

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 24, 2021                      6:30 P.M.                      Educational Services Center

The Board of Education of the Bloomington Public Schools, School District 87, McLean County, Illinois, met in Regular Session.

Ms. Wilma Gleason, Board Secretary, established a quorum and the following Members were present: Mr. James Almeda, Ms. Elizabeth Fox Anvick, Mrs. Tammy Houtzel, Mr. Charles Irwin, Mr. Mark Wylie, and Mrs. Brigette Gibson, Board President.

It was moved by Mr. Almeda, seconded by Mr. Irwin, that the Board approve the February 10, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Upon a roll call vote, Almeda, Fox Anvick, Irwin, Wylie and Gibson voted "Aye"; Houtzel abstained due to absence on February 10, 2021. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Wylie, seconded by Ms. Fox Anvick, that the Board approve the February 10, 2021 Closed Session Board Meeting Minutes. Upon a roll call vote, Almeda, Fox Anvick, Irwin, Wylie and Gibson voted "Aye"; Houtzel abstained due to absence on February 10, 2021. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mrs. Houtzel, seconded by Mr. Almeda, that the Board approve the February 13, 2021 Special Board Meeting Minutes. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

BHS students Geary Moore, Addi Weaver & Taniya Boone were recognized for their activism work in the Bloomington-Normal community.

Ms. Fox Anvick asked that Board members let her know if they are aware of someone who would like to serve on the Beyond the Book Board of Directors.

Dr. Reilly presented information on The Pandemic and Resources to Address the Impact on Learning (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund in District 87). CARES (ESSER I) Funding was for expenses related to COVID from March 2020-June 2021. Priority purchases were for technology, PPE, and online registration program (\$1,617,525).

ESSER II Funding is for learning loss, preparing schools for reopening and testing, repairing, and upgrading projects to

improve air quality. These funds (\$6,018,000) are to be used through September 30, 2023.

Priorities will include:

- Student supports for learning (\$3,955,000)
- Prior pandemic expenses (\$849,000)
- Anticipated pandemic expenses (\$690,000); and
- Teacher supports for teaching (\$524,000).

Student supports will include:

- Family/community facilities at all schools with the exception of Sarah Raymond (\$800,000)
- Interventionists/credit recovery/coaches (\$1,680,000)
- Expanded summer school (PK-12) (\$775,000)
- Afterschool programs (PK-12) (\$200,500); and
- Paraprofessionals (\$500,000).

Prior pandemic expenses will be reimbursed for food services, SPED (PPE for teachers/nurses), technology (devices, licenses, security), and O&M (PPE).

Teacher supports include professional development, curriculum projects, Director of Elementary Education, and New Teacher Summer Academy.

Ms. Beasley asked about the hiring of additional staff and whether these hires would be internal or external. She also asked about a reduction in force at the end of 2023 when the grant expires. Dr. Reilly stated the hirings could be a combination of both. He stated that at the end of the grant period (2023), the Board will make decisions on keeping them or eliminating due to a reduction in force; this is the nature of grant funded positions. He further stated that some of those decisions will depend on ESSER III funds which would extend further than September 2023. As more information is obtained, Dr. Reilly will inform the Board. The Administration's plan is to present more information on summer school and Sarah Raymond at the March 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Dr. Reilly introduced Mr. Mike Cornale who is being recommended as the Chief Financial & Facilities Officer upon Dr. Colin Manahan's retirement on June 30, 2021.

It was moved by Mr. Almeda, seconded by Mr. Wylie, that the Board approve the Consent Agenda (Human Resources, Bills, FOIA Report, Financial Summary, Treasurer's Report). Upon a roll call

vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, 2-24-21/1)

Dr. Reilly reported on the following:

The district is exploring the possibility of extending learning to four or five days each week given the positivity rates in Bloomington-Normal as well as McLean County. More staff members are getting COVID vaccines. There is a D87 vaccine clinic scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup> with the second dose being given on March 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> depending on which vaccine is given on March 1<sup>st</sup>. At the end of March, all staff will have had the opportunity to be vaccinated.

Hybrid in-person parents were surveyed. If more students are brought back to school, 6' of social distancing becomes more problematic. CDC states that given low positivity rates and safety mitigations, less than 6' is possible. Transmissions are not happening in schools where social distancing is less than 6'. The district is exploring purchasing acrylic barriers that go on top of desks where students cannot be 6' socially distanced. 82% of parents surveyed are in favor of returning to in-person instruction from two days to four or five days. The administration feels that this is likely for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter with the first in-person day being held on March 31<sup>st</sup>. A remote learning day would be held on March 29<sup>th</sup> and a remote planning day would be held on March 30<sup>th</sup>. If the Board has concerns, please inform Dr. Reilly.

Mr. Wylie thanked the Administration for the possibility of returning to four or five days. BHS students who are in-person currently are being taught via Zoom since the teacher is teaching both in-person and remote learning at the same time. Dr. Reilly will discuss this with Mr. Moore.

Mr. Wylie asked for the percentage of staff receiving vaccinations. Dr. Reilly stated that 88% of staff members indicated they had it scheduled or planned to schedule. The vaccine clinic on March 1<sup>st</sup> has now been expanded to include bus drivers, student teachers, etc. (we currently have 150 signed up out of 200 slots). Dr. Reilly will check to see if Board members can get the vaccine at the clinic.

Ms. Fox Anvick asked if we are going to alter the school day schedules. Dr. Reilly does not believe so at the elementary level.

It was moved by Mrs. Houtzel, seconded by Ms. Fox Anvick, that the Board approve the BEA Letter of Understanding - Decision and Bargaining on Reduction in Force. Upon a roll call vote, all

Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, 2-24-21/2)

It was moved by Mr. Almeda, seconded by Mr. Wylie, that the Board approve the 2022 District Renovations Bid Recommendation. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, 2-24-21/3)

It was moved by Ms. Fox Anvick, seconded by Mrs. Houtzel, that the Board approve the Resolution of Closed Minutes. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, 2-24-21/4)

It was moved by Ms. Fox Anvick, seconded by Mr. Almeda, to adjourn this meeting of the Board of Education. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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President

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Secretary