

Litchfield Community Unit District No. 12
Board of Education Meeting
Radius Room of Litchfield High School
1705 N State St. Litchfield, IL. 62056
Tuesday, April 26, 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. Gregg Hires was 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, Russ Tepen, Adam Favre, Jeremy Heigert. Attending: Bob Witter, Building and Grounds/Transportation Director; Chris Kuntzman, Technology Director and Shane Cress, LEA representative; John Hanafin, Litchfield News Herald and Mary Herschelman, Journal News. Concerned parents and citizens.

Citizens Agenda

Dan Newkirk and Carter Powell, Middle School Wrestling Coaches introduced the seven (7) state qualifiers for 2022. The wrestlers included: Rilynn Younker, Jayden Ellinger, Braxton Keifer, Hunter Law, Vincent Moore, Tristan Staggs, and Jake Strange. Coach Newkirk spoke of their accomplishments and the Board of Education recognized them with a certificate for their accomplishment.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approve regular and closed session minutes from the March 15, 2022 meeting
- Approve minutes from the March 23, 2022 special meeting
- Approve regular and closed session minutes from the April 19, 2022 special meeting
- Approve a setting a public hearing for May 17, 2022 prior to the regular Board meeting for the purpose of receiving public view on applying for a waiver for non-resident tuition. (105 ILCS 5/10-20.12a)
- Approve the 2022-2023 IHSA membership
- Approve the 2022-2023 IESA membership
- Approve monthly bills
- Approve Treasurer's report

Background: Public Hearing-Approve public hearing for May 17, 2022 prior to the regular Board meeting for the purpose of receiving public view on applying for a waiver for non-resident tuition. (105 ILCS 5/10-20.12a **IHSA and IESA Membership-** Annual agenda item **Bills** – Bills payable total \$1,049,438. From Education fund, \$371,348; from O&M \$75,546; from Transportation \$44,004; from Capital Projects \$557,800; from Tort \$741. **Treasurer's Report** – Total of all funds at March 31, 2022 is \$29,447,491. Total in operating funds is \$8,659,332. Total in Capital Projects is \$11,792,234. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Cain. Motion carried 5-0.

New Business

Peter Ratermann, Poettker Construction gave his monthly State Street Elementary project update. Weather has delayed the project at times. Pre-Cast walls are scheduled to be put into place around May 20th barring no delays. Each month Mr. Ratermann distributes a time line of work accomplished and future work including onsite photos for the Board members.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the contract change order #002 with Poettker Construction for the Litchfield State Street Elementary project in the credit amount of (\$54,348.84). This change event is for tracking the cost associated with the cost savings from switching from PVC storm sewer piping to HDPE. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Cain. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the contract change order #003 with Poettker Construction for the Litchfield State Street Elementary project in the amount of \$29,520.88. This change event is for tracking cost associated with the use of drying lime onsite to help push the construction schedule. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Cain. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the 2022-2023 OPAA Food Service renewal contract with the District. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Cain. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Ron Anglin to approve the review and updates of board revisions to Policy, Administrative Procedures, and Exhibits. The updates are to align policies with IASB's collective bargaining agreement reference style, which removes the specific contract names and uses a more general reference instead. As presented by IASB: 5:150;5:185;5:200;5:210;5:240;5:250;5:270;5:290;5:300;5:310;5:330;5:600;5:800; 8:110 Voice Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Cain. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve a memorandum of understanding for Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant program with the City of Litchfield and Lincoln Land Community College. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Cain. Motion carried 5-0.

The Litchfield Schools Athletic Department has been contacted by the Mt. Olive Athletic Department about the possibility of co-op in several different sports. The sports being considered are the following: High School Football, High School Baseball, High School Softball, Middle School Baseball, Middle School Softball. Dan Stewart, Athletic Director and Juletta Ellis, principal met with the Mt. Olive administration. Mr. Stewart looked at numbers for each of the sports. We currently do not offer Middle School Baseball or Softball. Transportation was questioned as well. No action was taken on this information. Mr. Stewart will return to the May 17, 2022 meeting requesting action.

