

Lexington Community Unit #7 School District  
Lexington, Illinois  
Regular and Special Board Meeting  
October 17, 2019

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

President Jason Thomas opened the regular meeting at 7:06 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, Patti Thomas; recording secretary, and several members of the community.

Robin Yockey, from Mose, Yockey, Brown and Kull LLC, presented the annual audit for fiscal year 2019 to the Board, explaining the various sections of the report. The district received a financial recognition rating again this year.

Mike Beard made the motion to move the HS baseball Coop discussion up on the agenda. Seconded by Andrea McBurney.  
Motion carried.

Superintendent Deters explained that the coop meeting that took place earlier this month with the Ridgeview administration along with some board members from each school is an annual meeting to talk about the current coops and any new opportunities for the future. The topic came up in the meeting about a baseball coop because of the low numbers that are anticipated for this spring from both schools.

Isaac Steidinger, Athletic Director, reported that he has conducted a survey with the high school boys and came back with a report that as of today there are currently 21 boys that are planning on playing baseball this spring. 10 Freshman, 4 Sophomores, 2 Juniors and 5 Seniors.

Josh Martin addressed the board that he was told that Lexington had approached Ridgeview with the idea to coop baseball. He was present at the football coop meeting and was told it was for financial reasons along with low number of kids. He said that we had over 100 elementary and junior high kids involved in our summer baseball programs this past summer. He also stated that he would like to see a qualified baseball coach in place that would help the program out.

Johnny Meints addressed the board with his concerns on a Lexington-Ridgeview coop in baseball because it will most likely move us up to class 2A and that is a whole different game than 1A. He talked about our number being up in the junior high and we will always have some rebuilding years in between our competitive years.

Tim Sinnett addressed the board with some questions on whether we were discussing a long term coop or a short term coop. If we do coop, how do we ever bring it back to just Lexington baseball.

Amy Hardman addressed the board with her concerns that a baseball coop would bring our boys' sports here at Lexington to just one. She asked what is going to keep people here at Lexington without our sports.

Leesa Friedmanky addressed the board stating that good coaches draw kids to our programs and also good programs draw the younger kids to them.

Becky Martin addressed the board and talked about our current junior high program and how many kids are involved. She was wondering why the kids all quit playing once they hit high school.

Jeff Doll addressed the board stating that he would like as a softball coach of the coop team to be involved in the coop meetings that the administrations have in the future. He was told he would have two coaches from Lexington for the program and there was only one hired from Lexington.

Mandy Wiltz also address the board that Brian Wiltz would like to be involved in the coop meeting as well as a football coop coach.

End of Public Participation

Andrea McBurney moved to approve the Consent Agenda:

- A.) Minutes from the September 19, 2019 Special Board Meeting
- B.) Minutes from the September 19, 2019 Regular Board Meeting
- C.) Minutes from the October 5, 2019 Special Board Meeting
- D.) Lexington October 2019, regular bills, the payroll liabilities and necessary additional payments made in September, 2019, and ratify Tri-County Special Education Association's bills for September, 2019.
- E.) District Finances: September 30, 2019, Treasurer's Report.
- F.) Approval of Sarah Killian's Maternity Leave Request.
- G.) Approval of Emily Beck's resignation as Lexington sponsored High School Track Coach.
- H.) Approved of Jonathan Olson's resignation as 6<sup>th</sup> grade Boys' Basketball Coach.
- I.) Renewal of the District Risk Management Plan for 2019-2020, 2020-2021.

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:

