

Litchfield Community Unit District No. 12
Board of Education Meeting
District Office
1100 N Old Route 66
Litchfield, IL. 62056
Tuesday, March 21, 2023
6:00p.m.

The Litchfield Board of Education held their regular monthly meeting beginning at 5:30p.m. at the South Central Illinois Regional Workforce Training and Innovation Center (SCI) 2001 Eilerman Avenue, Litchfield, IL. Board members in attendance included: Julie Abel, President; Ron Anglin, Vice-President; Valerie Cain, Secretary; David Belusko, Mark Bloome and Jimmy Gorowski and Gregg Hires. 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 Tepen, Adam Favre, Jeremy Heigert. Attending: Chris Kuntzman, Technology 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 5:30p.m. at the SCI Center Project location; 2001 Eilerman Ave, Litchfield, IL. 62056. Eric Kohnen, Poettker Construction and Emily Spindler, FGM Architects walked the Board through the progress at the job site. Work is continuing on schedule at the site. Classroom and administrative areas have been laid out and construction has begun inside. The three areas of classes are Automotive, Welding, and Laborer's training. The Board left the job site and reconvened at the District Office located at 1100 N. Old Route 66, Litchfield, IL.

Regular Monthly meeting

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:12p.m. Roll Call was taken with Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski and Hires were in attendance.

Public Input

Miss Darby Braasch, Mr. Kyle Bishop, and Mr. Jeremy Reid requested to address the Board prior to the regular meeting being called to order. They were each given five minutes to speak. Each addressed the subject of High School Girls Basketball program. Miss Braasch, Mr. Bishop, and Mr. Reid requested the Board members consider Coach Drew Logan as the Head Girls Basketball coach. They believe he has the experience and rapport with the student athletes.

Citizens agenda

Jessica Vickery; Amari Vickery; Kaia Vickery; Janet Mazza; Allie Frerichs; Amber Harmon; McKenna Harmon; Rose Sypherd contacted the District office prior to the agenda being posted. They requested to be listed on the Citizens agenda so that they could address the Board regarding the High School Girls Basketball program and open coaching position. Current Coach Rob Corso will retire at the end of this 2022-2023 school year. Mrs. Michaela Gray resigned her position as High School Girls Basketball assistant coach at the February 21st board meeting. Each of the student athletes spoke of their experience with Middle School and/or High School girls basketball. The young ladies voiced their support of Drew Logan as the Head Coach for the program. Mrs. Jessica Vickery and Ms. Rose Sypherd praised Coach Logan for the dedication to not only the programs he coaches but as a teacher and mentor to his students in the District. Each participant was allowed five minutes to address the Board. Approximately 45-50 supporters of Coach Logan were in the audience. Mrs. Julie Abel thanked those who addressed the Board for coming forward.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approve regular and closed session minutes from the February 21, 2023
- Approve monthly bills
- Approve Treasurer's report

Bills payable for March 2023 total \$2,271,667.86. From Education fund: \$279,024.55. From Operations & Maintenance: \$73,984.78. From Transportation: \$40,175.76. From Capital Projects: \$1,408,436.12. From Tort: \$6,590.74. From Health-Life-Safety: \$463,455.91. Ending balance in all funds at February 28, 2023 is \$23,208,661. Balance in operating funds is \$10,477,434. Balance in Capital Projects is \$3,489,236. Balance in Health-Life-Safety is \$7,851,696. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

Fogleman Trust Scholarship

Roger Krabbe and Chad Ruppert gave their annual report on the financial and agriculture side of the Fogleman Farms Trust. The grain bin on one of the farms has not been fixed due to high price and lack of readily available materials. The three farms in the trust made a net income of \$180,000.00 in 2022. On the financial side, the trust is sitting at total assets of \$10.2 million. The farmland value increased considerably which contributed to the \$9.0 million increase from last year. It is projected that 86 scholarships will be handed out this year. A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Gregg Hires to approve setting the Fogleman Scholarship dollar amount to \$2,500.00 for the 2022-2023 school year. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

New Business

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the IASB Executive Superintendent Search agreement. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0. Jim Helton, consultant, Executive Searches with IASB will assist the Board with the Superintendent search.

Peter Raterman, Poettker Construction, brought the Board up to date on the Litchfield Elementary School project and the SCI center. Both are moving forward with minimal delays. A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Gregg Hires to approve the contract change order PCCO # 019 with Poettker construction for the Litchfield Elementary project in the amount of \$ 10,977.20. This change event is for tracking the cost associated with the attached HVAC change orders. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the contract change order PCCO # 020 with Poettker construction for the Litchfield Elementary project in the amount of \$ 4,076.80. This change event is for tracking the cost associated with the addition of interior expansion joints where the admin walls tie into the two-story classroom precast panels. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to the contract change order PCCO # 021 with Poettker construction for the Litchfield Elementary project in the amount of \$ 5,878.61. This change event is for tracking the cost associated with misc. tickets submitted by Litteken Construction at the end of the project. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the contract change order PCCO # 022 with Poettker construction for the Litchfield Elementary project in the amount of \$ 3,464.88. This change event is for tracking the cost associated with temporary heating need for the project over the fall and winter months. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

