

Lexington Community Unit #7 School District
Lexington, Illinois
Regular Board Meeting
January 16, 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.

Jamie Farrell moved to approve the Consent Agenda:

- A.) Minutes from the December 19, 2019 Regular and Closed Session Board Meeting
- B.) Minutes from the January 8, 2020 Special Board Meeting.
- C.) Lexington January 2020, regular bills, the payroll liabilities and necessary additional payments made in December, 2019, and ratify Tri-County Special Education Association's bills for December, 2019.
- D.) Approve the transfer of \$546.03 from working cash to IMRF/ SS fund.
- E.) District Finances: December 31, 2019, Treasurer's Report.
- F.) Approve Board Policy Changes: 2:200, 2:20, 2:220, 2:260, 2:100, 2:70, 2:105, 2:110, 4:15, 4:30, 4:60, 4:80, 4:15, 5:220, 6:20, 5:10, 5:90, 5:100.
- G.) Approve the updated job description for certified teacher.
- H.) Approve the updated job description for coach.

Seconded by Chris Olson. 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:

- The members of the legislation tasked with property tax relief released their "recommendations" recently. The report did little to clear the air about how property tax relief would take place in Illinois. School consolidation is an option that continues to be floated. With the spring legislative session upon us, this conversation should begin to pick up intensity but at this time, there are only guesses as to if we will see any changes in how our schools are funded, pension shift, pension consolidation, or a property tax freeze.

Financial:

- As we approach half-way point in the year, the estimated revenues and expenditures seem to be projecting at what was expected, with a few minor exceptions. If we can manage to get even one of the two more categorical payments that the state owes us for Transportation, that would give us an extra \$12,000 in revenue that I didn't budget for. A fourth payment would be an additional \$22,000. So as we turn the corner, just remember a lot can change between now and June 30th.

Transportation:

- Les and I met with Midwest Transit last week to explore our options for our expiring five bus leases and one activity bus lease. Initial numbers from Midwest show a 43% increase on our four main buses taking them from just over \$9,085 to \$13,073. The reason for the increase is cost of steel, new chassis, and change in interest rates. If the numbers do not change, we are potentially looking at a total cost increase of \$22,000-\$24,000 per year for the next 3-5 years. Les and I requested to see numbers to lease our existing buses for another year (No Warranty), requested to see a back loaded lease schedule, and asked for numbers with different specifications. We will be working to get a lease agreement in place before March so that buses can be delivered on time for next school year.

Facilities:

- We have had a run of minor setbacks recently with a broken water line at the football field, valve issues with the water heater, clogged screen with the dishwasher, continued problems with our fire alarm panels, and a frayed line running to our main basketball rim. This has kept our maintenance staff on their toes. We are working on addressing all these issues.

Athletics:

- We will be hosting the IHSA Girls (A) Basketball Regionals February 10th-14th, the IHSA Boys (A) Basketball Regionals February 24th-28th and the IHSA Boys (A) Baseball Regionals May 20th-24th.
- Despite all the planning, the HOIC has declined its initial plan to offer an invitation to Dwight Township High School. As of now, the HOIC will remain as it has been.

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

- Enrollment as of 01/16/2020 for 6th-12th Grades: 271
- 6th Grade: 42
 - 7th Grade: 49
 - 8th Grade: 38
 - 9th Grade: 41
 - 10th Grade: 34
 - 11th Grade: 38
 - 12th Grade: 29
 - Offsite: 1
- We have formed our District Threat Assessment Team and have a meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 23rd. We will establish this team's role when a threat takes place as well as evaluate and modify threat assessment documents. On Monday, February 24th the team will attend training for assessing and documenting threats.
 - This school climate survey offered from the State of Illinois is administered to all 4th-12th grade students and is a component of our school designation data. Our goal is 100% student participation, and we plan to visit classrooms on January 30th. We must have at least 95% student participation to receive credit on our school designation data. Teachers will be given time to complete the staff survey during our February 3rd School Improvement Day. Finally, families can complete a survey as well, and at least 20% of our families must respond in order for us to receive a report

- Mike Steffa had requested a meeting with Mr. Steidinger and myself regarding the possibility of offering Bass Fishing to LHS students. This activity will be offered at no cost to the district or students, and our next steps are to gauge student interest (via student survey) and create/ identify detail regarding other components (e.g., practices, deadlines, etc.) We will then take the proposal to the athletic committee.
- Congratulations to Mr. Peacock for receiving a \$716 STEM grant from PNC and plans to build a recording studio. PNC received 49 applications and awarded 20 grants, totaling \$13,000. Mr. Peacock and I will be attending a luncheon to receive this award on Wednesday, February 12th.

Upcoming School Improvement.

- January 24th: Junior High ELA and Math work day
- February 3rd: School Improvement Day
- February 14th: HOIC Conference ½ Day
- March 11th: Part II, James Nottingham (Leadership Teams Only)

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
- Thanks to a generous private donor, we have ordered 9 new smartboard projectors and 1 regular projector. The band room received the regular projector this week and are thrilled with the quality of it. The others are on backorder but will be installed as soon as they arrive.
- The ag Advisory Board donated the money to purchase a new projector for our gym. This state of the art laser projector will allow us to project clearly with full gym lighting if needed. We are excited about these new upgrades.
- Mrs. Carter received another grant for \$6,150 from the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation to continue and expand her Littlest Learners program which is open to all of our community's littlest learners. Mrs. Carter worked with the Lexington Park District to help secure this grant to create some movement centers in Keller Park.

Upcoming Events:

- January 31st: Purple Pride 9:30 a.m.
- February 3rd: In-Service
- February 14th: Early Dismissal (11:15 am), afternoon In-Service to attend guest speaker at ISU
- April 4th: PTO Carnival

The Finance/ Personnel committee reported that they have begun the negotiation talks with the LEA.

The board discussed the school calendar for 2020-21 school year.

Chris Olson made the motion to approve the membership to Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools. Seconded by Andrea McBurney. 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 approve the FY20 School Maintenance Project Grant Application. Seconded by Andy Killian. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Mike Beard made the motion to hire Cathy Payne as part-time food service employee. Seconded by Chris Olson. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Karin Atkins made the motion to hire Michael Zeller as assistant high school boys' baseball coach beginning with the 2020 season. Seconded by Andrea McBurney. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Andrea McBurney made the motion to hire Kyle Gogoel as the math team replacement coach for the 2019-20 school year. Seconded by Chris Olson. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Jamie Farrell made the motion to approve the written expulsion decision pursuant to Section 10-22.6 of the Illinois State School Code. Seconded by Andy Killian.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Karin Atkins made the motion to go into closed session at 8:06 pm to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employee (Section 2 (c) (1)) Seconded by Chris Olson.

Motion carries.

Andy Killian made the motion to go into open session at 8:31 p.m. Seconded by Mike Beard.

Motion carries.

Karin Atkins moved to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. Seconded by Jamie Farrell. Motion carried unanimously.

Jason Thomas, President

Andrea McBurney, Secretary