

ALDEN-HEBRON S.D. #19
Hebron, IL 60034-9799
“Strive For Excellence”

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
APRIL 15, 2020 - 7:00 P.M.

President Norton called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Alden-Hebron Community Consolidated Unit School District #19 to order at 7:06 P.M.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mr. Norton, Mr. Winkelman (via phone), Mrs. Combs, Mr. Madsen (via phone), Mrs. Johnson (via phone), Mr. Berg (via phone), Mrs. Smith (via phone)

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Debbie Ehlenburg—Superintendent, Tiffany Elswick-Asst. Supt./ES Principal (via phone), Tim Hayunga-MS/HS Principal (via phone), Scott Redden-Buildings & Grounds (via phone), Cyndie Erckfritz (via phone), Karen Fallon-Kindergarten (via phone), Patti Peisert-1st Grade (via phone), Teresa Eick-George-HS Business/Vocational Dir. (via phone), Colleen Geils-Media Specialist (via phone), John Lalor-AD (via phone), Ray Stalker (via phone)

CORRESPONDENCE

- 04-03-2020-FOIA from Jen Weeks, Smart265.org: Requesting contact information of contractors that have been awarded contracts for the District. Satisfied 4/13/2020

COMMUNICATIONS

Public Comments

None

Staff Comments

- Mrs. Erckfritz commented that EVERYONE is doing a great job with the changes taking place this past month—custodians, kitchen, transportation, etc.
- Mr. Lalor stated that there will be a “Friday Night Lights” event this Friday evening at 7:00 to show Giant Pride, Community Spirit and to honor first responders. The lights on the Football Field will be turned on and there will be a parade of emergency vehicles, school bus, cars that will take a tour around town.

Board Comments

- Mrs. Combs shared that alumni, David Reiter, who is a soldier in the US Army, will be returning to Hebron on Sunday, 4/19 from a deployment in Afghanistan. Community members will be parking along Highway 47 about 7:00pm with lights on to welcome him home—“Light up 47”.
- Mrs. Smith commended the whole staff of the ES, MS, and HS on the work they’ve done since the closure of the buildings due to COVID19.
- Mr. Winkelman extended thanks to all—staff and community members for being willing to participate in the “Friday Night Lights” event as well as the welcome home “Light up 47” for Mr. Reiter. It says so much about the character of District 19
- Mr. Norton stated that he is so proud of staff of District 19. They are doing a phenomenal job under horrible conditions.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following were reviewed under the consent agenda.

- *A. Approval of March 18, 2020 Regular & Executive Meeting Minutes
- *B. Recap of March 2020 Expenditures
- *C. Treasurer’s Report for March 2020
- *D. Approval of Current Invoices & Payroll

- *E. Approval of Booster Club Press Box Letter
- *F. Approval to re-employ Auditor
- *G. Regional Safe Schools Program

Mr. Winkelman moved, Mr. Berg seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
 Ayes: Mr. Norton, Mr. Winkelman (via phone), Mrs. Combs, Mr. Madsen (via phone), Mrs. Johnson (via phone), Mr. Berg (via phone), Mrs. Smith (via phone)
 Nays: None
 Absent: None
 Motion Carried

BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATION

ES Principal Report – as presented

Mrs. Elswick added:

- At the ES level, there has been 85% participation in e-learning and 15% participating in the drop off/pick up option of remote learning.
- Shout out to Colleen Geils for developing a ES Staff video dedicated to the students to post on the website; to Kristen Norton for continuing the “1 Book, 1 School” theme by reading the second book in the “Humphrey” series and posting the readings on the website; to the entire staff for all of the hard work they’ve done to accommodate the COVID19 changes.

MS/HS Principal Report– as presented

Mr. Hayunga added:

- At the MS/HS level, there has been 50-60% of students engaged daily and 70-80% of students engaged at least weekly. Around 20% of students have not been engaged at all since the stay-at-home order was issued. He is working on contacting those students and parents.
- He expressed how proud he is of District 19 and its faculty and staff for the quick response to COVID19; also, his hopes that all stay well.

Following the Principals’ Reports, Mrs. Smith inquired what is being done to safeguard the Social/Emotional well-being of the students.

Mr. Hayunga responded by sharing that Mrs. Brosh, the MS/HS Social Worker has frequent contact with the students on her caseload, as well as sending weekly emails to all MS/HS students.

Mrs. Elswick stated that Ms. Lagerhausen, the ES Social Worker has maintained contact with the students on her caseload, and is posting SEL lessons on Class DoJo daily.

