

SMITHTON COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 130

Smithton, Illinois

Regular Board Meeting, January 26, 2021

MINUTES

The regular board meeting of the Board of Education of Smithton Community Consolidated School District No. 130 was held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, in the school gymnasium, 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: Ms. Pipher, Mr. Trentman, Mrs. Sutherland, Mr. Barschak, Mr. Whitworth and Mr. Lester.

Members absent: Dr. Schwemmer

Others in attendance: Dr. Phillips, Interim Superintendent, Mrs. Norton, Principal, Mr. Keefe, Athletic Director, Megan Greive, School Nurse. Many of the Smithton School teaching staff and community members were also at the meeting.

Public Comments

Jessica Wheatley, staff member, spoke about the challenges providing instruction to full time in person students while also providing a second mode of instruction to those students who are full remote. Community members Stephanie Gaubatz, Natasha Tucker, Shanan Hesseldenz, Mindy Strickland and Sarah Majzel each spoke and advocated for students to return full time to in person learning. Some expressed concern that the district has not communicated a clear plan or strategy to bring the students back in person full time. Some community members are asking for better guidelines, better communication and continuity of curriculum throughout the grade levels.

Reports

Mrs. Etling requested that the board set a finance committee meeting for February 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at which time she will present the Mid-Year Budget Review, the IL State Board of Ed FY22 Budget, and talk about the new \$900 Billion Federal COVID stimulus package that was signed into law on December 27, 2020. She mentioned that \$54 billion in funds will be allocated to K-12 schools. The state is still finalizing the amount each district will receive. The funds should be used to address the learning loss; preparing schools for reopening; testing, repairs, and technology.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 26, 2021

Page 2

Mrs. Norton reported that she sent out a google form on Monday, asking parents to respond with their choice of full remote or full in person. Wednesday is the deadline to respond. All those that did not respond will be called by one of our staff members. We are hoping for 100% response so that we know how many students will be going to full remote.

Mr. Keefe reported that the girls' volleyball season could begin next week. However, basketball is only allowed to have no-contact open gym play. Looks like season will be played with no spectators. Smithton will livestream all home games.

Mr. Whitworth reported that the Buildings & Grounds Committee will meet on February 1, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Phillips reported that the new part of the building addition will be complete by April 1, 2021. He is meeting with the Architect on a weekly basis.

Consent Agenda Items

Approved the following: Tax Levy Hearing Minutes and Regular Board Meeting Minutes from December 22, 2020, and Special Board Meeting minutes from January 6th, January 7th and January 12th, 2021. District bills presented for payment in Exhibit E-6.2 in the amount of \$405,307.72; prior month payroll and liabilities, Treasurer's Report; Transfer of Construction Funds from Citizens MMA \$390,279.50 to Regions Operating Account for reimbursement, 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, Ms. Pipher, Mr. Trentman, Mr. Barschak, Mr. Whitworth, Mrs. Sutherland.

Nays: None.

Unfinished Business

Dr. Phillips gave an update on the Return to School Plan. He recommended that the students return to full in person instruction 4 days a week with Wednesday being the remote day. He mentioned that a committee including six teachers, two board members and administration met last week to work out a plan to bring the students back full in person. The plan provides that K-5 will begin full in person starting February 8th and junior high will come back the following week. The board discussed the plan and how it would be implemented. Mr. Trentman expressed concerns he has heard from the community regarding inconsistency from grade to grade regarding live streaming. He wanted to know if all teachers were providing 5

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 26, 2021

Page 3

hours of instruction and what those 5 hours of instruction look like. A couple of teachers spoke about the challenges if we go to 5 days a week and not having enough planning time to meet the needs of their full remote students. A few community members spoke up and suggested that maybe the district should hire a some remote teachers to lessen the burden on the classroom teacher.

Mr. Barschak concluded the discussion and said that the Back to School Plan will be finalized on Monday February 1, 2021 and will be posted on the website.

New Business

Mrs. Norton recommended that the graduation date be set for May 17, 2021. Details will follow regarding where and when it will be held.

Information

The board thanked the teachers for doing a wonderful job during these challenging times.

District enrollment is currently at 549 students.

Personnel

A motion to approve the employment of Vicki Norton as principal for an additional year was made by Mr. Lester, seconded by Mr. Whitworth. Motion carried by the following vote on roll call:

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

Nays: None.

The Board tabled the motion to approve the employment of Brandi Bruley as Superintendent.

A motion to approve a resolution to dismiss Timothy Keefe, a certified employee serving his first year of probationary teaching, effective the end of the 2020-2021 school term was made by Mrs. Sutherland, seconded by Mr. Trentman. All Ayes, motion passes 6-0.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 26, 2021

Page 4

Closed Session

Mrs. Sutherland moved, seconded by Ms. Pipher, that a closed session be called at 9:05pm 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 10:32pm by Mrs. Sutherland, seconded by Ms. Pipher. All Ayes, motion passes 6-0.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mrs. Sutherland, seconded by Mr. Trentman to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 p.m. All Ayes, motion passes 6-0.



President



Secretary