

Lexington Community Unit #7 School District
Lexington, Illinois
Regular Board Meeting
May 18, 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, Jamie Farrell, 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 were no visitors present.

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

There was no public participation.

Andy Killian moved to approve the Consent Agenda:

- A.) Minutes from the April 16, 2020 Regular and Closed Session Board Meeting
- B.) Lexington May 2020, regular bills, the payroll liabilities and necessary additional payments made in April, 2020, and ratify Tri-County Special Education Association's bills for April, 2020.
- C.) District Finances: April 30, 2020 Treasurer's Report.
- D.) Approve to set June 30, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. for Amended FY 20 Budget Hearing
- E.) Approve to set June 30, 2020 at 5:05 p.m. for Regular Board of Education meeting for month
- F.) Approve keeping all executive session minutes for the past 12 months closed
- G.) Approve the resignation of Shane Little as 6th Grade Softball coach effective immediately
- H.) Approve the resignation of Rob Haslett as Varsity Boys Basketball coach effective immediately
- I.) Approve the authorization to begin the FY 21 Budget
- J.) Approve for the Superintendent to apply for the maximum FY 21 IDEA grant
- K.) Approve the consolidated application and Title 1 plan
- L.) Approve the transfer of \$14,168.83 from Working Cash to IMRF/ Social Security Fund.
- M.) Approve the transfer of \$10,410.79 from Working Cash to Tort.

Seconded by Andrea McBurney. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Superintendent, Paul Deters, reported on the following:

- The staff has been busy putting the final touches on the end of the school year with virtual ceremonies, material drop off and pick up, and plans for our Graduation this coming Friday. We were able to have a small moment with our retirees, Mrs. Enata, Ms. Duffee, and Mrs. Kaiser today. Plans for more formal ceremony with their families are on hold until the beginning of the school year. Kudos to our entire staff for their flexibility, creativity, determination and the care that went into the conclusion of this school year.

- We received one more categorical payment for transportation and special education at the end of April. Fingers crossed that maybe we will receive one more giving us four payments for the year.
- We also received two more payments of CPPRT. I do not expect to receive any more of these payments.
- Financial implication of how COVID-19 will affect schools and the state of Illinois are clearly unknown at this point. Early projections are suggesting that school plan to lose about \$1,000/ pupil in state funding for FY 21.
- ISBE has set up a grant process for schools to be able to apply for CARES funding from the federal government. I will be participating in a webinar tomorrow to learn more about this new process. I believe the district will have the opportunity to get around \$40,000 in funding that is a one-time revenue stream to help off-set COVID- 19 expenses.
- McLean County tax bill were sent out last week. We are hopeful to get around 75% of the early tax receipts before June 30th.
- I received an email from the Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Dan Brady informing me how to begin the process of acquiring the grant that Representative Brady talked to us about.
- The General Assembly is set to convene for three days this week in hopes of passing a budget among other items on their list.
- While other states have already drawn up plans for how to address school in the fall, ISBE and Illinois are not one of those states. Currently, we have been encouraged to stock up on cleaning supplies, PPE, and technology to be able to support remote learning if needed. Neither ISBE, nor the state government, is assisting districts with acquisitions of any of these materials.
- A survey of our teachers showed that currently 75% of them support some sort of balanced approach to the start of the school year while the other 25% supported face to face instruction. There was no support for using remote learning as the only option.

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

- A virtual/ live 8th Grade Promotion took place on Thursday, May 14th. Special thank you to Mr. Peacock and his daughter, Claire, for their help in putting together the video!
- If you haven't had a chance to check out the awesome painting in front of the high school, please take a moment to do so. We've had 6 very dedicated seniors who have outdone themselves!
- We're looking forward to holding Commencement this Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. We're hoping for clear skies and comfortable temperatures.
- With the new hires we are able to be creative with our scheduling. We are able to add the following to the schedule:
 - An 8th grade Spanish Exploration, exploratory class which will introduce students to Spanish.
 - New ELA teacher will take on an ELA RtI/MTSS period.
 - Shifting the exploratory will allow the ELA teachers to concentrate on their "levels" as well as offer an English "Help" during study hall.

