

Litchfield Community Unit District No. 12  
Board of Education Meeting  
Basement of G.A. Sihler School  
601 South State St. Litchfield, IL. 62056  
Monday, August 31, 2020  
6:00p.m.

The Litchfield Board of Education held a special meeting beginning at 6:00p.m. at G.A. Sihler School ,601 South State Street, Litchfield, IL. 62056. Board members in attendance included: Julie Abel, President; Ron Anglin, Vice President, Valerie Cain, Secretary, David Belusko; Mark Bloome, Mike Fleming and Gregg Hires. Valerie Cain arrived at 6:15 p.m. Also in attendance were: Dr. Gregg Fuerstenau, Superintendent; Kris Adamson, recording secretary. Administrators: Doug Hoster; Jennifer Thompson; Russ Tepen; Jeremy Heigert; and Adam Favre. Bob Witter, Building and Grounds/Transportation Director. John Hanafin of News Herald and Mary Herschelman, Journal News.; Kevin Myer, FGM Architects and Cory Noder of Poettker Construction. Concerned parent and citizen. Masks were worn and social distancing was adhered to the guidelines.

Personnel

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mike Fleming to approve the following personnel report: (All new district personnel, including substitutes, are subject to successful completion of all state and local employment requirements.)

- Approve Scott Zobrist as a Volunteer Coach with the High School Football program beginning the 2020-2021 school term.

A roll call vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Fleming and Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

New Business

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve a resolution for the Litchfield Community Unit School District #12 to participate in Illinois School District Asset Fund. With the intent to sale a large amount of bonds for the construction projects, the district would need the Fund services to secure the bonds. The local banks would have trouble with requirements on such a large bond issue. Dr. Fuerstenau and Della Witter, Business Manager, would be signers on this account. A roll call vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Fleming and Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Gregg Hires and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the Health, Life, Safety (HLS) amendments for Sihler, Madison Park, Colt, and Russell elementary school in the Litchfield School District. FGM Architects and Poettker Construction took on the task of reconciling the list of HLS amendments with the state for the school district. A roll call vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Fleming and Hires. Motion carried 6-0.

Information

Kevin Myer, FGM Architects and Cory Noder of Poettker Construction presented the latest construction plan to the Board. Madison Park will be torn down. The Board will also look at tearing down Russell School. Sihler School could possibly be sold. At this time, Colt School will be upgraded including health, life, safety amendments. Colt School will house Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and First grade. An addition will be built for the Pre-Kindergarten program. In the plans, a commons area will be added to accommodate cafeteria needs and a storm shelter for the complex. The Board voiced concerns for this complex in the area of traffic flow, water drainage, and renovations to the existing building. Mr. Noder and Mr. Myer assured the Board that all of these concerns will be taken into consideration or already

have been addressed in the initial plans. Moving on to an elementary building for grades second through fifth was presented next. This new elementary building will be built on the “old Milnot property”. The Board of Education purchased the land for \$150,000.00 from Litchfield Unlimited at the August 20, 2020 board meeting. Each of the construction sites are still in the planning stages. The rough drawings shown during the presentation were just the beginning. The next step would be to get feedback from teachers, administration, and staff on needs and wants for the buildings. The official design development will continue through the rest of the calendar year. Poettker presented a timeline which included construction to begin as early as March or April of 2021.

Dr. Fuerstenau gave a brief update on how the school year was progressing. After careful consideration and several meetings with Administration, Nurses and Teachers, the decision has been made to continue with the hybrid, in person instruction until further notice. Remote students will continue with the remote learning plan. The District did announce that a positive case of COVID 19 occurred. Action plans for this scenario was carried out. Working with staff, nurse, and Montgomery County Health department it was decided that school may remain open. A push to engage remote learners was organized this week. If remote learners do not do the work assigned there is the chance of failure in those courses. Access to internet was a concern of the Board. WI-FI hotspots in town include the Litchfield Public Library and the parking lots of the school buildings. About a third of the student population have chosen remote learning. Mr. Favre, principal of Sihler and Madison Park schools, addressed the board with his update report for those buildings. First Baptist Church will be open with volunteers to help hybrid students with homework on their remote days. This program will begin after Labor Day. It is not a program of the Litchfield School District. Principal Jeremy Heigert, gave his statistics for Colt and Russell Schools. These schools house second through fifth grade learners. A technology night was organized for parents to receive extra help using the Chromebooks. The event was very well received. Dr. Tepen relayed that students were MAP testing in order to have a better understanding of where that student needs to be placed in classes. This testing is being done virtually. Edgenuity is a computer application used in the teaching of our remote learning students. It is only used for supplemental course work at the Middle School, while it covers all courses for the remote learners at the high school level. Mr. Hoster, high school principal, stated that high school teachers are checking in with remote learners that are on their Enrichment class roster. For attendance, students should log into their Clever account by 3:00pm each day and they must click on an application at that time. Again, the District will continue the Hybrid learning plan.

Seeing no further action to be taken, a motion was made Ron Anglin and seconded by Gregg Hires to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Voice Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Fleming and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.