

ELMWOOD COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #322

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

December 14, 2020

*Online Google Meeting

301 W. Butternut Elmwood, Illinois.

DATE/TIME: December 14, 2020 / 6:00 PM

LOCATION: *Online Google Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Dean Cantu called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

ROLL CALL: Dean Cantu, Tom Conklin, Mark Davis, Bill Frietsch, Claude Keefer, Rick LeHew, Val Ramirez

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Claude Keefer.

3. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: Lori Caulkins-Union Co-President, Kristy Johns, Brett Stevens, Lindsey Lamie, Karen Salverson, Emily Brunnelson

4. PRESENTATION BY AUDIENCE ON AGENDA & NON-AGENDA ITEMS

5. ACTION ITEMS-CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mark Davis, seconded by Val Ramirez, to approve the following consent agenda items:

- A. *Minutes of Regular Meeting and Closed Session, 11/23/2020
- B. *Approval of Bills and Payroll
- C. *Approval of Treasurer's Report
- D. *Approval of Activity Fund Reports
- E. *Personnel—Dismissal/Employment/Retirement/Leaves of Absence
 - a. Approve the employment of Taylor Whitehurst as a paraprofessional at a rate of \$11/hour for the 2020-2021 school year.
 - b. Approve the maternity leave for Amber Waddell as presented during the 2020-2021 school year.
- F. *Approval of 2021-22 SEAPCO Hiring Survey
- G. *Approval to Extend Bus Lease with Midwest Transit Equipment, Inc. for one year.

Cantu – yes; Conklin – yes; Davis – yes; Frietsch – yes; Keefer – yes; LeHew – yes; Ramirez – yes
Motion Carried 7-0

6. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- A. Board Committee Update. Mark Davis inquired about the Air Purification system that was installed. All of the work has been completed except for a unit in the elementary gymnasium. Dr. Wagner wanted to be sure to thank Amy Davis and the City of Elmwood for initiating the acquisition of this system. Through the utilization of CARES dollars, the City was able to provide another layer of protective mitigation measures. Thanks were also extended and acknowledged to Wed Edwards and Montefusco for the installation of the system.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

Dr. Wagner, Superintendent, reported on the following items:

- A. 2021-22 Public School Calendar. December is the month I present versions of the next school year's calendar. Option #3 was selected by 54.8% of respondents (23 out of 42). The start date is August 16 (Teachers' Institute), with students reporting August 17. There will be a longer Spring Break (9 days; April 11-15, 2022) and the last day will be May 24, 2022. We will plan to utilize eLearning Days in place of snow days, and therefore utilizing Emergency Days on the last Fridays of May is no longer necessary.
- B. Administrator Reports

Mr. Dimitri Almasi, Elementary Principal, provided information on the following items:

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT

- Thank you to the staff and students for your continued work to support blended learning. Teachers are utilizing both synchronous and asynchronous instruction to engage learners.
- If our school had to transition to full remote learning, the current in-person learning schedule would be followed with classes starting at 8:10 AM, synchronous learning and asynchronous learning for core classes, interventions, physical education, and music. Students are highly encouraged to take advantage of synchronous learning.
- Winter benchmark assessments will take place in the third and fourth weeks of January. We are looking forward to seeing our students' growth!
- Our winter concerts will be conducted virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The concerts will be posted to our school's YouTube channel and website.
- Our January 4th institute will be focused on Blended Learning instruction.

STAFF/STUDENTS

- Our staff and students are continuing to follow the guidelines set forth by our Return-to-School Plan. Thank you for your continued adherence to our guidelines and safety measures. Our team will continue to follow the guidelines and keep our school operating to the best of our ability.
- Remote families have the opportunity to transition from Remote Learning to In-Person Learning at the start of the third quarter.

ACTIVITIES

- Due to the updated Tier 3 mitigation strategies enacted by the State of Illinois, all school-related practices and activities have halted. We appreciate our community's understanding of the ever-evolving situation.
- Our annual Stuff-a-Bus Food Drive will be accepting monetary donations this year to limit the amount of touching and sharing items.

MAINTENANCE

- Over the winter break, our maintenance crew will be deep cleaning our entire school.

DATES

- December 18th: Ugly Sweater Dress-up Day
- December 21st- January 1st: No School, Winter Break
- January 4th: No School, Teacher Institute
- January 5th: Students Return

Tony McCoy, Jr./Sr. High School Principal, provided information on the following items:

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT

- December 4th- I attended the webinar presented by NWEA on the winter assessment protocols and procedures. They are expecting many schools to be giving this test remotely and presenting new procedures.
- November 23rd- I attended the webinar titled College and Career Readiness Indicator Information. The ISBE-sponsored webinar described the soft launch of the ILHighSchool2Career public portal. This portal displays more than a decade of Illinois public high school students connected to their postsecondary pathways and workforce outcomes. The goal of this tool is to promote informed decision making for effective postsecondary and career exploration.
- The Illinois State Scholars are announced by December each year but we expect this to be moved to later in the year since the SAT was administered in October.
- December 7th- I attended a ZOOM meeting with other administrators from around the state to discuss student grade issues and interventions that are being implemented to help struggling students. Many schools are in a similar situation with increased numbers of students failing classes.

ACTIVITIES

- All extracurricular activities, practices, and meetings have been postponed until further notice. The only meetings and activities are those that are virtually created.
- Mr. Pratt and Mrs. Buchanan are putting together our JH/HS Winter Concert. The band and chorus will record the performances during their scheduled class periods, the video will be edited, and released to our YouTube channel.

DATES

December 18 - Last Day of the Semester

January 4 - Teacher Institute

January 5 - Students return to 2nd semester classes

8. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS OR ADMINISTRATION

9. CLOSED SESSION – None

10. ACTION AS A RESULT OF CLOSED SESSION – None

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Val Ramirez, seconded by Tom Conklin, to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM.

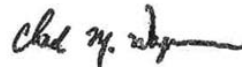
Motion carried on a voice vote.



Dr. Dean Cantu, President



William Frietsch, Secretary



Dr. Chad Wagner, Recording Secretary