

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF
DWIGHT COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT #232**

**Held in the Dwight High School Cafeteria
On August 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

Board President Bo Partney called the meeting to order at 6:24 p.m.

PRESENT: Mark Christenson; Michael Cornale; Marc Ellis; Cathy Ferguson; Bo Partney; Nick Stipanovich

ABSENT: Eric Scheuer

Also in attendance: Dr. Richard Jancek, Superintendent; Deb Conroy, Secretary; Julie Schultz, Principal; Jeremy Jenkins, Asst. Principal/AD

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andy Pittenger commented on the tax levy and taxing to the maximum. Amy Kargle asked the Board to offer a remote option for Board meetings in the future.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OR REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. Schultz reported that she included the expectations for staff and students on returning to school in the packet; however, guidance is fluid and may change on a day-to-day basis. She noted that current enrollment is 477, with 31 new move-ins and 35 move-outs.

Mr. Jenkins informed the Board that he has held Google trainings with many of our teachers and they have gone very well. Also, it was reported that the IESA has stated that we need to have a 2-year agreement for our Wrestling co-op with Pontiac, and this will need to be addressed.

Dr. Jancek announced that GS PE Teacher Tammy Stolzenbach will serve her 30th year in education at the conclusion of the 2020-21 school year and she received a gift from the Board.

Dr. Jancek reported on damage from a wind storm on the afternoon of August 10th. The storm tore much of the rubber roof off of the main entrance and main office area, resulting in water damage to the new main office floors, ceilings, and much of the office equipment. PSIC has been contacted and we have an adjuster assigned. We have quotes from TomKat Roofing of approximately \$63,000 to repair the roof and from Wright's Furniture and Flooring of approximately \$12,000 to replace the Main Office floors. We have approval to move forward with these repairs from the Claims Adjuster. We also may have some ceiling tiles that contain asbestos and if so will need to have these professionally removed prior to

replacing the ceilings. There was also some damage to the carpet area of the Library, and this will be replaced with laminate. In addition to the damage to the rubber roof, there may be some minor issues with the HVAC lines that are installed on the roof, and he is having them inspected as well later this week. He noted that the HVAC system seems to be working fine at this time. There is someone coming to inspect the copier that we lease with Proven IT later this week, and some other technology may have been damaged and will need inspection. The office secretaries have been moved out of the office—one to the Library and one to the Cafeteria; the administrators have also been displaced. The Main Office entrance will be closed during repairs and with the new return to school guidelines, there are new door assignments for our staff and students that were supposed to use the Main Entrance. Dr. Jancek estimates the loss at approximately \$100,000, but all should be covered by insurance.

Dr. Jancek informed the Board that the security wall has been installed but we are waiting on the new buzz-in system, cameras and locks yet. With the water damage, this portion may be put off for awhile until all repairs have been made.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Dr. Jancek reported that the state currently owes \$16,110.31 in late mandated categorical payments for the 2019-20 school year. FRIS has not yet opened for the 2020-21 school year.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items for consideration on this month's Consent Agenda are as follows:

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Bills
- 3) Accept Resignation, Alycia Ferrari, Paraprofessional
- 4) Accept Retirement Notice, Kathy Johnson, 2nd Shift Custodian
- 5) Accept 1-Year Retirement Notice, Laura Vigna, Grade School Teacher
- 6) Accept Resignation, Paul Warner, Head "B" Baseball Coach
- 7) Approve Employment, Brian Trainor, Head "B" Baseball Coach

Board member Ferguson asked to pull out Consent Agenda item #2 and Board member Ellis asked to pull out Consent Agenda item #5. The Board will vote on these issues separately.

Moved by Ellis, seconded by Ferguson, to approve the Consent Agenda without items #2 and #5, as amended. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Ms. Ferguson addressed the other Board members regarding the \$375 bill to Miller, Tracy for legal fees that were charged to the district due to a request by the Board President that we get a letter from our attorney stating that there is no conflict of interest for Ferguson to sit on the GS Board. Ferguson is also the Athletic Director at the HS and some Board members felt there may be a conflict of interest for her to be on the GS Board, as Ferguson has been asked to sit on several committees and attend several meetings regarding joint school issues due to her employment as HS AD. She felt this letter to be unnecessary as

our attorney had already advised Dr. Jancek that there is no conflict of interest during a phone conversation. She feels it was a waste of taxpayer money and that the GS Board needs to take the advice of the Superintendent as that is what he is hired to do.

Moved by Cornale, seconded by Stipanovich, to approve Consent Agenda item #2 (payment of the monthly bills), as presented. Roll call. Ferguson voted no. All others voted aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Partney, seconded by Stipanovich, to approve Consent Agenda item #5 (Laura Vigna's retirement notice), as presented. Roll call. Ellis voted no. All others voted aye. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dr. Jancek reviewed the actual expenditures vs the 2019-20 budget projections. The district ended the year with a surplus of \$152,852 vs a projected deficit of \$145,141.

Mrs. Schultz informed the Board that she has been notified by the IESA that they will not accept any 1-year agreements for co-op sports teams. Therefore, the 1-year Wrestling agreement that we signed with Pontiac Jr. High last spring is void. She asked the Board to agree to a 2-year contract with PJHS so our students can continue to wrestle.

Moved by Stipanovich, seconded by Christenson, to approve a 2-year agreement for a Wrestling co-op with Pontiac Jr. High School, as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Jancek presented his Proposed 2020-21 Budget to the Board. He is projecting a surplus of \$505,207 over all funds for next year. The budget will be held in the District Office for inspection and will be brought back to the September meeting for final approval.

Dr. Jancek proposed holding a Board retreat at some point in the future to discuss Board relations and long term goals. Some of the Board members felt it might be better to hold this retreat after next Spring's election. Open seats in that election will be those held by Marc Ellis, Cathy Ferguson, Bo Partney and Nick Stipanovich.

Dr. Jancek notified the Board that our \$1,000,000 CD has come due this week. He has contacted Bank of Pontiac regarding rates for a rollover. They offered the following:

13 months—0.7%

28 months—1.1%

He also contacted Peoples Bank of Kewanee to see what rates they are offering currently. Their offers were as follows:

12 months—0.35%

24 months—0.55%

Special—18 months—1.0%

The Board asked Dr. Jancek to go back to Bank of Pontiac to see if they would match the 18 month special being offered by PNBK. If they would match it, they approved moving forward with a rollover in the amount of \$1,250,000.

Board member Eric Scheuer had asked to have Dr. Jancek look into our contract for the farmable acres of the GS property. We currently are in the 2nd year of a 5-year contract with Mike Vigna and Dan Bossert for rights to farm those acres. We received between \$900 and \$1,000 profit from that contract last year. Scheuer wants to look into how much we could receive in income if we cash rented out this acreage.

Moved by Ellis, seconded by Cornale, to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Debbie Conroy, Secretary, District #232

Bo Partney, President, District #232