

MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 15

REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Education Community Unit No. 15, Beardstown, IL was called to order on September 16, 2020 by President Mike Seaman at 7:00 p.m. in Beardstown Middle/High library 500 East 15th Street, Beardstown, IL. Pledge of allegiance. Kim Watson called the roll with the following members present: Jimmy Hymes, Barbara Hobrock, Joe Engelbrecht, Kim Watson, Wells Petersen, OJ Simpson, and Mike Seaman. Also in attendance were Ron Gilbert and Kelly Herter.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS-None

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

Bill Myers-His staff is working very hard and he is extremely proud of them.

Matt Klett-Nothing more than his written report

Tammee Petersen-Recognized the language facilitators and their help.

David Scott-Proud of the staff. Everyone is working together to get the kids in the building safely. Three lunch areas going at the same time. Prepared as best we could be. Everyone is flexible.

Lori Young-Teachers are putting in a lot of hours.

Denise Wittler-Nothing more than her written report

Lauren Smith-Teachers are working hard.

Wendy McClenning-Getting Internet in homes and CassComm is busy. Cameras on some Chromebooks have been disabled by previous students. Technology is not always going to be 100% good. Kami is an app the teachers are using and liking. Watson-asked about internet in the building. Wendy stated the district has fiber Internet. Access point could get overloaded at times. Signal problems with homes some lose signal.

Jim Childers-Nothing more than his written report.

Ron Gilbert-Wireless issues at Gard. New Wi-Fi switches will be installed soon. He talked about installing antennas though out Beardstown and has a range of 8 miles around Beardstown to give free Wi-Fi for school use. Enrollments down around 111 students from last year. Lori Young spoke to the board about considering going totally remote for first quarter. Gard has had 58 kids in quarantine in three weeks. 63 staff members in quarantined. What we are doing right now we cannot keep up. She has teachers coming to her crying because they want to leave the profession. They are doing three times the amount of work. There are not enough subs to teachers to cover. We want to do what is best for kids. Seaman asked if we go total remote can we reach enough kids that way. Stephanie Brown she feels she is reaching a lot of students. She does have trouble getting in contact with some students when doing remote. Seaman- Concerned we will teachers who leave because of stress. Stopping and starting remote is stressful. Dave Scott reported 93% HS/MS contact while doing remote. Matt Klett doing home visits. We have things in place and continue to reach out. Tonya Tomlinson-Not experiencing good things with remote in the HS. 50% failure rate right now. We are not reaching HS kids remotely.

Myers-Trying to think outside the box.

Hobrock asked about the amendment to the remote policy? Lori Young stated that amendment was drafted on August 26th. A lot has changed since the amendment was written.

Seaman-We need to hold the kids more accountable.

Watson-Even though ISBE requires certain things, we as a district could have different requirements.

Frank Shaw suggested asking other schools what they are doing to make it work. He would like to zoom with other teachers.

Hobrock-Spend \$50,000 to train on Google Meet? Gilbert-No we had training on Google Classroom.

Hobrock-Asked about still using the Google platform for online learning. Mr. Gilbert stated the district is still using the platform just not Google Meet.

Watson-Google Meet has not worked out all the bugs. Zoom is very successful.

Scott-Trying to teach the hybrid learners, and remote learners.

Gilbert-If we went to full remote learning first quarter. It will get us time to get things figured out. Work with the remote and figure out the kinks. We have never had 1000 chromebooks on the system at the same time. While we are trying to figure this out as a team.

Bill Myers-The attendance issue needs fixed. We will always work with teachers and take input. We will get better. This is not a decision we want to make. I hate it. I want kids back in the building and that is not our reality right now. If we go to the quarter that will hopefully make things better. We are not making it lightly.

Hymes-I don't think any of us feel that you guys want to go remote. Nobody wants that scenario.

Myers-Talked about students coming in the building to work one on one with teachers. We made the decision to allow students come in one on one to work with students.

Riddle-Part of the survey parents and the students need trained on the app. and devices. 90% of the staff would like more training.

