funds are granted. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the District Risk Management Plan. This is an annual review to make certain our Risk Management Plan is adequately addressing our TORT exposure and allowable use of TORT funds. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the transfer of \$754,521.66 from Capital Projects Fund 60 to Debt Services Fund 30 the purpose is to make payments due on Alternative Revenue bonds from sales tax revenue deposited to Capital Projects; the principal and interest payments must be expended from the Debt Service fund. This total will cover the two payments due in FY22: first payment of \$517,021.66 is due 10/1/21; second in the amount of \$237,500.00 is due 4/1/22. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

#### Information

Enrollment figures were presented. The Prekindergarten program has 23 additional students this year compared to last. Kelley Walker, Make It Program director included her report in the monthly board information. Bob Witter, Buildings and Grounds/Transportation Director gave the board his monthly report. The custodial staff went above and beyond to make the grounds of the high school/ middle school complex look incredible for all of the outdoor Homecoming festivities. A new Drivers Education car was purchased. The old car will be used by the auto mechanics class for hands on experience. A new scoreboard will go up at the high school baseball diamond. Administrators touched base on happenings in their buildings. Juletta Ellis, high school principal, reiterated that Homecoming festivities has all gone well and she received many positive feedbacks. The High School students hosted a pep rally at the local Party in the Park. Awards programs to mark grades, good behavior etc. will be coming to the elementary schools in the coming month. Students were getting back into a routine during this first month of classes. Dr. Fuerstenau addressed the board with his monthly report. AMEREN of Illinois is in charge of the remediation project located at the intersection of Jefferson and Edwards streets. Once complete they will turn the property over to the school district to use a parking lot for the new elementary school building. Ameren provided a fact sheet for the Board and public. Dr. Fuerstenau and Dr. Lett are working on the DCEO 8.6 million dollar grant for the Innovation Center. They are hoping that it will be up and running by January 1, 2023. Nursing staff is rapid testing students and staff. Test to stay has been working to keep students and staff in school. Jennifer Thompson, director of curriculum and instruction and special education liaison stated that there would be a training session on the new math curriculum in October. The District is applying for the State Seal of Bi-literacy. For our district it will mostly in the high school Spanish program. As of date there are seven (7) students that may qualify for the seal.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain that the Board of Education enter into closed session at 6:51 p.m. to discuss The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0. A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mike Fleming that the Board of Education return to open session at 7:49p.m. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

## Personnel

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the family medical leave request for Roberta Williams, bus driver, beginning September 13, 2021 and continuing to November 13, 2021. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the family medical leave request for Sherry Pratt, Middle School Teacher, beginning November 9, 2021 and continuing until January 3, 2022. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the family medical leave request for Kendra Kirby, elementary school nurse, beginning September 16, 2021 and continuing through February 18, 2022. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the family medical leave request for Abby Carlson, Career Services Coordinator, beginning December 7, 2021 and continuing to March 8, 2022. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the hire of Shannon Holtgrave as a Special Education teacher at Madison Park/ Middle School for the 2021-2022 school year. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the hire of Cecelia Bloome as a Special Education classroom aide at the Middle School beginning the 2021-2022 school year. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Bloome – Abstain. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to hire Anthony Robinson as the Assistant Coach for High School Boys Basketball coach beginning the 2021-2022 school year. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming. PRESENT: Hires Motion carried 6-0-1.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to hire Victoria Knoche as Middle School Cheer coach beginning the 2021-2022 school year. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to hire Tara Younker as a part-time clerical aide in student services at the High School beginning September 27, 2021. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Ron Anglin to approve adding the classifications of classroom aide, special education aide, instructional tutor, and instructional tutor with professional educators' license to the contract between Litchfield Community Unit School District #12 and the Teamsters Local Union No. 525. Roll Call: YE: Abel, Belusko, Cain, and Hires. ABSTAIN: Anglin, Bloome, Fleming. Motion Carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve holiday pay for secretaries and cooks beginning the 2021-2022 school year. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to accept the resignation of Misty Tooley, Special Education Classroom Aide, at Russell School effective September 30, 2021. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

Seeing no further action to be taken, a motion was made Mark Bloome and seconded by Ron Anglin to adjourn the meeting at 7:56p.m. Voice Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, Hires. Motion carried 7-0.