Superintendent Report– as presented

Additionally, Dr. Ehlenburg reported:

- She has submitted to IEMA and FEMA as the District may be eligible for funding due to the quarantine.
- Mrs. Behrens and the kitchen staff are offering and serving “grab & go” meals to students in the District. Any student through age 18 can participate if they wish. They are serving about 95 meals per day that are picked up behind the MS/HS and about 10 per day that are picked up at the Church in Alden. When school is in session, they typically serve about 178 meals daily.
- The Pre-School For All Grant has been submitted.
- McHenry County has declared that there will be no penalties for 90 days for late property tax payments.
- She is seeking direction from BOE to start working on Support Staff raises for FY2021. Ordinarily, 3% would be given

Mrs. Johnson wondered what the fiscal impact of the quarantine will be on the District and if there will be room in the budget for 3% raises if there is decreased revenue. Mr. Berg inquired as to the effect that delayed property taxes will have on the District. Dr. Ehlenburg shared that District Treasurer, Pat Syens stated that taxes will still be collected and distributed to schools. Dr. Ehlenburg said we will likely see a decline in local revenue due to the pending County Board action regarding June property tax payments. The district will still receive the revenue but it will be in the next fiscal year. The other likely

impact next year's budget would be a decrease in Corporate Personal Property Taxes. We are predicting a 20% decrease at this time, but that may change if the stay at home is extended.

Mrs. Smith and Mr. Winkelman both stated that they would be in favor of planning for 3% increases for Support Staff. Mr. Norton directed Dr. Ehlenburg to move forward with calculations for 3% and to insert it into the budget to see if it will work.

Mrs. Johnson asked if the administration has considered what the effect may be on students' academic progress should schools not be allowed to reopen for the end of the 2019/2020 school year and how they intend to address that for the 2020/2021 school year. Dr. Ehlenburg, Mrs. Elswick, and Mr. Hayunga replied that they have had discussions regarding students' academic progress and they are waiting to see how the end of the school year finishes to make decisions regarding that matter.

Finally, Mr. Norton told the BOE members to continue working on the Superintendent evaluations and submit them to him. Hopefully, they can complete the evaluation process at the May 20th meeting.

PHYSICAL STRUCTURES/MAINTENANCE

Buildings & Grounds Report - as presented

Mr. Norton commended Mr. Redden and his staff for the work they've done cleaning and sanitizing the buildings. Mrs. Smith inquired if the custodial staff will start their summer maintenance in the event that schools do not reopen for the end of the year. Mr. Redden responded that is his intention, they are just waiting to hear what the decision will be. Also, should the closure happen, all lockers will be emptied and students' belongings will be bagged up and marked for delivery.

Dr. Ehlenburg shared the minutes of the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting that was held on 4/7/2020. She reported:

- Mr. Redden is awaiting quotes for sidewalk work and to blacktop the additional parking area at the ES.
- Summer maintenance items at the MS/HS were discussed: replacement of transom panels, doors and door frames; remedy inadequate emergency lighting in the gymnasium; non-compliant baluster spacing; replacement or repair of steps at Entrance B. These items were part of the annual Building Audit and the 10-year Life Safety list. The Committee recommended the maintenance grant be used to cover the cost of these items.
- The attorney for the District suggested the Booster Club submit a letter to the BOE for approval for the new press box they would like to have built at the Football field. Also, he suggested the Booster Club consider insuring the Press Box.

BOE members are in agreement that since other volunteers on school grounds are covered by District liability insurance, they feel it would be unnecessary for the Booster Club to purchase an insurance policy for the Press Box.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Report – as presented

Mrs. Erckfritz stated that the drivers are taking turns delivering grab & go meals to the students in Alden Monday-Thursday and are delivering and picking up hard copies of school work every Thursday for students on their routes who do not have access to internet. Also, she has made a schedule for drivers to come in and give their buses and vehicles a deep cleaning, which is going well.

Mr. Norton thanked Mrs. Erckfritz and the drivers for getting all of the materials and meals out.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Different plan or platform for BOE meetings should the quarantine continue (Mrs. Johnson)
- Effect of pandemic on future budget (Mrs. Johnson)
- Alternative to HS Graduation and 8th Grade Recognition ceremonies (Dr. Ehlenburg)

COMMUNICATIONS

Public Comments

Mr. Stalker commented that he felt the "virtual" meeting went well and that he had no problems with it.

Staff Comments

Mr. Lalor thanked everyone for the work they've done to assist the students who are struggling with the quarantine shut-down. Based on things he's heard from people in other districts, Alden-Hebron is doing a great job.

Board Comments

- Mr. Winkelman urged those present to be safe and to remember, after this is all over to continue to be kind to one another and keep helping each other.
- Mr. Norton remarked that the “Friday Night Lights” event is a great idea and that the community is doing a great job in being supportive.
- Mrs. Smith offered assistance should the administration choose to explore other platforms or technologies for future meetings as she is familiar with some of the options.
- Mrs. Johnson stated that she is impressed with District 19 teachers—their flexibility and responsiveness to the school closure.

Adjournment

Mrs. Smith moved, Mr. Winkelman seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:08pm.
Motion carried.

President

Secretary