

SMITHTON COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 130

Smithton, Illinois

Regular Board Meeting, December 22, 2020

MINUTES

The regular board meeting of the Board of Education of Smithton Community Consolidated School District No. 130 was held on Tuesday, December 22, 2020, 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 7:01 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, Mr. Lester and Dr. Schwemmer.

Members absent: None

Others in attendance: Dr. Phillips, Interim Superintendent, Mrs. Norton, Principal, Mr. Keefe, Athletic Director, Megan Greive, School Nurse, Erica Brueggemann and Jon Sehr, Teachers, and from the public, Stephanie Gaubatz and Sarah Majzel.

Public Comments

Stephanie Gaubatz inquired about the school district's plan to return students to full time in person instruction. She pointed out the big discrepancy between surrounding schools providing in person instruction vs Smithton's decision to remain full remote. She advocated for students to return to in school learning. Sarah Majzel spoke to the board asking what is the district's plan to return students to in person learning. She would like the board to consider this to be the district's top priority because students need to be back in the classroom for learning.

Reports

Mrs. Etling asked the board to approve two additional bills under the consent agenda items. These two bills were not included in the board packet because they were received after the board packet was sent out. One to Ben Hoffeditz for mileage reimbursement \$43.70 and the other to Zaner-Bloser for \$24.40.

Mrs. Norton highlighted some of the items in her Principal Report. She commented on the great job the staff did in preparing the two Christmas music videos sent out to our families wishing them a Merry Christmas. On December 16th, Andy Stehl, architect from FGM, gave our staff a tour of the new building construction. They were very impressed and excited to see the

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development. Teachers will return to school on January 4th as an institute days and students will return to remote learning the following day, Tuesday, January 5th

Mr. Keefe reported that the SIJHSAA met at 2:00 p.m. and he has not heard any updates as of yet.

Mr. Whitworth reported that the Buildings & Grounds Committee met on December 14th. The change order as listed in the packet was not approved by the committee. Andy Stehl sent over a new change order for \$8,300 this afternoon, however it may need further revision after consulting with the architect about the proposed plumbing hours included in the bid. Still on pace with time line.

Dr. Phillips addressed the following with the board:

- a) Bus Entrance-Asphalt parking lot. Will use same entrance to enter and exit due to the smaller size of the 2nd entrance. The Transportation Director came over with a bus to test out the parking situation.
- b) Basketball Hoops-Mr. Whitworth and Mr. Trentman will look at where to place hoops and advise.
- c) Will meet with the two Freeburg Districts to discuss 2021 calendar.

Consent Agenda Items

Approved the following: Finance Committee Meeting Minutes and Regular Board Meeting Minutes from November 23, 2020, Buildings & Grounds Meeting Minutes from December 14, 2020 and Special Board Meeting minutes from December 8th, December 15th and December 17th, 2020. District bills presented for payment in Exhibit E-6.2 in the amount of \$577,821.07 with two additional bills (Ben Hoffeditz-\$43.70 and Zaner-Bloser-\$24.40); prior month payroll and liabilities, Treasurer's Report; Transfer of Construction Funds from Citizens MMA \$454,158.50 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. Whitworth, seconded by Mr. Lester. Motion carried by the following vote on roll call:

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

Nays: None.

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Unfinished Business

A motion to approve the 2020 Tax Levy as presented in Exhibit E-7.1 (total property taxes to be levied of \$3,861,221) was made by Dr. Schwemmer, seconded by Ms. Pipher. Motion carried by the following vote on roll call:

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

Nays: None.

A motion to accept the following board policy updates, was made by Ms. Pipher, seconded by Mr. Trentman. All Ayes, motion passes 7-0.

5:270-Employment At-Will, (Educational Support Personnel)

6:315-High School Credit for students in Grade 7 or 8

3:40-Superintendent (General School Administration)

4:90 Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds

6:20 School Year Calendar and Day

6:340 Student Testing and Assessment Program

7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations

7:140 Search and Seizure

7:300 Extracurricular Athletics

A discussion took place to update the board on the Districts COVID-19 Guidance Document. The document was presented by Dr. Phillips and school nurse, Megan Greive. Dr. Phillips stated that the students will return to Hybrid Plan starting January 19th. Decisions have been made to keep the safety of the students and staff as the priority. Mr. Barschak stated that he would like to see admin do the following and have a Plan to share with the board by the next meeting in January:

- a) Put the District Plan Document on the website; send out by Teacherease
- b) Update Website weekly with district COVID statistics
- c) Have a Plan Document showing Creative Options for bringing Students Back to Full Time In Person Learning. What are the options? What are the potential risks? How do we mitigate these risks?

Community has expressed frustration with being full remote and inconsistency in instruction per grade level. Some concern with teachers using just videos for instruction vs live instruction. It was pointed out that it is necessary to provide different instructional methods depending on the grade level of students.

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Mr. Lester suggested we identify congestion points, like the cafeteria and bus and look at creative ways to mitigate the social distancing concerns with those areas. Mr. Whitworth pointed out that the classrooms are in fact big enough to maintain 6 ft social distancing. It was suggested that the district look at ISBEs website to see how other schools are implementing their in-person learning giving the CDC guidelines. It was suggested that the district inquire into the statistics and that there may not be a big differential in COVID cases for Full-In Person Learning vs Hybrid Learning.

New Business

None.

Information

The music videos sent out by the staff were enjoyable and funny. Excellent job!

District enrollment is currently at 543 students.

Closed Session

Dr. Schwemmer moved, seconded by Mrs. Sutherland, that a closed session be called at 8:35pm 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). The selection of a person to fill a public office, including a vacancy in a public office, when the District is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the District is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3).

All Ayes, motion passes 7-0.

A motion was made to return to open session at 9:45pm by Ms. Pipher, seconded by Dr. Schwemmer. All Ayes, motion passes 7-0.

Personnel

A motion to approve compensation for staff was made by Mr. Trentman, seconded by Mr. Barschak. Motion carried by the following vote on roll call:

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

Nays: None.

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Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Schwemmer, seconded by Ms. Pipher to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 p.m. All Ayes, motion passes 7-0.



President



Secretary