

Lexington Community Unit #7 School District
Lexington, Illinois
Special Board Meeting
September 1, 2020

President Jason Thomas opened the special meeting at 5:00 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, Isaac Steidinger, Athletic Director/ Dean of Students, and Patti Thomas; recording secretary. There was one visitor present via Zoom.

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

There was no public participation.

Kevin Heid, from Stifel Financial Corp, attended the meeting through a Zoom call and presented to the board some options on refunding our current bonds that will become callable in December. Some of the options included adding new money to the district with the issuance of new bonds. The board discussed these options and also the needs of the district to see if new money is needed. They will continue these discussions at a later date.

The board discussed the updates on the “Return to Learn Plan”.

- The building principals have completed their seating charts for all the students. The seating charts include classroom, bus and cafeteria seats. The seating charts will be used for contact tracing if needed.
- At this time 53 Chromebooks have been checked out by high school students and no Chromebooks have been turned in for damage.
- We currently have 34 students in the Virtual Academy that is down 5 from the initial sign up. Five students have moved to in-person classes
- In order to maximize space between students in the junior high/ high school, we moved classrooms that were a bit tight. It’s not ideal in that all of the junior high teachers and a handful of high school teachers must move locations throughout the day, but teachers have been very understanding that we must do this in order to be face-to face.
- The Illinois State Board of Education shared the announcement today from the US. Department of Agriculture that they are extending waivers for Summer Meals programs through the end of this calendar year. This will allow school participating in the Child Nutrition Program to continue serving free reimbursable meals to all children through December 31, 2020.
- The students participating in the Virtual Academy are now able to receive “Grab & Go” boxes of food for breakfast and lunch. We will prepare and make available the boxes on Mondays (2 days of meals) and Wednesdays (3 days of meals) beginning next week (9-7--9/11) Since Monday is a holiday we will only have boxes available on Wednesday next week, but it will contain 4 days of meals to account for the entire week of student attendance.

Athletic Director/ Dean of Students, Isaac Steidinger reported on the following:

- Isaac Steidinger, Athletic Director, presented the proposal for the fall contact days from September 7- October 31. The sports that are not in season can have a maximum of 20 contact days for coached to provide instruction in the skills and techniques of each sport. Open gyms and open weight rooms can continue during this time and throughout the entire school year following the open gym by law (3.160).
- The schools are not allowed to scrimmage or have contests with other schools in any sports during the “Fall Contact Period”.
- The Lexington Board of Education’s philosophy is that “We will provide extra-curricular opportunities for our students while not over burdening them or causing them to choose between one sport or the other.

The board held a discussion on the updates to the Health and Safety Protocol. We will continue with the same CDC’s recommended COVID like symptoms for students being sent home. We will communicate with families and staff when any individual at the school tests positive for COVID-19. We will NOT release names. Families and staff are asked to also report COVID-19 cases to the school, to initiate contact tracing.

Lexington #7, in collaboration with McLean County Health Department, will look at the following metrics as a baseline for making decisions on our learning model.

1. Positive rate over 10%
 2. New cases per 100,000- target is less than 100 per 100,000
 3. ICU bed availability-at least 20% available.
 4. Number of CLI admissions. Target-decreasing or stable
- When any three of the four hit a warning threshold, we will consider going to remote instruction.
 - We will also take into consideration the number and percentage of student and staff in our district that are probable COVID-19 positives as part of the decision to go to remote learning.

The board held a discussion of acquiring new substitute bus drivers for the district. We are working with some current staff members on getting their licenses and making them available for the district to use as the need arises.

A discussion was also held on offering all retirees from Lexington School District to receive the highest pay rate as a substitute teacher that the district offers. The board agreed with the administration and this will be retroactive from the beginning of the FY21 school year.

Jamie Farrell made the motion to go into executive session at 6:38 pm to discuss 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)). Seconded by Andrea McBurney.
Motion carried unanimously.

Karin Atkins made the motion to go into open session at 7:03 pm. Seconded by Mike Beard.
Motion carried unanimously.

Chris Olson made the motion to hire Bryann Payne as part-time food service worker effective immediately. Seconded by Andy Killian. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Andrea McBurney made the motion to approve the mandated face covering policy to be added to the student handbook for the 2020-21 school year. Seconded by Karin Atkins. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Action item C was scratched from the agenda.

Andy Killian made the motion to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. Seconded by Mike Beard. Motion carried unanimously.

Jason Thomas, President

Andrea McBurney, Secretary