- We are offering two new courses this coming year, and the students were excited to enroll in these classes:
 - Success Ed, Dual Credit with Heartland Community College (3 hours)
 - Speech
- Congratulations Mr. Wiltz spent part of his quarantine time applying for grants, and it paid off! He received notice today that the Ag Department will receive \$1,300 for welding equipment and supplies.

Elementary Principal Julie Strating reported on the following:

- We held our May purple pride assembly featuring the Kindergarten class by sending out a video. We filmed our end of the year assembly recognizing IPA Awards Winners, honor roll, perfect attendance, student council members, and the top Purple Pride recipients of the year. Mrs. Long-Ingram organized a virtual art fair for students in grade K-12 and sent it to our families. We sent a “see you later” video to our elementary families on the last official day of learning. WE also completed another virtual spirit week for the final week. Our staff has done an amazing job making all of these events happen for our students and their families.
- Our teachers remained professional throughout the process by planning worthwhile and appropriate instruction, organizing frequent zoom meetings with themes for the kids, conducting door drops and phone calls as appropriate, and participating in our daily read aloud video. Way to go, staff!
- We are scheduled to conduct our screenings on June 3rd and 4th. We will be using a social distancing model to help us complete this on site while following what we believe will be the state guidelines for June.
- We have had several discussions this school year culminating in a video presentation by me to the staff on the topic of RTi and WIN time for next year. WIN stands for “What I Need” and it will be our dedicated time each day to give each student some instruction customized to their ability level. I am excited to see how this can improve our already-successful instruction in the grade school.
- Nurse Pam and Wendy Bachman deserve a special shout-out for their assistance with families whose children witnessed the devastating fire in our community earlier this month. Pam and Wendy both were on site that morning to assist, and both have returned to those homes frequently in recent weeks to provide love and guidance. This is just another example of how these ladies are willing to go above and beyond.

Mike Beard made the motion to go into executive session at 8:45 pm to discuss the

a. Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of its employees. [Section 2 (c) (2)]

b. Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees [Section 2 (c) (1)]

Seconded by Karin Atkins.

Motion carries.

Karin Atkins made the motion to go into open session at 8:43 p.m. Seconded by Mike Beard.

Motion carried.

Mike Beard made the motion to approve the negotiated agreement with the Lexington Education Association for July 1, 2020- June 30, 2023. Seconded by Andrea McBurney. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Chris Olson made the motion to approve a 3% salary increase for Non-Certified personnel for the 2020-2021 school year. Seconded by Andy Killian. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Karin Atkins made the motion to approve the placement on the salary schedule for the following personnel due to minimum wage increase: Cathy Payne moves to \$10.00 per hour and Lois Thompson moves to \$12.00 per hour beginning July 1, 2020. Seconded by Mike Beard. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Jamie Farrell made the motion to approve a 1.5% salary increase and a 2% insurance stipend increase for the Elementary Principal, JH/HS Principal, and Athletic Director/Dean of Students for the 2020-2021 school year. Seconded by Andrea McBurney. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Chris Olson made the motion to employ Ashley Hardman as a 12-month employee with a \$12.00 per hour pay rate effective immediately. Seconded by Karin Atkins. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Andy Killian made the motion to approve the second reading of Policy 8:20: Community Use of School Facilities. Seconded by Andrea McBurney.

Motion carries

Andrea McBurney made the motion to approve the purchase of a new Social Studies Curriculum for Grades 3rd -8th. Seconded by Andy Killian. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Andrea McBurney made the motion to approve the fee schedule for 2020-21 school year. Seconded by Jamie Farrell.

Motion carries

Chris Olson made the motion to approve the irrevocable letter of retirement from Holly Burk at the completion of the 2023-24 school year. Seconded by Mike Beard. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Karin Atkins made the motion to hire Jody Ryczyn as Foreign Language Teacher for the 2020-21 school year. Seconded by Andy Killian. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Jamie Farrell made the motion to hire Sarah Rampey as Junior High Language Arts Teacher for the 2020-21 school year. Seconded by Chris Olson. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Andy Killian made the motion to approve the facility work by United Bat Control Inc. Seconded by Mike Beard.

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

Motion carried unanimously

Jamie Farrell moved to adjourn at 9:07 p.m. Seconded by Andrea McBurney. Motion carried unanimously.

Jason Thomas, President

Andrea McBurney, Secretary