

# TRI-VALLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3

## OFFICIAL MINUTES

March 15, 2023

### I. ROLL CALL

The Tri-Valley Board of Education held a meeting in Downs, Illinois, on Wednesday, March 15, 2023. Board President, Mr. Carl Neubauer, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Upon roll call, the following members answered present: J.B. Goff, Brian Myers, Carl Neubauer, Jill Messamore, Jessica Alt and Bobby Brown. Others Present: Mr. Ben Derges, Superintendent. Board member, Lori Stickling, arrived at 6:06pm.

### II. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Jill Messamore to approve the Consent Agenda that included the following items:

- Board Meeting Minutes from February 15, 2023;
- Board Bills from March 2023;
- Student Activity Accounts for February 2023;
- Treasurer's Reports for February 2023; and
- Destruction of Executive Session Tapes Dating Back Eighteen Months.

Seconded by Bobby Brown. The following members voted aye: J. B. Goff, Brian Myers, Carl Neubauer, Jessica Alt, Jill Messamore and Bobby Brown. The motion carried.

### III. VISITORS AND REPORTS

**A. Visitors:** Paige Brehm (New Hire, HS Science Teacher) Introduction and recommendation to hire, Alfonso Berenguer (MS/HS Spanish Teacher) Overview of new 7th grade course offering, Jeff Benter (HS Science Teacher) Presentation of the NASA program he participated in last year, Kate Sudol & Jay Levin (ProStar Energy) Presented on a potential community solar project, a community Q & A session may be offered in the near future.

**B. Committee Reports:** None

**C. Administrator Reports:**

Elementary School and Middle School reports are attached to the agenda. No presentations given.

**High School:** Mr. Arnolts is very excited about current school culture even during the most difficult months of the school year. He explained how the district has many built-in supports that are providing the needed strategies to help students persevere. Mr. Arnolts highlighted FFA student successes. He gave an overview of spring sports. Fine Arts programs including band, chorus and art were celebrated.

**Special Services:** Mrs. McCane explained that preschool screenings are in full swing. Many students have come in for evaluations.

**Superintendent:** Mr. Derges spoke regarding faster internet speeds for the district approaching soon-from 1 gb to 10 gb-thanks to the work of Mr. White. Supply chain issues are impacting the ongoing HVAC project. Next year's School Improvement Plan is being developed. The HEAT Academy presentation will be done at the April board meeting which will allow time to partner with local businesses to provide students with experiences within the field of interest. A legal update overview was provided on three new potential bills. The Tri-Valley PTO is hosting a Board Candidate Meet & Greet night on Wednesday, March 22.

#### IV. ACTION ITEMS

**A. Approval and Adoption of the Resolution for Reduction in Force to Discontinue Certain Extracurricular Assignments, Duties and Stipends**

Motion by Brian Myers that the Board approve the Resolution. Seconded by Lori Stickling. The following members voted aye: J. B. Goff, Brian Myers, Carl Neubauer, Jessica Alt, Jill Messamore, Lori Stickling and Bobby Brown. The motion carried.

**B. Approve the Human Resources Guidelines for Employee Paperwork:**

Motion by Jill Messamore that the Board approve the Human Resources Guidelines for Employee Paperwork Seconded by Bobby Brown. The following members voted aye: J.B. Goff, Brian Myers, Carl Neubauer, Jessica Alt, Jill Messamore, Lori Stickling and Bobby Brown. The motion carried.

#### V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

**A. Solar Energy Project**

A presentation was given by ProStar Energy representatives. Mr. Myers stated that negotiations are now up to the attorneys of both ProStar and TVCUSD #3. Mr. Goff would like to confirm that attorneys representing TV are looking out for the best interest of the district. Mr. Neubauer stated that we may have the opportunity to contact other districts to discuss. The consensus of the board is that there are additional questions that need answered through attorney negotiations and the upcoming Community Q & A session.

**B. Open Employment Positions**

The district will be filling a few additional upcoming vacancies along with current non-certified positions. There is an ongoing shortage that continues to make filling positions and filling substitute roles difficult.

**C. Social/Emotional Supports for Students**

Significant Social/Emotional needs have increased post COVID, especially in lower grade levels. This continues to be a need at the MS and HS, as well. Mr. Derges would like to post an additional position to fill this need.

**D. Grant Funded District Maintenance Projects**

Details were provided regarding ongoing projects that are grant funded.

**E. Village of Downs TIF Joint Annual Board Meeting**

Thursday, March 30 is the meeting at Downs Village Hall.

**F. Board Reorganization Plan**

Due to new state statutes regarding timelines for appointment of a new board, a change of board meeting dates for May was proposed. The new date for the May board meeting will be May 10.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT TO THE BOARD**

Casey Misch presented his opinion to the board on the solar power presentation.

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Brian Myers to move to executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, resignation of personnel, or acquisition of property pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act.

Seconded by J.B. Goff. Motion carried and all members voted aye. Executive session was entered at 8:19 p.m.

Motion by J.B. Goff to exit executive session. Seconded by Jill Messamore. All members voted aye.

Motion by Jill Messamore to approve the closed session minutes previously read in closed session just ended, and seconded by Brian Myers.

Executive session was exited at 8:29 p.m.

**VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Motion by J.B. Goff that the Board approves the Personnel Report as presented. Seconded by Jill Messamore. The following members voted aye: J.B. Goff, Brian Myers, Carl Neubauer, Jessica Alt, Jill Messamore, Lori Stickling and Bobby Brown. The motion carried.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by J. B. Goff to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Brian Myers. The following members voted aye: J.B. Goff, Brian Myers, Carl Neubauer, Jessica Alt, Jill Messamore, Lori Stickling and Bobby Brown. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

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**Approved**

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**Board President**

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**Board Secretary**