

Lexington Community Unit #7 School District
Lexington, Illinois
Regular and Special Board Meeting
September 19, 2019

President Jason Thomas opened the budget hearing at 6:55 p.m.

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

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, Jennifer McCoy; Junior High/High School Principal, Julie Strating; Elementary Principal, Patti Thomas recording secretary; and one visitor.

Superintendent Deters reviewed the FY20 proposed budget as presented.

Karin Atkins moved to close the budget hearing at 7:04 p.m. Seconded by Mike Beard Motion carries.

President Jason Thomas opened the regular meeting at 7:05 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, Jennifer McCoy; Junior High/High School Principal, Julie Strating; Elementary Principal, Patti Thomas recording secretary and two visitors.

Andrea McBurney moved to approve the Consent Agenda:

- A.) Minutes from the August 12, 2019, Regular Board Meeting
- B.) Lexington September 2019, regular bills, the payroll liabilities and necessary additional payments made in August, 2019, and ratify Tri-County Special Education Association's bills for August, 2019.
- C.) District Finances: August 31, 2019, Treasurer's Report.
- D.) Set October 5, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. as Board Retreat.
- E.) Approval of Amy Burcenski's Maternity Leave Request
- F.) Approved the letter of resignation from Shelley Steffen as Elementary Secretary effective December 20, 2019.
- G.) Approval of 5 Year Board Policy Review: 2:105, 2:110, 2:140, 2:140-E, 2:170, 2:230, 2:240, 2:40, 2:50, 2:60, 2:80-E, 3:60, 4:140, 4:20, 4:30, 4:90, 5:130, 5:180, 5:35, 5:40, 6:10, 6:110, 6:120, 6:190, 6:230, 6:30, 6:340, 6:40, 6:65, 7:170, 7:185, 7:330, 8:25, 8:95.

Seconded by Karin Atkins. 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:

- We have recently gone through a bond rating review by S & P Global Ratings. The review reflected an upgrade in the district's financial shape and upgraded our rating from an "A-" to an "A+" The stable outlook reflects our view that we will not change the rating within the two year outlook timeframe. We anticipate the district will maintain structural balance and that reserves will remain strong.
- There is continued talks coming out of Springfield that revolve around the legislature making a huge push for Property Tax Relief/ Freeze and Pension Shift. There is a belief that the Governor and the super majority will make both of these a reality but there are not enough details on how this would look at this time. I have spoken to Rep. Dan Brady regarding my thoughts on both of these topics and plan to continue to monitor this situation closely.
- There will be a dedication ceremony for Watt's Garden on October 10 at 1:45 p.m. The work to the garden is nearing completion with some rocks, plaques, and plants to still be added.
- The work to drop the ceiling in the HS guidance counselor's office will be completed by the end of the week. We anticipate that this should correct the issue with the lack of privacy for that room.
- Entre Solutions has almost completed the installation of the outdoor security cameras. They should be up and running within the week.
- We have purchased Wi-Fi hotspots through Verizon Wireless Government Program to be able to have on our four main school buses. This will allow students access to free Wi-Fi while on our buses during our daily routes, our field trips, and on our athletic contests. The hotspots are mobile and have the ability to be used in other situations such as power outage at school, emergency reunification, etc. I have been piloting these this week on one of our buses. So far, the feedback has been positive. I plan to make this information known to our families and students as soon as we have everything prepared. We are under no obligation to keep these hotspots and can cancel at any time.
- We will be meeting with the LEA to develop a plan for the E-Learning days this year, in place of snow day. We will present the plan to the board for approval at the October board meeting.
-

Athletic Director, Isaac Steidinger, arrived at the meeting at 7:15.

Morgan Barnes presented to the board a proposal to add sideline cheerleading at the junior high level. The board discussed the proposal and had a few questions, what the cost to the district will be, what the interest level is, and how it will work with other sports overlapping.

