

Lexington Community Unit #7 School District  
Lexington, Illinois  
Regular Board Meeting  
December 19, 2019

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, Isaac Steidinger; Athletic Director/ Dean of Students and Patti Thomas; recording secretary. There were two visitors present.

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

Isaac Steidinger introduced Jim Collins as the candidate for the high school baseball coaching position. Jim presented to the board his strategy on coaching and what he will expect from himself and what he will expect from the players if he is hired.

Jennifer McCoy introduced Joshua Weier as the candidate for the JH/ HS Physical Education teaching position.

Jamie Farrell moved to approve the Consent Agenda:

- A.) Minutes from the November 12, 2019 Regular and Closed Session Board Meeting
- B.) Lexington December 2019, regular bills, the payroll liabilities and necessary additional payments made in November, 2019, and ratify Tri-County Special Education Association's bills for November, 2019.
- C.) District Finances: November 30, 2019, Treasurer's Report.
- D.) Accept the resignation from Kim Yates as food service worker effective December 20, 2019.
- E.) Accept the resignation from Elston Flowers as part time foreign language teacher at the conclusion of the 2019-20 school year.
- F.) Accept the resignation from Dennise Jones as regular route bus driver effective December 20, 2019

Seconded by Andy Killian. 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:

Personnel:

- We would like to give a big thank you to Tyler Klein and Mandy Wiltz who both did wonderful jobs as substitutes in long term positions for us this past semester.
- We would like to thank Shelley Steffen for all she has done for our district as the Elementary Administrative Assistant over the past 5 years.

Legal:

- I will be addressing the staff in regards to the topic of the legalization of marijuana and the workplace when we return from winter break.
- With several new laws in effect, I would like to request a meeting with the policy committee to work towards updating board policy on several topics including: Cannabis, Threat Assessment, Sex Abuse Allegations and Investigations, Sexual Harassment and Employment.

Facilities:

- I have begun calling companies to get quotes for the improvements to the building that we have discussed: Elementary bathrooms and Flooring for Lobby/Hallways. I have also called McLean County Glass and asked for quotes to replace the library windows.

Transportation:

- Mr. Thomas and I are meeting with a representative from Midwest Transportation after break to discuss leasing options for the four large busses, one lift bus and one activity bus. Industry trends are showing increases in transportation costs due to more requirements being added to the buses. I will be seeking out at least one bus with a cargo bay underneath. I explored the possible purchase of the lift bus and activity bus that the cost to purchase would be too much for our district at this time.

I just received notice last week that I was selected by the Illinois Association of School Business Officials to receive a scholarship allowing me to attend the annual conference this coming April in Peoria for free. I am looking forward to using this opportunity to continue to increase my knowledge in school finance.

Principals Mrs. McCoy and Mrs. Strating presented to the board the District's Report Card that was recently published. They explained to the board how the report card works and how the ratings are awarded.

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

- Enrollment as of 12/19/19 for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades: 271
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: 42
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: 49
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: 38
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: 41
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: 34
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: 38
  - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: 29
  - Offsite: 1
- Three Lexington high school students were named as Illinois State Scholars; congratulations to the following students: Skyler Friedmansky, Clayton Haase, and Elena Steffa!

- We have adjusted the finals schedule and have completed day 1 and 2 of the 3-day schedule. Teachers have been giving me positive feedback and appreciate the extra time for assessments. One teacher reported that this schedule has allowed her students more time for corrections and opportunities for students to improve their grades. Another teacher stated that she was able to use the extra contact time with students to collect missing assignments from students who would have received zeros otherwise.
- The feedback has been good from students as well. Students liked the built-in breaks and study times. We only have two more finals left! Tomorrow, students will be assessed in their 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> periods; during the afternoon, the Student Council will lead students in some activities in the big gym.
- Thank you to Mr. Deters for allowing Mrs. Strating and me to collaborate and lead our staff in several culture- building activities throughout the semester. We've received a great deal of positive feedback in addition to seeing a lot of collaboration and interaction among the three building levels.

