

Litchfield Community Unit District No. 12  
Board of Education Meeting  
Radius Room of Litchfield High School  
1705 N State St. Litchfield, IL. 62056  
Tuesday, May 17, 2022  
6:00p.m.

The Litchfield Board of Education held their regular monthly meeting beginning at 6:04p.m. in the Radius Room of Litchfield High School ,1705 N State Street, Litchfield, IL. 62056. The meeting began immediately following the public hearing. Board members in attendance included: Julie Abel, President; Valerie Cain, Secretary; David Belusko, Mark Bloome; Jimmy Gorowski, and Gregg Hires. Ron Anglin 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: Juleta 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

Mrs. Jennifer Thompson recognized the eight Illinois Seal of Biliteracy program participants. Julia Scheiferdecker and Kylie Eiting both earned accommodation status this year. This is the first year for the high students to participate. Four employees of the District were recognized for their retirement this school year. Recognized were: Melody Cloyd, 21 years of service; Mark Hunt, 29 years of service; Sharon Melcher, 22 years of service; and Mary Schmidt with 29 years of service. Each retiree received a plaque and gift card from the Board.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approve regular and closed session minutes from the April 26, 2022
- Approve regular and closed session minutes from the May 4, 2022 special meeting
- Approve monthly bills
- Approve Treasurer's report

Bill -payable in May 2022 total \$1,362,077. From Education fund: \$144,949; from O&M: \$29,111; from Transportation: \$36,021; from Capital Projects: \$1,145,722; from Tort: \$3956; from Fire Prevention & Safety: \$2318. Balance in all funds at April 30, 2022 is \$28,540,874. Balance in operating funds is \$8,332,522. Balance in Capital Projects is \$11,336,879. Balance in Health-Life-Safety is \$7,766,219. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

New Business

Peter Ratermann, Poettker Construction gave his monthly State Street Elementary project update. Weather has delayed the project at times this month as well. Pre-Cast walls are scheduled to be put into place around May 26<sup>th</sup> barring no delays. Each month Mr. Ratermann distributes a time line of work accomplished and future work including onsite photos for the Board members to keep them up to date on the progress of the construction.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the contract change order PCO #008 with Poettker construction for the Litchfield State Street Elementary project in the amount of \$ 589.58. This change event is for added electrical scope included in ASI-6. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Jimmy Gorowski to approve the contract change order PCO #009 with Poettker construction for the Litchfield State Street Elementary project in the amount of \$ 5,328.14. This change event is for tracking cost associated with the addition of 6 marker boards per the architect's suggestion and owner's request. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the contract change order PCO #010 with Poettker construction for the Litchfield State Street Elementary project in the amount of \$3,681.96. This change event includes the added expansion joint per the returned shop drawings that were not reflected on the original

document. After further review of the precast panel drawings, it was decided by the design team to add the expansion joint between the office/entry and the classroom wing that was not originally thought to be needed. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Jimmy Gorowski to approve the change order PCO # 011 with Poettker construction for the Litchfield State Street Elementary project in the credit amount of (- \$3,078.08). This change event also includes the credit for the transaction window that is to be supplied by the glazing contractor in lieu of bid package 5. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Jimmy Gorowski to approve the change order PCO #012 with Poettker construction for the Litchfield State Street Elementary project in the amount of \$5,780.92. This change event is for the added scope involved with the need to saw cut, remove, haul off, and replace the existing curb along the south side of St. John's Street at the exit of the parking lot/pickup location. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Jimmy Gorowski to approve the change order PCO #013 in the amount of \$0.00. This change event is for swapping liability between Gelly Excavation and Litteken Construction for the temporary road scope of work. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

Dr. David Lett, Career and Technical Education Director for the District gave his annual update to the Board. During his presentation gave a brief description of goals that were made this year. Career pathways in some form were discussed at every grade level. Upcoming events include partnering with Lincoln Land Community college for career fairs for the area. Dr. Lett and Mrs. Abby Carlson are working with the local businesses to setup job shadowing opportunities for students. High School students will have an opportunity to earn dual credits in vocational areas. A EMT class has been added to the master schedule for the 2022-2023 school year. The Innovation Center should receive funding in August or October of this year. It is hopeful that the construction bids will be out in 2022. The Center would then be open to classes in the fall of 2023.

