

**SMITHTON COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 130**

**Smithton, Illinois**

Regular Board Meeting, April 28, 2020

MINUTES

The regular board meeting of the Board of Education of Smithton Community Consolidated School District No. 130 was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2020, in the cafeteria and by video conference, 316 South Hickory, Smithton, Illinois 62285.

Mrs. Etling, Clerk to the Board of Education, recorded minutes.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Dale Barschak at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance

**Roll Call**

Members present: Mr. Lester

Members present via video conference: Ms. Pipher, Mr. Trentman, Mrs. Sutherland, Mr. Barschak and Mr. Whitworth

Members absent: Dr. Schwemmer

Also in attendance were Dr. Wamser, Superintendent, Mrs. Norton joined via video conference.

**Public Comments**

None

**Reports**

Mrs. Etling reported on the following items:

- Completed the Payroll\Accounting conversion to the new Software Vendor, SDS, in April. The board will see new financial reports in the May board packet.
- The district was recently notified by its banks that the rate on the Money Market Accounts held at Citizens Bank and Regions Bank has been reduced.
- She reviewed the Business Report in the packet and highlighted "Potential Impact of COVID-19 on school funding. The district can expect to see flat EBF funding from the state, delayed categorical payments and delayed and possibly lower property tax distributions. Discussions on school consolidation, tax freeze and pension cost shift is likely to be at the forefront.
- The 2019 EAV increased by 6.1%. The tax rate reflecting the voter approved new debt for the building addition will increase by .13 cents for next year.
- The district will be amending its FY20 budget to include the transfer of \$500,000 from the O&M Fund to the Capital Projects Fund and to account for a new Technology Loan to purchase desktop computers and Smart Boards.

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Mrs. Norton commented on how well the teachers and staff have transitioned to remote instruction/learning. Most teachers are reporting a 88%-95% participation rate among our students. IEP meetings are being conducted via Google hangouts. Our Social Worker and Speech Pathologist are also delivering IEP minutes via teleconference.

No Athletic Directors Report due to no events.

Dr Wamser mentioned that he was still exploring options for pick-up and drop off of student belongings. Notification will be sent out along with plans for a tentative graduation date of July 27, 2020. A virtual graduation will be planned as a backup in the event an actual graduation ceremony is not allowed due to restrictions on public gatherings.

Dr. Wamser reported that the Building Construction has been put on hold for a few weeks due to COVID-19 concerns and the Governors social distancing recommendations. We expect to see them gear up by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Priority will be to tear down the blue house.

Dr. Wamser also discussed the HLS amendment for Jr. High Roof Replacement. Mr. Trentman stated he thought it would be more cost effective to go directly to the sub to negotiate and do this work rather than going through the Shores because this is a separate project and was not part of the original scope of the addition. Mr. Trentman also noted that there were several errors in the new Construction Schedule provided in the board packet. He pointed out that the Construction Schedule is a legal document that protects the district and what was provided by Shores lacks detail and contains errors. Dr. Wamser said he would follow-up with the Architect and Shores.

Mr. Whitworth presented the notes from the Buildings and Grounds Committee. The five (5) change orders were discussed at the meeting on March 11, 2020. The 6<sup>th</sup> change order pertaining to the cabinet and casework for a total cost of \$37,000 was put on hold to get feedback from the board whether the installation could be done by our custodial staff and save the district \$18,000. After discussion, all members agreed to move forward with the plan for installation to be done by district staff. Another meeting was held on April 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss the costs associated with additional soil remediation. Mr. Trentman stated that the district should not have to pay for any additional soil remediation costs because Shores should have accounted for it in the contract. He stated that the specs mention bad soil and Shores should have put something in their budget to allow for the remediation. Dr. Wamser agreed to discuss this subject with Shores and the Architect.

### **Consent Agenda Items**

Approved the following: Finance Committee Meeting Minutes and Regular Board Meeting Minutes from February 25, 2020; Buildings and Grounds Meeting Minutes from March 11,

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2020; District bills presented for payment in Exhibit E-6.2 from March and April; prior two months payroll liabilities, prior two months Treasurer's Report and other district financial reports.

A motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented was made by Mr. Lester, seconded by Mrs. Sutherland. Motion carried by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes: Mr. Lester, Mrs. Sutherland, Ms. Pipher, Mr. Trentman, Mr. Barschak, Mr. Whitworth  
Nays: None.

**Unfinished Business**

A motion to consider the approval of Building Project Alternate Bids/Change Orders as presented in Exhibit E-7.1 was made by Ms. Pipher, seconded by Mr. Whitworth. Motion carried by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes: Ms. Pipher, Mr. Whitworth, Mr. Lester, Mrs. Sutherland, Mr. Barschak,  
Nays: Mr. Trentman

Mr. Trentman stated that he thought that Shores was not performing in compliance with the contract and they were paying higher than the prevailing wages.

**New Business**

A motion to approve the resolution to Permanently Transfer \$500,000 from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund, effective immediately, for the purpose of paying authorized capital projects costs was made by Mr. Whitworth, seconded by Mrs. Sutherland. Motion carried by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes: Mr. Whitworth, Mrs. Sutherland, Mr. Barschak, Mr. Lester, Mr. Trentman, Ms. Pipher  
Nays: None

A motion to approve the health life safety amendment was made by Ms. Pipher, seconded by Mr. Lester. All Ayes, motion passes 6-0.

A motion to approve the 2020-2021 Letter of Understanding between Freeburg Community Consolidated School District #70 and Smithton School District #130 for Early Childhood Services was made by Mr. Lester, seconded by Mr. Trentman. Motion carried by the following vote on roll call:



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Ayes: Mr. Lester, Mr. Trentman, Mr. Whitworth, Mrs. Sutherland, Mr. Barschak, Ms. Pipher  
Nays: None

**Information**

Dr. Wamser reported the district enrollment is 568.

The board acknowledged and thanked the entire staff and administration on their efforts in adapting to this new environment under these extraordinary circumstances. Mr. Lester commented how impressed he was and that their efforts have been inspirational. Mrs. Sutherland discussed ideas on how to celebrate our 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Details from administration will be forthcoming.

**Closed Session**

Mrs. Sutherland moved, seconded by Mr. Whitworth, that a closed session be called at 8:14pm for the purpose of 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). All Ayes, motion passes 6-0.

A motion was made to return to open session at 9:21pm by Mrs. Sutherland, seconded by Ms. Pipher. All Ayes, motion passes 6-0

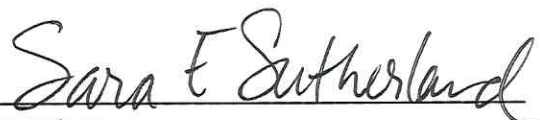
**Personnel**

No Items.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mrs. Sutherland, seconded by Ms. Pipher to adjourn the meeting at 9:23p.m. All Ayes, motion passes 6-0.

  
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President

  
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Secretary