Juletta Ellis, High School Principal, presented the recommendation of change to the current grading scale. Currently, the high school has scale with 94-100 being considered an A. Mrs. Ellis is recommending a scale of 90-100 being an A. Most colleges use this scale. If the Board votes to change the scale at the May 17, 2022 board meeting, the Middle School would also change to the new scale for the 2022-2023 school year. No action was taken on this item.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to appoint Jimmy Gorowski to fulfill the vacancy of Mike Fleming who resigned from the Litchfield Board of Education. Jimmy Gorowski will fulfill the vacancy from April 2022 through the election and up to the seating of new Board members in April 2023. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Cain. Motion carried 5-0. Mr. Gorowski stated the Oath of Office and then took his seat at the Board table.

Information

Enrollment for March was 1299. Kelley Walker, MAKE IT program director provided monthly reports. OPAA Food Services provided their monthly report for March. 17,039 lunches were served during the month. Jennifer Thompson announced that the district would receive additional funds through the Community Partnership grant than previously stated. This grant will allow three new mental health counselors to be hired for the 2022-2023 school year. The schools/grades are winding down the 2021-2022 school year with many activities. The High School will have Prom, Celebration day, Senior trip all in May. Graduation is May 20, 2022. Dr. Tepen announced that Mrs. Jennifer Fleming was named Educator of the year by the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce. The Middle School Scholastic Bowl team won the Regional Tournament. 8th grade Career Day had taken place with guest speakers from the community. Mrs. Streibig, Middle School Social Studies teacher encouraged her students to reach out to politicians that covered their area. In response, United States Representative Rodney Davis made an appearance at the school. 8th grad recognition will take place on Friday, May 20th at 1:30p.m. Colt and Russell School staff and students were enthusiastic about field trips and end of the year reward parties. The announcement of Russell House Challenge would be coming soon. Mr. Favre announced that Camper Panther had a wait list started. The first week of August will be a "jump start" program for students K-1. Dr. Fuerstenau started is report stating that the paperwork for the Innovation Center was with the DCEO. Dr. Lett would attend the May meeting to give an annual update on career and technical programs. Also, at the May meeting will be a presentation and discussion of the elementary literacy curriculum. All students will receive breakfast and lunch free of charge next year through the CEPS program. Dr. Fuerstenau met with small groups of Seniors at the high school to discuss their experience and perspective.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain that the Board of Education enter into closed session at 7:39p.m. to discuss: The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) Roll Call: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, and Gorowski. Motion carried. 6-0. A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain for the board to return to open session at 9:04 pm. Roll Call: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, and Gorowski. Motion carried. 6-0.

Personnel

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the list of non-tenured teachers. This is an annual motion. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Bloome and Cain. ABSTAIN: Belusko and Gorowski. Motion carried. 4-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the family medical leave request from Taylor Little, Prekindergarten Teacher, beginning August 10, 2022 through November 4, 2022. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, and Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by David Belusko to approve the family medical leave request from Lenora Ambrose, Special Education Classroom Aide, beginning August 10, 2022 through September 30, 2022. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, and Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by David Belusko to accept the letter of intent to retire from Melody Cloyd, custodian effective July 29, 2022. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, and Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to accept the resignation of Abby Carlson as High School Head Volleyball Coach and 8th grade Middle School Volleyball Coach effective immediately. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, and Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to accept the resignation of Kimberly Phelps, High School Art Teacher, at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, and Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to accept the resignation of Jamie Mortensen, High School Math teacher at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, and Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the voluntary transfer of Megan Becker, Special Education teacher, from Russell School Elementary to Madison Park Elementary beginning the 2022-2023 school year. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, and Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Ron Anglin to approve the hire of Ryan Bowman as a High School Math teacher beginning the 2022-2023 school year. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, and Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by David Belusko to approve the hire of Evan Baugh as 8th grade Special Education teacher at the Middle School beginning the 2022-2023 school year. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, and Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the hire of Caeley Stutz as the 5th grade Special Education teacher at Russell School beginning the 2022-2023 school year. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, and Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Jimmy Gorowski to approve the hire of Maddie Kane as a Special Education/Deaf and Hard of Hearing teacher beginning the 2022-2023 school year. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Gorowski. ABSTAIN: Cain Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the hire of Sarah Malloy as 5th grade Elementary teacher at Russell School beginning the 2022-2023 school year. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, and Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to hire Kyle Frerichs as a fulltime custodian at the Middle School effective immediately. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, and Gorowski. ABSTAIN: Cain Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to hire Zachary Finch as a substitute custodian for the district effective immediately. A Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, and Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

Seeing no further action to be taken, a motion was made Valerie Cain and seconded by Ron Anglin to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. Voice Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.