

Litchfield Community Unit District No. 12  
Board of Education Meeting  
District Office  
1100 N Old Route 66  
Litchfield, IL. 62056  
Tuesday, September 20, 2022  
6:00p.m.

The Litchfield Board of Education held their regular monthly meeting beginning at 5:15p.m. at the State Street Elementary Project Location, 127 West St. John Street, Litchfield, IL. Board members in attendance included: Julie Abel, President; Ron Anglin, Vice-President; Valerie Cain, Secretary; David Belusko, Mark Bloome and Jimmy Gorowski. 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, Russ Teppen, Adam Favre, Jeremy Heigert. Attending: Bob Witter, Building and Grounds/Transportation Director; Abe Loveless, District Technology Officer and Shane Cress, LEA representative; John Hanafin, Litchfield News Herald and Mary Herschelman, Journal News. Concerned parents and citizens.

The meeting was called to order at 5:15p.m. at the State Street Elementary project site located at 127 West St. John St., Litchfield, IL. 62056. Gregg Hires was absent. Eric Kohnen, Poettker Construction, walked the Board through the progress at the job site. He also showed the progress skim coating the surface that has been completed. This process creates discoloration so; the panels will then need to be stained. This is the monthly walk through of progress on the project. Board members are able to see for themselves the progress. The new building is set to be complete in February 2023. The Board left the job site and reconvened at the District Office located at 1100 N. Old Route 66, Litchfield, IL. beginning at 6:05p.m.

#### Public Hearing for Budget FY 2023

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:05pm. Roll Call was taken with Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, and Gorowski present. Hires was absent. Dr. Fuerstenau gave the overview of fiscal year 2023 budget for the District. No public input was given. Hearing adjourned at 6:08p.m.

#### Regular Monthly meeting

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:08p.m. Roll Call was taken with Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, and Gorowski present. Hires was absent.

#### Citizens agenda

New teachers to the District were introduced. The Litchfield School District was very lucky to have been able to fill the job openings this year.

- \*Evan Baugh- Middle School Special Education
- \*Daniel Bonnell- High School Math
- \*Brooke Butler- High School/Middle School Art
- \*Vincent Fanelli- Elementary Physical Education
- \*Janice Fleming- 5<sup>th</sup> grade Elementary Teacher
- \*Rocky Giannuzzi- High School Physical Education Teacher
- \*Sarah Malloy- 5<sup>th</sup> grade Elementary Teacher
- \*Jennifer Schwab- Middle School Math Teacher
- \*Caeley Stutz- 5<sup>th</sup> grade Special Education Teacher
- \*Maddie Williams-Kane- Special Education Teacher/ Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher

The Social- Emotional Support Team introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their roles in the District and the community.

- \*Lucas Altenberger, School Psychologist
- \*Karen Cress, School Counselor (LHS)
- \*Paula Dal Canton, School Counselor (LMS)
- \*Brenda Elvers, School Counselor (Elementary)

- \*Sarah Huber, Behavior Analyst/Interventionist
- \*Kaylie Ripley, Counselor Intern (PreK-12th)
- \*Nancy Roasio, School Social Worker
- \*Mae Wells, Social Worker
- \*Shelby Curtis, St. Francis Way

May Wells and Sarah Huber were acquired by the District through the Community Partnership grant. It is a two-year grant. A key during the presentation was that some kids and families are struggling after the pandemic. The ETeam meets regularly. Grades 3-12 will be or have been screened using the BESS screener. It is a 20 item screening process to establish a baseline for our students. The District has partnered with the Cook Center to provide support and programs for our families.

### Consent Agenda

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

- o Approve early graduation request
- o Approve regular meeting minutes from the August 16, 2022
- o Approve monthly bills
- o Approve Treasurer's report

The Board approved an early graduation request. Bills payable for September 2022 total \$2,780,581.34. Totals per fund: Education: \$294,798.12; Operations & Maintenance: \$98,845.79; Debt Service: \$1,421,336.27; Transportation: \$30,556.70; Capital Projects: \$856,334.47; Tort: \$4,196.49; Health-Life-Safety: \$74,513.50. Ending balance in all funds at August 30, 2022 is \$27,009,733. Balance in operating funds is \$9,704,620. Balance in Capital Projects is \$7,422,707. Balance in Health-Life-Safety is \$7,805,689. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

### New Business

A motion was made by Mark Bloome and seconded by Ron Anglin to approve the contract change order PCCO #007 with Poettker construction for the Litchfield State Street Elementary project in the amount of \$ 8,394.76. This change event is tracking the cost associated with the price increase going from a standard locker paint color to a custom locker paint color. This is taking place due to the new specified locker color choices no being close enough match to the existing lockers being installed on the second floor. Per the architect and owner direction, bid package 005 is to provide the custom locker paint color for an additional cost. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