Frank Shaw-43 Gard staff took the survey with 90% want more training on Google classroom on how it relates to their grade level. 80% staff in the MS would like more training. More than 50% HS staff would like more training.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. 20-21 student enrollments/number of remote learners
2. Replace air handler unit. Jim brought numbers to Mr. Gilbert about replacement of the entire unit with a warranty. Seaman-the Crane rental would be less for new unit. Will need to get bids. Seaman stated we need to get three.
3. Administrators request to amend remote learning policy addendum with option 1 and option 2. A child needs to be in school. You chose remote but we feel they need to be in school. Opportunity to be in the discussion.
4. Superintendent search interview process-Tom Lehey stated we had 18 candidates. Six candidates will be presented to the board. Second interviews later. Seaman everyone is encouraged to attend. Barbara needs to let Tom Lehey know to get up interviews. September 29th, Sept 30th and Oct 3rd. 6:00-7:30

ACTION ITEMS.

On a motion by Hymes, second by Watson to approve consent agenda 1, 2, 3, and 4. Roll call vote Hymes-yes; Hobrock-yes; Engelbrecht-yes; Watson-yes; Petersen-yes; Simpson-yes; Seaman-yes.

On a motion by Watson, second by Engelbrecht to approve the second read of Press Policies 105. Roll call vote Hymes-yes; Hobrock-yes; Engelbrecht-yes; Watson-yes; Petersen-yes; Simpson-yes; Seaman-yes.

On a motion by Hymes, second by Simpson to approve the 2020-2021 school year salary and benefits report. Roll call vote Hymes-yes; Hobrock-yes; Engelbrecht-yes; Watson-yes; Petersen-yes; Simpson-yes; Seaman-yes.

Table the motion to approve replacing the entire rooftop air handler unit for \$54,016.14 until bids are received.

On a motion by Hymes, second by Watson to adopt a resolution approving the Regional Office of Education #1 as the custodian and flow through agent of the 1 cent County School Facility Tax Money. Roll call vote Hymes-yes; Hobrock-yes; Engelbrecht-yes; Watson-yes; Petersen-yes; Simpson-yes; Seaman-yes.

On a motion by Hymes, second by Simpson to approve the addendum to our Remote Learning Policy. Roll call vote Hymes-yes; Hobrock-yes; Engelbrecht-yes; Watson-yes; Petersen-yes; Simpson-yes; Seaman-yes.

On a motion by Hymes, second by Peterson to enter closed session to discuss litigation, land acquisition, negotiations, student disciplinary cases, and to consider information regarding the appointment, employment, or dismissal of an employee or officer. Roll call vote Hymes-yes; Hobrock-yes; Engelbrecht-yes; Watson-yes; Petersen-yes; Simpson-yes; Seaman-yes. Time 8:30p.m.

On a motion by Hymes, second by Watson to re enter open session. Roll call vote Hymes-yes; Hobrock-yes; Engelbrecht-yes; Watson-yes; Petersen-yes; Simpson-yes; Seaman-yes. Time 9:22 p.m.

PERSONNEL

On a motion by Hymes, second by Watson to employ the following: Peggy Ruiz-Paraprofessional-Gard. Roll call vote Hymes-yes; Hobrock-yes; Engelbrecht-yes; Watson-yes; Petersen-yes; Simpson-yes; Seaman-yes.

On a motion by Watson, second by Engelbrecht to approve the following leave of absences. Tara Towery-August 19-December 31, 2020-Completing Associates Degree; Cindy Swartz-for the 20-21 school year from Part-Time Aides Position. Roll call vote Hymes-yes; Hobrock-yes; Engelbrecht-yes; Watson-yes; Petersen-yes; Simpson-yes; Seaman-yes.

The board recognizes the following resignations: Tania Alvarez-Daycare Worker; Yanileidys Rodriguez-Pre-K aide.

DISCUSSION-Watson would like to set a technology meeting.

Petersen Asked about the status of the district joining the Sangamo Conference.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Hymes, second by Watson to adjourn. Time 9:25 p.m.

Date

President

Secretary