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

- Enrollment as of 9/19/19 for 6th-12th Grades: 274
- 6th Grade: 43
 - 7th Grade: 49
 - 8th Grade: 38
 - 9th Grade: 42
 - 10th Grade: 34
 - 11th Grade: 39
 - 12th Grade: 29
 - Offsite: 1
- Congratulations to the JH Girls Softball team for winning the Regional Championship!! The Lady Minutemen defeated Corpus Christi Monday night with a final score of 15-8. Our Sectional is this Saturday in LeRoy at 11:00 AM, against Villa Grove.
 - The junior high boy's baseball team won the first round of Regional play against Saunemin last night and will play against Epiphany this Saturday at Noon.
 - Mr. Deters, Mrs. King and I are working on Dual Credit Classes for next year. Our goal is to rotate classes so that students can receive at least 12 hours of college credit if they elect to take all of the dual credit classes offered here. Heartland's deadline to decide on which dual credit classes we will offer is September 30th.
 - The NFHS equipment has arrived. We will be working with QNS to install it in the next week or so. Our PTO and Boosters have agreed to pay for half of the cost of the system.
 - Our Leadership team members are going to attend the conference "Challenge Student Learning with James Nottingham" on Monday, September 23rd. This training is offered in two parts with the second taking place in March. The focus is increasing rigor and identifying learning needs in our school.

Elementary Principal Julie Strating reported on the following:

- Pre-K- 5th Enrollment 230
 - Preschool: 17
 - Kindergarten: 28
 - 1st Grade: 29
 - 2nd Grade: 45
 - 3rd Grade: 39
 - 4th Grade: 35
 - 5th Grade: 35
 - Offsite: 2
- On Monday, Sept. 16th we hosted our annual Curriculum Night. The attendance was above 50% for the lower elementary and around 50% for 3rd and 4th grade. Attendance dropped significantly for 5th grade down to 25%. We offered free babysitting (thanks to our HS Key Club) and had 63 children participate.

- We scored a 97% on a recent inspection. We had three minor violations and all were correctable immediately.
- Our Leadership team of 6 teachers and myself have met twice and will continue to meet monthly. We will also be attending a professional development opportunity on Monday with the JH/HS team.
- On Tuesday, September 17th Amanda Carter, Pre-K Teacher, and Kelly Bramm, school social worker, hosted a KISS (Kids Invite Someone Special) event. They had dinner from Kelly's, participated in a story, played some games, and heard ideas from Kelly Bramm about community programs for preschool aged children and their families. We had 8 families participate.
- Our staff met today to use fall benchmarking data to determine students who qualify for additional instruction in reading and math. It was a great opportunity for teachers to talk about strategies and student needs, and they found ways to combine resources to get all or our kids some more individualized instruction each day.
- We will be hosting a ceremony to dedicate Watt's Garden on Thursday, October 10th at 1:45 p.m. The Watt family and our school community will be there for the dedication ceremony.
- We will be conducting our school wide safety drill on Friday, October 18th with parental involvement for those who wish to participate. Our staff and students will be retrained prior to this date.

Isaac Steidinger, Athletic Director reported on the following:

- We had a meeting with the boys about the upcoming basketball season and we currently have a total of 31 boys that have expressed interest in playing including 15 freshmen. With these number increasing we feel that we will be needing to add some freshmen games to the schedule. We will also be looking to add a coach to help out with the large number of boys participating.

The Finance Committee reported that they are currently looking into the Non-Certified staff salaries and how to be in compliance with the Minimum Wage Law starting January 1st 2020.

The Curriculum/ Policy Committee reported on their meeting to review and update the Board Policies that were approved in the Consent Agenda,

The Athletic Committee reported that they will be meeting with the Ridgeview Committee along with the administrators the first week in October.

Andrea McBurney made the motion to approve the FY 20 proposed budget. Seconded by Chris Olson. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Karin Atkins made the motion to approve the high school competitive cheer coop with Ridgeview for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years. Seconded by Jamie Farrell. Motion carried.

The vote on adding Junior High Cheerleading was tabled until October for more research.

Mike Beard made the motion to approve the contract with Bushue Human Resources. Seconded by Karin Atkins. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Chris Olson made the motion to approve the District's Crisis Plan. Seconded by Andrea McBurney. Roll call vote:

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

Chris Olson moved to adjourn at 9:04 p.m. Seconded by Andy Killian. Motion carried unanimously.

Jason Thomas, President

Andrea McBurney, Secretary