Mr. Heigert and Mr. Favre presented the Literacy program for the District. The first step in the process was a book study by staff utilizing the "Science of Reading" for the study. The reading curriculum changes have included professional development of staff and the collection of pertinent data on students for a starting perspective. Camp Panther which came into being last summer will help with the literacy program as well. 141 students have signed up to participate in the three -week long camp. Curriculum changes will be brought before the Board at the November meeting.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Jimmy Gorowski to approve the recommended grade scale for the High School and Middle school beginning the 2022-2023 school year. The recommendation is for a 90-100 "A" scale. The ten-point scale is more widely used and allows the students to compete with area students for scholarships and opportunities. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the District Student Handbook changes for the 2022-2023 school year. 5 mental health days were included in the excused absence for the school year. Grade scales were updated. Basic cleaning up of verbiage as well. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the athletic co-operative with Mt. Olive School District for High School Football, Baseball, and Softball during the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Jimmy Gorowski to approve the athletic co-operative with Mt. Olive School District for Middle School Baseball and Softball during the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Gregg Hires to approve the waiver application to allow the district to allow non-resident students whose parents are employees of the district to attend its schools free of tuition. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the proposed 2022-2023 Consolidated District Plan for the Litchfield School District. This is an annual document that the district submits to ISBE to consolidate all grant information that is required. Mrs. Thompson updates tests scores, teacher survey information, as well general information for this document on an annual basis. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

#### Information

Enrollment for April was 1296. Kelley Walker, MAKE IT program director provided monthly reports. OPAA Food Services provided their monthly report for April. 13,791 lunches were served. Bob Witter, Buildings/Grounds and Transportation director presented his summer project schedule. Gym floor screening, sidewalk and parking lot resurfacing at the High School. Transportation will be provided for Camp Panther. Custodians have received summer supplies and will be begin summer cleaning and arranging on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Administrative team gave brief reports on last week of school activities. Graduation is scheduled for Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m. Camp Panther will begin June 6<sup>th</sup>. \$5,000.00 in donations has been collected for rewards for camp through the help of the Chamber of Commerce.

#### Closed Session

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Mark Bloome that the Board of Education enter into closed session at 8:09 p.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 Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0. Motion carried. 6-0. A motion was made by Gregg Hires and seconded by Valerie Cain for the board to return to open session at 8:59 pm. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

#### Action following closed session

A motion was made by Gregg Hires and seconded by Jimmy Gorowski to approve the memorandum of understanding between the Litchfield Community Unit School District #12 and the Living Stones Church for the purchase of real property located at 1100 North Old Route 66, Litchfield, IL. in the amount of \$ 800,000.00. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, Hires. NAY: Belusko Motion Carried 5-1.

#### Personnel

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Mark Bloome to accept the resignation of Kimberly Weller, instructional tutor at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Gregg Hires and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the hire of Jennifer Schwab as the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math teacher beginning the 2022-2023 school year. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the hire of Benjamin Walker as an aide to the summer Make It program. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the hire of Chloe Horn as a teacher to the summer Make It program. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Gregg Hires to approve the hire of Emma Diveley as an aide to the summer Make It program. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the hire of Caitlyn Davis as an aide to the summer Make It program. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the administrative contract and assignment for Mrs. Jennifer Thompson, Director of Curriculum and Instruction/ Special Education Liaison for the 2022-2023 school year. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Jimmy Gorowski to approve the administrative contract and assignment for Mr. Adam Favre, principal of the Pre-Kindergarten program and elementary grades K-1 for the 2022-2023 school year. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Gregg Hires to approve the administrative contract and assignment for Mr. Jeremy Heigert, principal of Elementary grades 2-5 for the 2022-2023 school year. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Jimmy Gorowski to approve the administrative contract and assignment for Dr. Russ Teppen principal of Litchfield Middle School for the 2022-2023 school year. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Gregg Hires and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the administrative contract and assignment for Mrs. Juletta Ellis, principal of Litchfield High School for the 2022-2023 school year. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Jimmy Gorowski to approve the to approve the administrative contract and assignment for Mrs. Hilary Wagenblast, assistant principal of Litchfield High School for the 2022-2023 school year. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Gregg Hires to approve the hire of to approve the hire of Sarah Huber as the District Behavioral Therapist/ Interventionist beginning the 2022-2023 school year. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Gregg Hires and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the voluntary transfer of Tara Younker from part-time high school athletic clerical aide to fulltime (10- month) clerical aide beginning the 2022-2023 school year. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Gregg Hires and seconded by Mark Bloome to accept the resignation of Jessica Ball as Head Softball Coach at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Able, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion Carried 6-0.

Seeing no further action to be taken, a motion was made Valerie Cain and seconded by Gregg Hires to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. Voice Vote: AYE: Abel, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, Hires. Motion carried 6-0.