Elementary Principal Julie Strating reported on the following:

- Pre-K- 5<sup>th</sup> Enrollment 236
  - Preschool: 19
  - Kindergarten: 29
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: 31
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: 45
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: 39
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: 36
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: 35
  - Offsite: 2
- Thank you to Molly Higgins and the cafeteria crew for providing an excellent Thanksgiving lunch to the staff on Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. As a way to give back our administrative team and counselors served lunch the following Monday and sent our cafeteria staff uptown to enjoy a relaxing lunch on us.
- Mrs. McCoy and I have collaborated on creating some staff morale activities to get everyone through the 12 days until Christmas break. Some examples include "Selfie with the Elfie Day" "Music Monday", "Christmas BINGO", and "Find it Friday". We've had high staff participation and lots of enjoyment throughout all parts of the building and across all members of our staff. It has truly been a great way to keep everyone's spirits high this holiday season.
- Our first graders enjoyed attending the ISU Women's basketball game this past Monday Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. This was part of "Education Day" at ISU where the athletic department invites area students to fill the arena and have exposure to all aspects of a game & the pep band, the dance and cheer team, the athletes and the game, the entertainment at timeout, etc. Tickets are free and our students brought their own sack lunch to eat during the game. They also practiced basic math facts with addition and subtraction related to the score.

- Thank you to our PTO, cafeteria staff, and Mrs. Kaiser for organizing today's Manners Luncheon. Our students enjoyed a special opportunity to practice the manners they learned about earlier this week in our Purple Pride assembly.
- Mr. Brown conducted a very successful elementary winter concert last Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Long provided the artwork in the halls to enhance the evening and allow students an opportunity to show off their work to their loved ones. We were able to livestream this event for free and we heard feedback from one family as far away as Australia that tuned in.
- On the day before Thanksgiving break, we rewarded our elementary students for being exemplary with some time out of the classroom to enjoy the movie "Aladdin" on the big screen in the gym as a preview to the HS musical this spring. Our Para pros offered to provide the coverage so our teachers could use a free period to plan, copy and prepare for the busy month of December.
- Staff, students, community and our American Legion participated once again in a very successful Veterans Day ceremony yesterday.

The finance/ Personnel committed reported on the following:

- We are proposing a pay increase for Molly Higgins beginning January 6<sup>th</sup>.
- We met with Holly Burk about a request for gifting sick leave days to set up for her retirement.
- We are proposing to hire Josh Weier for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester 2019-20 school year.
- We are going to begin meeting with the Darrin Frye, LEA President to start the discussions and maybe hit some hot points on the upcoming negotiations.

The Athletic/ Coop reported on the following:

- We discussed proving transportation for the wrestling team when we have 5 or more participants.
- We also discussed the cheerleading team's transportation with the numbers falling in the range of using an Activity Bus instead of a yellow bus.
- The aging batting cage was also discussed and we have been getting prices to replace with a new cage.
- The Locker room storage was discussed and how we can organize and utilize the room we have.
- Mike Steffa has approached the district with the idea of organizing an IHSA approved Bass Fishing Team. We are currently gathering information to be able to make this decision.

The board discussed the recent Illinois School Board Association Annual Conference they attended in November. Several board members talked about the sessions they attended and how helpful they were in educating them on possible board related issues that may come up.

Chris Olson presented each board member with the superintendent's evaluation form that needs to be completed and returned by January 10, 2020.

Chris Olson made the motion to approve the Second Reading and Approval of Policy 3:40 "Checklist for Superintendent Employment Contract Negotiation Process".

Seconded by Andrea McBurney. 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 approve the 2019 Tax Levy as presented. 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 a wage increase to \$20 per hour for Molly Higgins beginning January 6<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Andrea McBurney. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Andrea McBurney made the motion to approve the transportation for the wrestling teams for the 2019-20 school year. Seconded by Jamie Farrell. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Mike Beard made the motion to approve the application for the FY20 School Maintenance Grant. Seconded by Andy Killian. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Karin Atkins made the motion to hire Joshua Weier as JH/ HS Physical Education teacher for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester 2019-20 school year. Seconded by Mike Beard. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Andy Killian made the motion to hire Joshua Weier as High School Assistant Track Coach beginning with the 2020 season. Seconded by Jamie Farrell. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Chris Olson made the motion to hire Jim Collins as High School Varsity Baseball Coach beginning with the 2020 season. Seconded by Karin Atkins. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Mike Beard made the motion to go into closed session at 8:44 pm to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employee (Section 2 (c) (1)) and Student Disciplinary cases (Section 2 (c) (9)) Seconded by Andy Killian.

Motion carries.

Andrea McBurney made the motion to go into open session at 9:03 p.m. Seconded by Andy Killian.

Motion carries.

Andrea McBurney moved to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. Seconded by Andy Killian. Motion carried unanimously.