

Lexington Community Unit #7 School District
Lexington, Illinois
Regular Board Meeting
February 20, 2020

President Jason Thomas opened the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. Roll was called with the following members present: Karin Atkins, Mike Beard, Andy Killian, Andrea McBurney, Chris Olson, and Jason Thomas. Also present were Paul Deters; Superintendent, Julie Strating; Elementary Principal, Jennifer McCoy; Junior High/High School Principal, and Patti Thomas; recording secretary. There was one visitor present.

President Jason Thomas led the board with The Pledge of Allegiance.

Amanda Carter, Pre-K/ Early Childhood teacher, gave a presentation to the board on the Littlest Learners program. This program is funded by a grant that Amanda was awarded through the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation Inc. The program is designed for children 0-5 years of age. Over the past year we have had over 50 children participate in the program. Amanda was awarded another \$6,000 again this year to focus on nutrition. The new program will be called “Lex” Go- Get Moving. This program will focus on physical fitness as well as nutrition education and will be for children 0-10 years of age.

Karin Atkins moved to approve the Consent Agenda:

- A.) Minutes from the January 16, 2020 Regular and Closed Session Board Meeting
- B.) Lexington February 2020, regular bills, the payroll liabilities and necessary additional payments made in January, 2020, and ratify Tri-County Special Education Association’s bills for January, 2020.
- C.) District Finances: January 31,2020 Treasurer’s Report.
- D.) Approve the maternity leave for Emma Long-Ingram
- E.) Approve the resignation of Micci Brown as paraprofessional effective at the end of the 2019-20 school year.
- F.) Approve Board Policy Changes: 5:20, 7:20, 7:180, 5:30, 5:20, 5:200, 5:29, 5:25, 5:330, 6:150.

Seconded by Andrea McBurney. Roll call vote:

Atkins	- yes	McBurney	- yes
Beard	- yes	Olson	- yes
Killian	- yes	Thomas	- yes

Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent, Paul Deters, reported on the following:

- Governor Pritzker proposed \$350 million for evidence based funding, a figure he even admitted is “not nearly enough to fund schools properly.” However, \$150 million of that amount will be held in reserves and only released if the graduated income tax passes, causing the new tax rate structure to kick in January 1, 2021, bringing with it the additional revenue. That leaves \$200 million of new EBF dollars that would be distributed the first half of FY 2021 under Pritzker’s budget proposal, primarily to Tier 1 districts and a small number of districts in Tier 2. Under this plan, we are a Tier 2 District and would most likely see no increase to our state funding next year.

- The federal government has proposed significant cuts to the Dept. of Education. We receive approximately \$300,000 in federal funds this past year, consisting mainly of breakfast and lunch program reimbursement, Title Grants, and special education.
- A new state law requires each school district to assemble a “Threat Assessment Team” This team must be assembled of a school administrator, psychologist, social worker, counselor, teacher, and law enforcement. Our team has been created and will begin undergoing training and working on implementing plans/ protocols for our district. The team will conduct threat assessments, address aberrant, dangerous, or threatening behavior on campus and provide guidance and best practices for preventing violence and providing supportive services.
- Lexington Students are taking 195 dual credit hours through Heartland Community College this year, equaling to a savings of \$31,260 for these students and families. Over the past three years, Lexington Students have accumulated 631 dual credit hours for a savings of over \$97,000 (based on Heartland’s tuition and fees). This is a fantastic opportunity for students to begin to earn college credit, while earning high school credit as well. We are continuing to explore new ways to increase our dual credit opportunities for our students.
- Bloomington Area Career Center continues to expand its opportunities and offerings for our students. Currently, we have 11 students who attend BACC with four of them getting honored next week for induction into the Technical Honor Society: Jayden Standish, Skyler Friedmanky, Madison Barth, and Kaelyn Corkery. We currently have 13 students signed up for next year.
- The Illinois Laborers’ & Contractors is offering a new program called the Joint Apprenticeship & Training Program for Juniors & Seniors. This program will provide educational activities both within the classroom and within an actual supervised work setting, allowing the student to become more knowledgeable and competent in the skills of a Construction Craft Laborer and allow them to develop basic technical skills in many different areas.

Junior High/ High School Principal Jennifer McCoy reported on the following:

Enrollment as of 02/20/2020 for 6th-12th Grades: 271

- 6th Grade: 42
- 7th Grade: 48
- 8th Grade: 38
- 9th Grade: 42
- 10th Grade: 34
- 11th Grade: 38
- 12th Grade: 29
- Offsite: 1

- Mr Steidinger sent out a survey to gauge student interest and capacity to participate in Bass Fishing this week. About 25% of our high school students have completed the survey: 13 responded that they would like to join (9 of those participate in a spring sport? And 9 want to learn more about it (4 of those plan to participate in a spring sport
- We have had some changes to our course offerings. Students were excited to learn that we're going to offer Speech, Life Success, Workplace Success (with HCC), and we're adjusting Algebra II to be Algebra II with Geometry. These courses help us align our curriculum better with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Career Pathways and goals for Career and Technical Education (CTE). We're continuing to look at other courses that can improve as well as how we can diversify other course offering.
- ISBE is in the process of updating its Federal Perkins Grant, which is a major source of funding CTE. The vision/ mission for Illinois' CTE is to align to industry needs, rigorous curriculum that prepares students for the job, and career connections. Criteria for including a career pathway is that it leads to a living wage job and the jobs in-demand. While there has been a lot of discussion on increasing offerings in the CTE realm, much of the State's focus in including strategies that allow a student to enter their careers sooner (often through dual credit).
- Congratulations to the following students that will be inducted into the Technical Honor Society on Tuesday, February 25th at the Bloomington Area Career Center: Skyler Friedmanky, Madison Barth, Jayden Standish and Kaelyn Corkery.