- Financially we were given a new perspective regarding property tax freeze, consolidation, and pension shift out of Springfield.
  - Pension Shift: There was feeling that the push for a pension shift to local schools was disorganized at the moment and wasn't sure how the discussions around downstate consolidation of pensions would affect schools.
  - Consolidation: There was little to no reason to believe forced consolidation of schools was going to be something placed on the ballot.
  - Property Tax Freeze: Lastly, any possible property tax freeze would not eliminate "new tax growth" from taxing bodies.
- I have met with both White Construction and the Project Manager from Invenergy regarding the BloominGrove Wind Farm. Both entities met with Les Thomas and myself to share maps, processes, and lines of communication in terms of how the project might affect our transportation. Bottom line, school buses will always have the right of way and all project vehicles will yield to our buses. They began installing access roads this past Monday. The windfarm is expected to be operational by December 2020.
- Dan Brady spent some time yesterday with our staff and students. He toured the building, met with some students and spent some time meeting with our administration to understand our successes and challenges.
- Even though we got a little wet, the Watt Garden dedication ceremony took place last week. I am so proud on how the space came about using our own students, staff and community to assemble the space to remember two special people.
- We had an unexpected cost with the fire alarm panel going down in the Ag shop. We are replacing the panel and bringing the panel up to code costing us around \$3,000.
- Our WIFI connectivity project has been completed. The installations of 57 access points throughout our building should greatly improve the quality and speed for our wireless devices. The total cost of the project was \$27,649 with around \$16,000 of the work getting reimbursed through E-Rate funds. There is talk that the E-Rate program may not exist as it currently stands moving forward. This would be a hit to schools like ours who rely on this type of work to keep our technology infrastructure up to date. This debate is taking place at the state and federal government level.
- Chris Olson and I attended the School Board Association fall meeting last week and learned about best practices for conducting board meetings, protecting the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment and new legislation. Mr. Olson also received an honor for his years of service serving on the Lexington Board of Education.

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

Enrollment as of 10/17/19 for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades: 273

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: 43
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: 49
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: 38
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: 42
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: 34
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: 38
  - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: 29
  - Offsite: 1
- On Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. we will be running our reunification drill. Parents who elect to participate will pick up their children at the Lexington Community Church beginning around 2:00 pm.
  - All the leadership team members attended the conference “Challenge Student Learning with James Nottingham” on Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The training is offered in two parts with the second taking place in March. The focus is on increasing rigor and identifying learning needs in our school. The junior high and high school leadership team met this afternoon, Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - On Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> Teachers’ Institute we reviewed our ALICE procedures and were introduced to Restorative Practices in addition to working in their grade levels. I received a great deal of positive feedback on Restorative Practices, and our staff wants to learn more about how to implement it. Restorative Practice centers on improving and repairing relationships between people and communities. The proposed is to build healthy communities, repair harm and restore relationships.

Elementary Principal Julie Strating reported on the following:

- Pre-K- 5<sup>th</sup> Enrollment 232
  - Preschool: 18
  - Kindergarten: 28
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: 30
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: 45
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: 39
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: 35
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: 35
  - Offsite: 2
- We had a great turnout at the elementary end for the parent/ teacher conferences with only three parents not showing up as scheduled.
- Special Events:
  - PTO Fall Festival: Pumpkin-palooza, great weather with lots of fun for the kids.
  - Watts Garden Rededication: Attended by full staff and student body; Watt family members cut the ribbon; special thanks to Ms. Leake, Mr. Wiltz, and Mr. Deters for their planning of this event.

- Red Ribbon Week (October 21-25): “Stay in the Game- Play Drug Free”; ISU athletes coming as guest speakers
- Fire Prevention Week: Fire department visited each classroom on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Upcoming Events:

- Veteran’s Day Ceremony- November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

The Athletic Committee reported that they met with some of the Ridgeview board members along with the administration to discuss the current coops and any future coop opportunities.

The committee discussed that it would be a good idea to get feedback from the coop coaches before they attend the meeting next year.

After surveying the junior high, we have 4 kids express interest in junior high cheerleading. With the low number the board decided just to offer two Saturday clinics with a club atmosphere and a final performance at a junior high boys’ basketball game.

Andy Killian made the motion to approve the FY19 audit as presented. Seconded by Jamie Farrell. 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 Resolution to adopt Alternative Learning Program in Lieu of using Districts’ Emergency Days. Seconded by Karin Atkins. 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 hire Abby Aupperle as elementary administrative assistant. 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 hire Jonathan Olson as HS Auxiliary Boy's Basketball coach for the 2019-20 season. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously

Karin Atkins moved to adjourn at 9:16 p.m. Seconded by Mike Beard. Motion carried unanimously.

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Jason Thomas, President

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Andrea McBurney, Secretary