

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF
DWIGHT TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #230**

**Held in the Dwight Township High School Board Room
On December 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.**

Board President Brian Perschnick called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Brian Perschnick; Kim Rodosky; Tim Henson; Jenn Myzia; Kevin Berta; Paul Warner; Betty Gantzert

ABSENT: None

Also in attendance: Dr. Richard Jancek, Superintendent; Deb Conroy, Secretary; Dan Kaiser, Principal; Andy Pittenger, Asst. Principal/AD

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NOTICES, COMMUNICATIONS or RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Jancek presented documentation on an Illinois Uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity for a \$20,000 grant through Senator Jason Barickman's office. If received this grant money would go towards our ADA compliance projects (upgrading some of our restrooms and installing an elevator).

Dr. Jancek informed the Board that an Enterprise Zone agreement is being proposed for a strip of land near Route 66, Pete's Restaurant and the railroad tracks. This agreement would be similar to the agreement we have for the Cayuga Ridge wind turbines, where we abate a business' property taxes in lieu of a check for a percentage of what those taxes would be. That money could be used in any of our funds and would essentially protect our EAV for the calculation of State Aid. He may have visitors here in January asking for passage of a resolution for this Enterprise Zone.

A letter of thanks was received from the IHSA in appreciation for our Jazz Band playing at the 2018 Girls Volleyball State Finals in November.

Betty Gantzert notified the Board that the Board's Teacher Appreciation Breakfast will be held on February 20, 2019 at 7:30 a.m. in the Library.

REPORT OF BOARD COMMITTEES OR REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Kaiser distributed information on semester final exam exemptions. He also explained how he and the teachers are using Khan Academy to improve college readiness for our students.

Dr. Jancek announced that the HS will be hosting an IASB Corn Belt Division Meeting on March 14, 2019. He noted that the GS will co-host and more information will be forthcoming.

Dr. Jancek reported that earlier this week the IHSA voted to do away with Football conferences in favor of districts. This means that we may need to look at our Football co-op with GSW. We are currently looking at only 2 players from GSW returning next year, and if we kept our co-op, that would move us from 1A status to 3A status. The IHSA has not yet made information available on these proposed districts, and Mr. Pittenger will keep the Board up to date as information is released.

Athletic Director Andy Pittenger and District Office Assistant Jill Haacke were in attendance to report on Activity fundraising and how we could possibly do away with fundraisers with District support. They estimate that with the increase of Participation Fees it would cost the district approximately \$28,000 more to fund all of the sports and clubs. The Board consensus was that they are all in favor of seeing a formal proposal at the January meeting on this issue.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Dr. Jancek reported that the state owes the district \$24,040.52 in late mandated categorical payments for the 2018-19 school year.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items for consideration on this month's Consent Agenda are as follows:

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Bills
- 3) Accept Resignation, Cindy McMeen, Bus Driver
- 4) Approve Employment, Jim Kinnamon, Bus Driver
- 5) Approve Employment, Diane Kinnamon, Bus Driver
- 6) Approve Employment, John Hurt, Bus Driver
- 7) Approve Employment, Kevin Murphy, Bus Driver
- 8) Approve Employment, Kara Krupinski, Substitute Teacher
- 9) Approve Employment, Charles Herman, Substitute Teacher

Moved by Gantzert, seconded by Henson, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dr. Jancek informed the Board that a group of Board members held a meeting late last month at which they visited a new fieldhouse in Joliet that would be similar to what we are looking to build as a stand-alone building. He was told that a building of that scope would cost in the area of \$6.5--\$7M dollars. He also had a discussion with our bond company First Midstate on how we could finance this project. It may be that we would have to go to referendum if we choose to build a stand-alone facility, but would not have to go to referendum to purchase bonds for an addition to an existing building. He will speak with First Midstate again to get clarity on that issue. This may direct the next phase of the Exploratory Committee by determining the most likely path of obtaining financing for the project.

Dr. Jancek presented his final proposal for the 2018 Tax Levy and Extension request, which was an 11-cent abatement from the 2017 rate or 2.7032. A majority of the Board members felt that we should keep the rate closer to the rate we had for 2017 and proposed that we do not abate as much as was presented. They felt more comfortable with a rate of \$2.7532, which still abates 5-cents to the taxpayers but keeps our funds healthy for future projects. Their final proposal creates an extension in the amount of

\$3,839,602.00 which represents an overall 5-cent decrease in rate but due to a higher EAV amount, an increase in funding of \$169,738 or 4.63% over the 2017 extension.

Moved by Warner, seconded by Myzia, to approve a Tax Levy rate of 2.7532 with Extension of \$3,839,602, as amended. Roll call. Berta and Perschnick voted no. All others voted aye. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Jancek informed the Board that Board member Jenn Myzia is proposing that we start incorporating new STEM and STEAM projects into our curricular programs. He suggested creating a new budget line item in next year's budget to begin exploring what programs may work with our curriculum as well as equipment, furniture, technology, devices and staff training, etc. that would be required to move forward with innovative ideas in STEM/STEAM. He recommended budgeting \$25,000 next year for this initiative. The Board consensus was supportive of this idea.

Dr. Jancek explained that ISBE has changed the definition of a school day by giving local control to the Board of Education to decide what is considered learning and instruction. Currently the calendar must have 176 instructional days plus 4 Teacher Institute days; however, with this change the administrators have the option of changing the length of any school day, which would help in making up emergency days or cutting the final day of the year down from a full day to a one-hour day as it was in the past. This will feed into a discussion on making up our emergency day from November 26th. Dr. Jancek has to amend the calendar within 30 days of the missed day, but currently only has to list May 28th as an attendance day—not the actual hours of that day. This will be discussed during a joint session of the Boards of Education so both calendars will match.

Dr. Jancek presented the first reading of Board policy updates from PRESS Plus. He will bring these back to the Board for the second reading and final approval at the January meeting.

Dr. Jancek presented a proposal to trade in our 2008 John Deere Utility Tractor on a 2018 John Deere Skid Steer and accessories. He noted the need of the Maintenance staff to have a more powerful tractor to move pallets and perform other Maintenance jobs with, and this would be a reasonably inexpensive upgrade for this type of equipment at a cost to the district of \$24,470.

Moved by Rodosky, seconded by Berta, to approve the purchase of a 2018 John Deere Skid Steer and accessories, as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

It is an annual necessity that the Board abate the taxes levied for that year to pay debt service on our Alternate Revenue Bonds. Dr. Jancek presented the resolution to abate these taxes which will be paid from the O&M fund reserves. This will be the final abatement necessary, as this bond will be paid in full in the 2019-20 school year.

Moved by Berta, seconded by Myzia, to consider and act on a Resolution abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2018 to pay debt service on the General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2012, of the District, as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Gantzert, seconded by Berta, to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Debbie Conroy, Secretary, District #230

Brian Perschnick, President, District #230