Upcoming Dates:.

- Feb 25th: BACC Technical Honor Society
- Mar 3rd: College 101
- March 13th-15th: Spring Musical
- March 11th: Part II, James Nottingham (Leadership Team)
- March 17th: Freshman Orientation
- March 31st- April 6th: IAR Testing
- April 9th: College and Career Fair
- April 14th: SAT Testing

Elementary Principal Julie Strating reported on the following:

- Pre-K- 5th Enrollment 237
 - Preschool: 19
 - Kindergarten: 29
 - 1st Grade: 31
 - 2nd Grade: 45
 - 3rd Grade: 39
 - 4th Grade: 36
 - 5th Grade: 36
 - Offsite: 2

- Our staff participated in a school in-service day on Monday, February 3rd in our building and on the afternoon of Friday, February 14th at ISU. Topics discussed in our building include 504 plans, special education caseloads for next year, science and social studies curriculum development. We also played a few rounds of trivia for staff morale to start the day.
- At ISU we listened to Lester Laminack who is a specialist in children's literacy and a professional at Western Carolina University. He used humor to address the crowd and ways to engage students. We were pleased to have 100% staff in attendance for this event.
- We completed winter benchmarking and conducted our January data day. New learning groups have moved forward and we will review these in March with a newly-added data day.
- Mrs. Bachman and I are working to finalize state testing for both the IAR (Illinois Assessment of Readiness) and the ISA (Illinois Science Assessment). IAR is grades 3-5 and ISA is grade 5 only. All testing for elementary students will be completed in April this year.
- On Tuesday, February 11th, we had a visit from Mr. Bob Tarter and his Animalogy assembly. He brought several creatures to entertain our staff and students. This was our 4th or 5th year bringing him back and he is a crowd favorite each year.
- We followed our current alternative learning plan effectively last Thursday and Friday morning. Our staff is experiencing some trial and errors to determine the appropriate amount of rigor and time on task for each grade level, but overall I believe we succeeded in conducting off-site learning based on staff and parent feedback. Like anything new, we need experience to know how to improve and now we have plans in place to make this better in the future.
- We were inspected on Tuesday (2/18) and had a perfect score! Kudos to Molly, Ashley, Lois and Cathy (along with Grant, Eric, Dave and Kim) for their hard work.

Upcoming Events:

- Feb 28th: Purple Pride Assembly 1:45 pm
- March 13th: End of 3rd Quarter
- March 31st: Kindergarten Orientation
- April 4th: PTO Carnival 5:00 pm
- April 6-8th: Developmental Screenings

The Finance/ Personnel committee reported that they are continuing the negotiation talks with the LEA.

Karin Atkins made the motion to approve the 2020-21 school calendar as presented.
Seconded by Andy Killian. Roll call vote:
Motion carries.

Andrea McBurney made the motion to go into executive session at 7:58 pm to discuss the Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representative, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(2) Seconded by Mike Beard.
Motion carries.

Mike Beard made the motion to go into open session at 8:18 p.m. Seconded by Andy Killian
Motion carries.

Karin Atkins made the motion to approve Jeff Doll Sr. as volunteer high school girls' softball coach for the 2020 season. Seconded by Andrea McBurney. Roll call vote:

Beard	- yes	Olson	- yes
Killian	- yes	Thomas	- yes
McBurney	- yes	Atkins	- yes

Motion carried unanimously

Andrea McBurney made the motion to approve Teresa Ciulla as a route driver pending certification. Seconded by Andy Killian. Roll call vote:

Killian	- yes	Thomas	- yes
McBurney	- yes	Atkins	- yes
Olson	- yes	Beard	- yes

Motion carried unanimously

Chris Olson made the motion to approve the new bus lease with Midwest Transit as presented. Seconded by Mike Beard.

Roll call vote:

McBurney	- yes	Atkins	- yes
Olson	- yes	Beard	- yes
Thomas	- yes	Killian	- yes

Motion carried unanimously

Andy Killian made the motion to approve the maternity leave for Alyssa Richart. Seconded by Andrea McBurney.

Roll call vote:

Olson	- yes	Beard	- yes
Thomas	- yes	Killian	- yes
Atkins	- yes	McBurney	- yes

Motion carried unanimously

The board had the first reading of the following Policies:

- a) 5:50: Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco and Cannabis Prohibition.
- b) 8:30: Visitors to and Conduct on School Property
- c) 5:20: Workplace Harassment Prohibited
- d) 7:150: Agency and Police Interviews
- e) 6:60: Curriculum Content
- f) 6:300: Graduation Requirements
- g) 7:270: Administering Medicines to Students

Andy Killian moved to adjourn at 8:49 p.m. Seconded by Mike Beard. Motion carried unanimously.

Jason Thomas, President

Andrea McBurney, Secretary