

Date: November 16, 2020
To: Pana CUSD #8 Board of Education
From: Mr. Jason J. Bauer, Superintendent
Subject: **Superintendent's Report and Board Actions for November 16, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.**

BOARD AGENDA NOTES

- 2 Consent Agenda Items** – Please contact me or Heather Phillips prior to the meeting if you have any questions with any of these items. Regular minutes from October are included along with emergency meeting minutes from 11/5/20. There was one FOIA request this month. It was from Smart Procure. They requested all purchasing records from 8/7/20 to current.
- A. Reading/Approval of Minutes
 - B. Emergency Minutes
 - C. Approval of Bills and Payroll
 - D. Treasurer's Report
 - E. FOIA Request

Action: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda inclusive of payables totaling \$1,515,832.67 and payroll totaling \$1,122,135.36 for a total payables and payroll of \$2,637,968.03.

- 3 Visitor, Teacher & Support Staff Considerations** (there are no requests at this time)

4 Committee Reports

- A. Facilities – Did not meet this month. Next Meeting: TBD
- B. Finance – Did not meet this month. Next Meeting: TBD
- C. Curriculum – Did not meet this month. Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. – Pana High School Library
- D. Policy – Did not meet this month. Next Meeting: TBD
- E. Pana Education Foundation – Mark Beyers will provide a recap of the October 21st meeting. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 @ 7:00 a.m.
- F. Strategic Plan – Did not meet this month. Next Meeting: TBD
- G. Technology – Did not meet this month. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.

H. I.D.E.A.S. – Did not meet this month. Next Meeting: TBD

5 Administrative Reports

- A. **Principals** – The building principals will not be in attendance. They have submitted reports for you to review.
- B. **Curriculum and Instruction** – Mr. Donahue will be in attendance to provide an update on the Title Grants and provide some curriculum updates. He will also talk about the school report cards which will come up later in the meeting under the Superintendent Report.
- C. **Building and Transportation** – Jeff Stauder will provide an overview of his report.

D. Superintendent's Report/Board Action

1. Personnel Recommendations.

Action: Motion to approve the Superintendent's personnel recommendations as reviewed and presented from the executive session notes. **This will be done after executive session if one is needed.**

2. Tentative FY 20 Tax Levy Report – Due to EAV estimates last year that were lower than originally projected we saw the EAV increase at a lesser rate. Last year the EAV increased to \$119,105,430 as opposed to the \$120,502,715 that was originally projected. This year, based on the early projections that we received from each of the County Assessor Offices, we are projecting that the EAV will be \$123,884,564, which is a 4.01% increase. This projected growth is beneficial when considering the additional dollars it will generate while potentially not increasing the tax rate.

The Total 2019 Tax Extension (minus Bond & Interest) for Christian, Shelby, and Montgomery Counties was **\$5,226,152**. The aggregate 2019 Levy, excluding the Bond & Interest Levy can be **\$5,487,460** (105%) or less. Any increase in excess of 105% would require a Truth-In-Taxation Hearing. In real dollars this would be a **\$261,308** increase.

I am making the recommendation to keep the increase this year below the 105% limit. There is always an outside chance that this could later change if the early EAV projections provided by the County Assessor offices were off by a substantial dollar amount. I did not maximize the amount I could have requested due to my interest in keeping our rate at the same level.

This year I am recommending a **4.14%** increase with this year's levy and this recommended increase amounts to **\$216,160** in new dollars. If the projections hold true this would translate into **\$121,867** new dollars for the Education Fund, **\$23,895** for the Operation and Maintenance (Building) Fund, and **\$9,558** for the Transportation Fund. This would be a total increase of **\$155,320** in our three main operating funds.

We are still mindful of our restricted funds and what is levied in the Social Security/IMRF Fund (Fund 50). These are restricted funds and can only be used for certain purposes. We are projected to make it through FY 20 without having to use a portion of our EBF money to supplement Social Security.

I am also making the recommendation this year to increase the Tort Levy (Fund 80) due to increased insurance costs and a projected deficit in this year's budget.

The projected TIF dollars for the school district are included in the document. With next year's tax collection we are close to having recouped just under \$180,000.

I will take some time some time to review the numbers in the 2020 budget levy worksheet. Please feel free to ask any questions or stop me during the presentation if you are unsure of something or have questions. I am only asking you to approve the levy report that I have submitted for you to review at the meeting and that I will be using to put the Levy in final form for our December board meeting.

