

Litchfield Community Unit District No. 12
Board of Education Meeting
Radius Room of Litchfield High School
1705 N State St. Litchfield, IL. 62056
Tuesday, February 15, 2022
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; David Belusko, Mark Bloome, Mike Fleming and Gregg Hires. Also in attendance were: Dr. Gregg Fuerstenau, Superintendent (virtually); Jennifer Thompson, Director of Curriculum & Instruction/ Special Education Liaison; Kris Adamson, Recording Secretary and Administrators: Juletta Ellis, Hilary Wagenblast, Russ Tepen, Adam Favre, Jeremy Heigert. Attending: Chris Kuntzman, Technology Director and Shane Cress, LEA representative; John Hanafin, Litchfield News Herald and Mary Herschelman, Journal News. Concerned parents and citizens.

Public Input

Gregg Hires, board member and concerned parent, asked to address the Board of Education. Mr. Hires as a parent requested that the Board reflect on a few key points. The first was presented as a question as to why an attorney from Bond county area could achieve the temporary restraining order(TRO) and the Litchfield District could not? Second was a statement regarding making policy for one should not be put in motion. Third, he questions why masks were still required on buses. Note: the mandate to require masks on buses comes from the Federal level. Fourth, he stated that if the TRO is reversed the board should not go back to requiring all to wear masks. Finally, he stated that he believes that parents should step forward and voice their opinions to the Board.

Citizens Agenda

Peter Ratermann of Poettker Construction gave his monthly report. Mr. Ratermann presented the board with a detailed February and March schedule. Equipment was brought to the site on Monday and some work began on Tuesday. Dirt and materials that are deemed unsuitable filler will be removed first. Ameren has been delayed on their area. This area will be the construction staging area that will eventually be a parking lot for the new building.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approve 2022-2023 early graduation requests
- Approve regular and closed session minutes from meeting on January 18, 2022.
- Approve monthly bills
- Approve Treasurer's report

Background: Early graduates have met with the Administration and Guidance at the high school. They are on track to graduate in December of 2022. Parent letters of approval were also included in the Board packet. Bills payable in February 2022 total \$289,767.11. From Education fund, \$123,797.95; from O&M \$44,878.44; from Transportation \$37,459.44; from Capital Projects \$82,638.79; from Tort \$992.09. Ending balance in all funds at January 31, 2022 is \$31,351,489. Balance in operating funds is \$9,406,030. Balance in Capital Projects is \$12,440,449; balance in Health-Life-Safety is \$7,758,877.

Roll Call: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried. 7-0.

New Business

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the first reading of board revision to Policy, Administrative Procedures, and Exhibits from Press Plus Issue #108. This is the second set of revisions presented to the Board from Press Plus Issue #108. Voice Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming. NAY: Hires. Motion carried 6-1.

Information

Enrollment for January 2022 was 1308. Kelley Walker, MAKE IT program director provided monthly reports. OPAA Food Services provided their monthly report for January. 13,520 lunches had been served during the month. Dr. Fuerstenau attended the meeting virtually. Mrs. Thompson explained that the district's ELearning Plan was approved for 3 years and will need to be presented next year for extended approval. Three ELearning days had been used thus far this school year. Mrs. Thompson is working with teachers, students and parents to update and

streamline the system. The Administrators stated there was about an 80% participation or more overall. Most staff focused on instruction during the morning 8:00am to 11:00am., so that students could go out and enjoy the snow. Some staff included assignments about snow. Mrs. Thompson is working with the Academic Advisory Committee to work on the 2022-2023 school calendar. The 2021-2022 amended calendar and the new 2022-2023 calendars will be presented to the Board at the March meeting. Dr. Fuerstenau asked the Administrators to present the Board with some "good news". Mr. Favre, principal of grades PreK-1, they were able to host a Valentine's dance this year and invite parents to attend. Planning for Camp Panther is in full mode. The Litchfield Chamber of Commerce is working with the committee to find sponsors/ donors for the camp. Donations are used for prizes and other items for the campers. Mr. Heigert stated that Colt and Russell schools each hosted Valentines' Day activities as well. Student achievement would be recognized within the next months. Dr. Tepen announced that there has been student growth in math due to the new curriculum. He complimented Bob Witter and the custodial staff in taking care of clearing the schools of ice and snow so efficiently and for taking care of the buildings. Mrs. Ellis stated that the high school was very proud of several student accomplishments this month. Alex Powell is headed to the State wrestling meet the next weekend. Carly Favre won second place at the state wide Voice of Democracy contest. There were 1500 entries. Mrs. Ellis met with the Student Voice committee to look at suggested changes to the student handbook. Lily Braasch, Spencer Hoehl, Kylie Eiting and Julia Bader were selected as finalist in the National Public Radio (NPR) essay contest. Mrs. Amanda Lamore, high school English teacher, announced that this year's theme was "This I Believe". Mrs. Wagenblast said that the freshmen orientation for parents was a success. Dr. Fuerstenau thanked Bob Witter, Building and Grounds director and his staff for their tireless work on the snow removal. Dr. Lett is still coordinating efforts for county and regional vocational and technical training. Recently, Stacey Payne the areas certified nursing assistant teacher has been approved by Lewis and Clark Community College to teach dual credit. This approval allows students at Gillespie and Staunton to receive dual credit. Julie Abel and Dr. Fuerstenau attended the City of Litchfield's planning committee meeting on Monday, February 14, 2022. The school district is in support of the group Litchfield Unlimited that is working to build a YMCA in Litchfield. Dr. Fuerstenau stated that the District would continue to follow the temporary restraining order in regards to masks. Bus riders would still need to follow the CDC guidelines. On a final note, an annual FOIA request from the Illinois Retired Teachers' Association was fulfilled.

Closed Session

The Board of Education chose not to enter into closed session.

Personnel

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded Valerie Cain to approve the hire of Mary Anderson as an aide for the Make IT program. Roll Call Vote: YEA: 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 extended sick leave request for Mary Schmidt, elementary teacher, beginning January 31, 2022. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mike Fleming to approve the family medical leave request of Cheryl Frerichs, elementary teacher, beginning February 3, 2022 and continuing to March 21, 2022. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

Seeing no further action to be taken, a motion was made Valerie Cain and seconded by Mark Bloome to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m. Voice Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming, Hires Motion carried 7-0.