

Litchfield Community Unit District No. 12
Board of Education Meeting
Radius Room of Litchfield High School
1705 N State St. Litchfield, IL. 62056
Tuesday, November 16, 2021
6:00p.m.

The Litchfield Board of Education held a 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; Mark Bloome, Mike Fleming. David Belusko and Gregg Hires were absent. 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, 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.

Citizens Agenda

Karen Cress, Litchfield High School guidance counselor, introduced the 2021 Illinois State Scholars. Some of the scholars were not able to attend due to scholastic bowl or other previous engagements. This year's recipients were: Julia Bader, Ryan Baugher, Cameron Crowe, Brady Davidson, Kylee Eiting, Audrey Fischer, Carly Guinn, Rylie Hester, Spencer Hoehl, Isabelle Murphy, Emma Reid, Allen Schneider, and Colby Wygal. Mrs. Abby Carlson, Career Services Coordinator and Mr. Dan Carlson, High School Social Sciences teacher gave a presentation on the class they are co-teaching this year at the high school. This "Essential Skills" class is a semester class for Juniors. The class covers the consumer education requirement for the state while also touching on areas such as: College Planning/ Career Guidance; Resumes, and working within a Budget. The semester concludes with a final project in which the student gives a 15-minute presentation on their career field. This presentation may be utilized in the senior project. Finally, Candace Mazza the district's family engagement coordinator was introduced to the Board. Mrs. Mazza gave a brief over view of her job responsibilities and goals. Creating ways for families to be involved in the education of their students, is just one of the many services she provides for the district. Funding for this program is made possible through the Montgomery County Mental Health – 708 board.

Consent Agenda

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

- o Approve regular and closed session minutes from meeting on October 19, 2021
- o Approve monthly bills
- o Approve Treasurer's report

Bills payable for November total \$462,304.25. From Education Fund, \$330,502.55; from Operations and Maintenance, \$32,240.88; from Transportation \$37,898.67; from Capital Projects \$56,059.21; from Tort Immunity \$5,603.44. Ending balance in all funds at October 31, 2021 is \$31,081,504. Balance in operating funds is \$9,172,772. Balance in Capital Projects is \$12,568,741; balance in Health-Life-Safety is \$7,736,264. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Bloome, Cain, and Fleming. Motion carried. 5-0

New Business

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the preliminary 2021 tax levy. The preliminary levy would be \$6,113,324.00. This is a 3% increase from last year but would not go over the 5% increase requiring a truth in taxation hearing. The preliminary levy is on display for the public in the District office. The Board will vote on the final tax levy during the December 16, 2021 meeting. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Bloome, Cain, and Fleming. Motion carried. 5-0

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve a resolution to adopt the Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois Supplement Savings plan by entering into an employer participation agreement between the Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois and the Litchfield School District. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Bloome, Cain, and Fleming. Motion carried. 5-0

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Ron Anglin to grant a right-of-way for public construction to the State of Illinois, Department of Military Affairs. The Illinois National guard is making the request due to a construction project at the Jefferson Street location. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Bloome, Cain, and Fleming. Motion carried.5-0

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to grant a temporary construction easement to the State of Illinois, Department of Military Affairs. The easement is needed for the project at the Jefferson Street location. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Bloome, Cain, and Fleming. Motion carried.5-0

Information

Enrollment for October is 1306. Make It program included their report and financials in the Board packet. OPAA Food services included their monthly report. 14,244 lunches were served. Board Members were recognized for their service to the district. Each of the buildings reported their parent teacher conference statistics. Administrators commented that parents were very glad to have the opportunity to check in with teachers on their students' status after last school year. Three FOIA requests were answered during the month of October. The December Board meeting will be held Thursday, December 16th. Fall activities took place at the elementary schools. The Litchfield PreK program had a "buddy day" November 16th. More activities are scheduled for parent and teacher involvement. Title 1 Reading nights included a Fall event. The High School had their annual Veterans Day assembly on Wednesday, November 10th. This event is hosted by the Student Council. Members of the boys' cross country team competed at state this year. The new Math curriculum is up and running. 19 high school students and 6 middle school students were selected for ILMEA's district music festival. The State Street Elementary construction project is waiting on steel. Ameren is still back filling the area that will be parking for the new building. We received notification that the project qualified for a grant for inside and outside lighting through Ameren.

Personnel

The Board did not enter into closed session.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mike Fleming to approve the hire of Olivia Jones as a high school teacher beginning January 3, 2022. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Bloome, Cain, and Fleming. Motion carried.5-0

A motion was made by Mike Fleming and seconded by Ron Anglin to accept the resignation of Roberta Williams, bus driver, effective November 5, 2021. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Bloome, Cain, and Fleming. Motion carried.5-0

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the reassignment of Jeanne Gebhardt, bus driver, from the Star Bus to the Heart Bus route beginning January 4, 2022. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Bloome, Cain, and Fleming. Motion carried.5-0

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mike Fleming to approve the hire of Renee Melchert as a bus driver effective November 29, 2021 and with the assignment of the Star route taking effect January 4, 2022. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Bloome, Cain, and Fleming. Motion carried.5-0

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the family medical leave request of Mark Hunt, high school teacher beginning November 15, 2021. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Bloome, Cain, and Fleming. Motion carried.5-0

Seeing no further action to be taken, a motion was made Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to adjourn the meeting at 7:11p.m. Voice Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Bloome, Cain, Fleming. Motion carried 5-0.