

ELMWOOD COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #322

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

November 23, 2020

\*Online Google Meeting

301 W. Butternut Elmwood, Illinois.

DATE/TIME: November 23, 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 (absent)

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mark Davis.

**3. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:** Jennifer Williams-Union Co-President, Jon Baumann, Angie and Mike Agan, Anna Salverson, Shauna Blum.

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

**5. ACTION ITEMS-CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Tom Conklin, seconded by Bill Frietsch, to approve the following consent agenda items:

- A. \*Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, 10/26/20
- B. \*Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting, 11/16/20
- C. \*Approval of Bills, Payroll, and Additional Bills
- D. \*Approval of Treasurer's Report
- E. \*Approval of Activity Reports
- F. \*Review Closed Session Minutes - May 2020 through October 2020
- G. \*Personnel – Dismissal/Employment/Retirement/Leaves of Absences
  - a. Approval of the Retirement Incentive Program for Christina Herridge, Cindy Alcaraz, and Lori Caulkins per 9.O of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Each has submitted paperwork to retire in 2023-24 and will receive the 6% salary increases for their final three years in the district.
  - b. Approval of Lynn Bernal as Cafeteria Aide at a rate of \$11/hour.
  - c. Approval of Conner Sharp as JH Boys' Track Coach, Alex Coulter as JH Girls' Track Coach, and Tiffany Bell as JH Science Olympiad Coach.
- H. \*Approval of PRESS Policy Changes and Updates as presented.
- I. \*Approval of the 2020 Levy (for the 2021-22 school year) as presented.
  - a. The County Assessor has projected that our EAV will increase by approximately 1.9%. The Tort Fund will increase by \$5,000 to cover increased risk management strategies. The IMRF and Social Security funds will stay the same as last year. All other funds with set rates will be requested to receive those percentages per the established levy limits. Our overall tax rate should be reduced by approximately \$0.01 based on projections.
- J. \*Approval of Resolution Abating the Taxes Heretofore Levied for the Year 2020 to Pay Debt Service on the General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2020, of Community Unit School District Number 322, Peoria and Knox Counties, Illinois.
  - a. In order to avoid levying for these revenues via the levy, the BOE passed a resolution to abate those taxes by applying the principal and interest payments for the Gym & Locker Room remodel bonds to be paid for with CSFST funds.

Cantu – yes; Conklin – yes; Davis – yes; Frietsch – yes; Keefer – yes; LeHew – yes; Ramirez – absent

Motion Carried 6-0

## **6. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Tom Conklin spoke on behalf of the Finance Committee regarding: Meeting Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>; levy & bond structure

## **7. INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

- A. COVID Mitigation Strategy Discussion. Dr. Wagner reviewed current criteria on how he determines whether or not we will close schools due to COVID-19 (Governor/IDPH mandate or inability to adequately staff). He wanted to gauge whether or not the District would follow any other criteria such as a recommendation by the Peoria County Public Health to close schools. At this time, the Board believes that the local control has been effective, and that the administration will determine the course of action based on local data and information.
- B. Administrator Reports

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

### **CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT**

- The Center for Prevention and Abuse conducted the Elementary School's Erin's Law State-Mandated lessons on November 23rd.
- Thank you to 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 would have 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.

### **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.
- Thank you to the Elmwood Business Women's Association for your Christmas Donation. The funds will be utilized to help our local families in need.
- Thank you to the New to You Thrift Store for your donation to our school and students! The funds will be utilized to help provide our students with winter clothing and supplies.

### **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**

- The maintenance crew continues to disinfect each classroom each night. We would like to thank Mr. Harkness, Mr. Parm, and Mr. Matt Almasi for all their hard work to keep our school safe.

### **DATES**

- November 24th: Pink Out Dress-up Day for Susan Komen Foundation
- November 25th-27th: No School, Thanksgiving Break
- December 4th: Disney Channel/Cartoon Dress-up day
- December 11th: Holiday Dress-up Day
- December 18th: Ugly Sweater Dress-up Day
- December 21st- January 1st: No School, Winter Break
- January 4th: No School, Teacher Institute

**Tony McCoy, Jr./Sr. High School Principal, provided information on the following items:**  
**CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT**

- The Center for Prevention of Abuse will be meeting with our K-12 students on November 23rd and 24th as part of our Erin's Law state mandate. I also used this time to address a couple of social media issues and preparation for remote learning.
- Our teachers are using Wednesday SIP days to work within their departments to discuss our NWEA data, in-person/remote classroom assessments, and share information about tools and resources that help with remote instruction.

**WORKSHOPS and MEETINGS**

- Mr. Vermillion and I attended the IHSA Town Hall virtual meeting on November 12th. We were able to vote on up-coming IHSA proposals and get a feeling of how the committee voted on various issues.

**ACTIVITIES**

- Mr. Pratt and Mrs. Buchanan are practicing with their band and chorus students for an upcoming virtual Winter Concert. We will record, edit, and release to our YouTube Channel.
- The Elmwood High School Cross-Country Sectional was held on Saturday, October 31 and concluded with the boys' team placing 2nd. The boys were led by Luke Hoffmann placing 3rd. Addie Symmonds placed in the top 10 for the 8th place girls team. Congratulations to Mr. Meyers, Mr. Anderson, and all the volunteers for assisting with the event.
- As of 11/20/2020- all extracurricular activities have been suspended until further notice.

**8. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS OR ADMINISTRATION**

- 9. CLOSED SESSION** – For the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public to determine its validity 5 ILCS 120/2c (1)

A motion was made by Mark Davis, seconded by Bill Frietsch, to go into Closed Session at 6:19 PM.

Cantu – yes; Conklin – yes; Davis – yes; Frietsch – yes; Keefer – yes; LeHew – yes; Ramirez – absent (arrived during Closed Session)

Motion Carried 6-0

A motion was made by Val Ramirez, seconded by Mark Davis, to go back into Open Session at 7:16 PM.

Motion carried on a voice vote.

**10. ACTION AS A RESULT OF CLOSED SESSION**

A motion was made by Tom Conklin, seconded by Bill Frietsch to approve the following:

- A. Superintendent Contract. Per discussion at the Finance Committee and Closed Session, the BOE voted to extend the contract of the Superintendent for a three-year period, effective immediately, and extend through the 2023-24 school year.

Cantu – yes; Conklin – yes; Davis – yes; Frietsch – yes; Keefer – yes; LeHew – yes; Ramirez – yes

Motion Carried 7-0

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mark Davis, seconded by Val Ramirez, to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 PM.

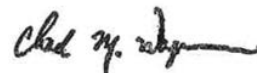
Motion carried on a voice vote.



Dr. Dean Cantu, President



William Frietsch, Secretary



Dr. Chad Wagner, Recording Secretary