Action: Motion to approve the review of the District's Tentative Levy Report.

3. Review 2019-2020 District Electronic Report Card – Mr. Donahue will spend a brief amount of time going over the District Electronic Report Card. We will spend no time going over PARCC results since there was no test administered in the spring. The link to the report card website is: illinoisreportcard.com. The report card is also scanned and available for viewing in your packet.

Action: No Action Necessary

4. School Board Members Day Resolution – November 15th (Yesterday) was the actual day, but I wanted to take the opportunity to recognize all of you for your dedication to public service. The time that you freely give, hard work, and willingness to work together for the betterment of children of Pana CUSD #8 is much appreciated. Thank you for your professionalism and service during these unprecedented times.

Action: Motion to approve November School Board Members Day Resolution.

- 5. NPT Special Education Report** – Dr. Hastings provided all of you with a recap of what transpired at the last meeting. Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 25th.

Action: Information only

6 Executive Session (Optional)

- A. Discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District, student discipline, litigation, and collective negotiating matters.
- B. Employment/Compensation Resignation Recommendations

Action: Motion to enter executive session for the discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District, student discipline, student concerns, litigation, and collective negotiating matters, as well as employment/compensation resignation recommendations.

Action: Motion to return from executive session.

Action: Motion to approve executive session minutes as read.

Action: Motion to approve the Superintendent's personnel recommendations as reviewed and presented from the executive session notes.

7 Communications

- A. Alliance Legislative Report
- B. Capitol Watch
- C. AIRSS – Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools
- D. Other Board Correspondence

8 Board Member Considerations

- A. Board Member Considerations

1. High School Basketball – This has become a hotly contested issue in the State of Illinois. As of now, there are almost 300 school districts statewide out of over 546 that responded to a recent IHSA survey that are not planning on playing basketball. I have some thoughts on this issue. As a reminder, when you hire a superintendent, you hire them to protect the School District from potential lawsuits and to safeguard District finances. First, you know me as one of the most pro-basketball people on the planet. The game of basketball has helped me personally have a lot of success in life. I know firsthand of the importance of interscholastic athletic opportunities for young people and the positive lessons they teach as an extension beyond that of the classroom. Second, we have been notified by our insurance provider that we will not be covered if there are any COVID-related claims. We also would not be protected under the tort immunity act.

That means that if a suit is filed against the District we would not be able to utilize tort funds to fight it. Lastly, our number one priority is the safety of all students and staff. To

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disregard IDPH and ISBE guidelines would put the District at considerable risk of losing a lawsuit in the tragic event that someone was to die. With that being said, I am not recommending that the District compete in basketball until IDPH guidelines have been established that will allow competition to take place in a safe manner. The IHSA has invited IDPH and the Governor to attend another meeting that will take place on Thursday, November 19. FYI: If a suit were brought against the District, you as individual board members could be named in the suit along with school personnel. Lawyers have argued that there is the possibility of a wrongful death lawsuit and that it could cost upwards of \$50,000,000 due to blatant disregard of IDPH guidelines. As of now, per our transition (back to school) plan basketball can't take place until after November 30th.

Action: The board may wish to table a decision on high school basketball until IHSA's meeting on Thursday or take a vote on whether or not we will allow high school basketball. An appropriate action would be to take a position to postpone basketball competition with other schools until updated guidelines are made available by IDPH that would allow student athletes to participate safely.

2. Review Transition (Back to School) Plan – We have been communicating via email over the past week of the challenges that we have been facing due to the high number of COVID cases, staff quarantines, and substitute vacancies we are unable to fill. We are struggling to find enough substitute teachers, even with grades 4, 5, and 9-12 out, as well as non-certified support staff. The only way we are going to get everyone healthy is to transition to remote learning for a period of time, at least for the sake of our staff members. We were fortunate in that 5th grade teachers returned to work on Friday. It is still my recommendation to transition solely to remote learning through Thanksgiving Break. This allows all staff adequate time to get healthy and reset for the last 3 weeks until Winter Break.

Action: Motion to transition all Pana CUSD #8 Schools to remote learning through Thanksgiving. School will resume on Monday, November 30.

B. Other Board Member Considerations

9 Adjournment

Action: We will need a motion to adjourn the meeting.