The District will look into going a different direction and location for the K-1 elementary building. Originally the plan was to tear down Madison Park and rebuild in that location. It was later discovered that ISBE was being very firm in the usage of Health Life Safety funds. This project was now presented with drawings at the Colt School location utilizing most of the existing structure. More drawings would be presented at the October meeting. Increased construction costs have impacted decisions for the SCI Innovation center. Machining and Ag programs will be shelved for now. The District should be hearing soon in regards to the date to receive funding. Dr. Lett is working with the county Superintendents to address scheduling classes and logistics to the center for 2023-2024 school year.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to adopt the budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 as presented by Superintendent Dr. Gregg Fuerstenau, Chief Fiscal Officer for Litchfield Community Unit School District #12. A tentative budget was brought before the board at the August 16, 2022 Board of Education Meeting. The proposed budget has been on display at the Unit Office since 8:00 am on Wednesday, August 17,2022 for public inspection and all questions from the public have been answered. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to authorize the District Administration to submit the 2022-2023 School Maintenance grant application. This is a \$50,000 matching grant. This year's money is earmarked for all outside doors at the high school. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the amended project labor agreement resolution. The original resolution was approved August 16, 2022. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the Districts Risk Management plan. This is an annual review to make certain our Risk Management Plan is adequately addressing our tort exposure and allowable use of tort funds. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the transfer of \$764,100 from Capital Projects fund 60 to the Debt Service Fund 30. The purpose is to make payments due on Alternative Revenue bonds from sales tax revenue deposited to Capital Projects; the principal and interest payments must be expended from the Debt Service fund. This total will cover the two payments due in FY23: first payment of \$532,500.00 is due 10/1/22; second in the amount of \$231,600.00 is due 4/1/23. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to award Talbert, ICS the project of asbestos abatement for the residential structure located at 221 W. Scherer St. in the amount not to exceed \$19,425.00. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

#### Information Items

Enrollment was presented. Enrollment is up from last year. Make It reports were included in the packet. A freed on information request was answered from Smart Procurement. This is a quarterly FOIA request. Dan Stewart included a written report in the packet as well. Fall sports are continuing. Mr. Heigert and Mr. Favre gave a presentation on the District's literacy program. Students would be going through a screening process to establish their particular successes and needs. IReady and WIN are being used for this literacy program. New Autism curriculum was purchased with federal grant money. It gives teachers tools to use in particularly trying situations. Each of the Administrators gave an in-depth presentation on the current student report card data and test scores. The Administrators are working on a tracking for individualized learning plans for students as well. SAT scores at the high school are higher than state and national averages. Mrs. Ellis will present "portrait of a graduate" at the October meeting. Math scores at the Middle School were being addressed. Eighth graders will be taking the PSAT in October. Fall sports were coming to an end such as baseball and softball with Mt. Olive. Field trips are being planned for this year. Classroom Volunteers and field trips were put on hold the last 2 years. Dr. Fuerstenau reiterated what a great opportunity we have in the CEPS program to feed our students breakfast and lunch for no charge. A letter will be sent out to address proper etiquette and consequences of actions at sporting events, particularly football games.

#### Closed Session

No closed session.

#### Personnel

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to accept the resignation of Malorie Cashmer, classroom aide effective August 24, 2022. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to accept the resignation of Keating Monroe as Assistant High School Boys Soccer Coach effective immediately. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Ron Anglin to approve the family medical leave request from Kate Hoerchler, Elementary Teacher beginning January 9, 2023 and continuing through March 31, 2023. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the family medical leave request from Patty Goforth, High School Spanish teacher beginning January 3, 2023 and continuing through March 20, 2023. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the family medical leave request from Caeley Stutz, Special Education Teacher, beginning November 4, 2022 and continuing through January 26, 2023. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the family medical leave request from Sarah Malloy, elementary teacher, beginning March 18, 2023 and returning the 2023-2023 school year. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the hire of Jordin Kierbach as an aide to the Make It program effective immediately. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to hire Zachary Finch as a part-time, 15 hours per week, custodian for the District Office and the Revive Alternative school effective immediately. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to hire Megan Evans as an Instructional Tutor for the District effective August 15, 2022. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the hire of Stephanie Reynolds as Head High School Girls Softball coach beginning the 2022-2023 school year. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the hire of Chad Dooley as a CTE Instructor-EMT classes beginning the 2022-2023 school year. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.

Seeing no further action to be taken, a motion was made Valerie Cain and seconded by Jimmy Gorowski to adjourn the meeting at 9:09p.m. Voice Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Motion carried 6-0.