Emily Spindler of FGM Architects showed the latest drawings for the K-1 Elementary building at the current Colt school. After a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of adding the Pre-K program to the site the board voted to add four additional classrooms. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel; Anglin; Cain; Gorowski; and Hires. Nay: Belusko and Bloome. Motion carried 5-2.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the contract change order PCCO #006 with Poettker construction for the Litchfield SCI Center in the amount of \$ 11,893.44. This change event is for tracking the changes in cost associated with the additional domestic water service work identified in RFP 02 issued 02-09-2023. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the contract change order PCCO #007 with Poettker construction for the Litchfield SCI Center in the amount of \$ 158, 493.31. This change event is for tracking the changes in cost associated with RFP 03. The change is associated with the work to provide the layout, coordination & install of the automotive equipment per the owner's request. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0. The District received a \$230,000.00 donation to cover this Auto equipment and other necessities from the John D. Brubaker Family Foundation.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the annual membership in the Illinois High School Association of Athletics. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski. Hires: Present. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve Board authorization of Part 3 application proposal to be submitted to ISBE for the Area Career Center. This authorization by the Board to submit Part 3 of the proposal to ISBE to establish the Area Career Center designation for the purposes of opening South Central Illinois (SCI) Regional Workforce Training & Innovation Center with the goal to be open for the 2023-2024 school year. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the amended 2022-2023 school calendar. As of this date, the last day of attendance for students will be May 19, 2023 with an early dismissal for Elementary at 1:15pm and the Middle School and High Schools dismissing at 1:30pm. An E-learning days was utilized on January 25, 2023. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the proposed 2023-2024 Board Calendar for regular School Board meetings and Fogleman Trustee meetings. The regular meetings of the Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year will be held at 6:00pm.m on the third Tuesday of each month at the District Office unless otherwise specified; and that said meetings will be limited to 11:00 p.m. adjournment. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

Information Items

Enrollment was presented. 1304 students including the prekindergarten program. Make It reports were included in the packet. OPAA stated that 14,388 breakfasts and 15727 lunches were served in January. Dan Stewart Athletic Director and Bob Witter, Buildings and Grounds/Transportation included their monthly reports in the board packet of information. Camper Panther 2023 will be June 1-June 16th from 8:00am to 1:30pm online registration will open soon. Stem courses are being added to the curriculum at the middle school for next year. Electric guitar engineering, robotics, and flight simulations are few of the options. Several High school students were recognized for achievements this second semester. Registration is underway for the high school students. 16 dual credit classes will be offered next school year.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome for the Board to enter into closed session at 8:35p.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 setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6) 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: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0. A motion was made by Valerie Cain and seconded by Mark Bllome that the Board return to Open Session at 9:28 pm. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

Action following closed session

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the purchase of real property located at 726 South Chestnut Street for the amount of \$21,000.00. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

Personnel

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to accept the resignation of Joshua Postelle as Middle School Special Education teacher at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to accept the resignation of Richard Carlile, Assistant High School Wrestling Coach effective immediately. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the request for Jill Wright to rescind her letter of intent to retire after the 2026-2027 school year. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to accept the resignation of Hannah Tomazzoli, Elementary Teacher at the end of the 2022-223 school year. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the request for family medical leave from Stephanie Reynolds beginning August 9,2023 and returning to work on November 1, 2023. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Gregg Hires to approve the hire of Daniel Kessinger as a High School Math teacher beginning the 2023-2024 school year. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Gregg Hires to approve the hire of Evan Malloy as a High School Science teacher beginning the 2023-2024 school year. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Gregg Hires to approve the hire of Evan Malloy as High School Girls Basketball coach beginning the 2023-2024 school year. Roll Call: YEA: Abel, Bloome, Cain, Hires. NAY: Anglin, Belusko, Gorowski. Motion carried 4-3.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the hire of Sean Vinson as a substitute bus driver for the District beginning immediately. Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the custodial assignments as of July 1, 2023:

Frank Walden will be moved from his evening custodian position at Russell/Colt Schools, to the position as Custodian at the District Office/Revive Alternative School/SCI Regional Workforce Center.

Ron Jett will move from his current daytime custodian position at Colt School, to the same position at the new Elementary School.

Robbie Odorizzi will move from his current daytime custodian position at Russell School, to the position of 4th/5th grade floor custodian at the new Elementary School.

Scott Merano will move from his current position as Activity Custodian for the High School and Middle School, to the position of 2nd and 3rd grade floor custodian at the new Elementary School.

Zachary Finch will change from a part time to a **full time custodian and move from his current custodian position at the District office, to become the Activity Custodian for the High School and Middle School.

Roll Call Vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

Seeing no further action to be taken, a motion was made Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to adjourn the meeting at 9:37p.m. Voice Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, Hires. Motion carried 7-0.