

REGULAR
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
September 27, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Matt Boebel called the regular meeting of the Board of Education in Bloomington Elementary School District 13 to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 27, 2021 in an in person and virtual setting. The District invited the public to join the School Board this evening by Zoom webinar platform.

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Michael Lenisa, Mr. Terry McKeown, Ms. Tamara Peterson, Mrs. Kari Zehme, Mr. Matt Boebel

Absent: Mrs. Linda Wojcicki

Others Present: Dr. Jon Bartelt, Shannon Whitaker, Nicole Gabany, John Reiniche, Rick McCall, Greg Leyden, Elizabeth Janowiak, Lynn McGinn, Shaan Kothari, Roshan Desai, Stefan Larsson, Casie Perry, Shefali Desai, Kathari Family, Jessica Matthies, Kristine Puchalski, Bill Bolen, Carly Torracco

Mr. Boebel announced the resignation of Board Member, Cary Moreth. He indicated that anyone interested in filling the vacancy should reach out to Dr. Bartelt by Friday, October 8. Applications from prospective board members are due to the Board by Monday, October 11. Interviews with candidates will be held the week of October 18. The selected applicant will be installed at the October 25 regular board meeting.

Budget Hearing

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Mr. McKeown to open the hearing for the FY22 Budget. Voice Vote: all ayes

A budget hearing was held to present the FY22 Budget and allowed for public comment. No comments were made.

A motion was made by Mr. McKeown and seconded by Ms. Peterson to close the hearing for the FY22 Budget. Voice Vote: all ayes

Exemplar Presentation – Mr. McKeown presented an Exemplar Certificate to Roshan Desai and Shaan Kothari as Student Exemplars, Mrs. LynnEllyn McGinn as Staff Exemplar, and Ms. Elizabeth Janowiak as Community Exemplar.

Appointment of Secretary Pro Tem – A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Mrs. Zehme to appoint Mr. Terry McKeown as Secretary Pro Tem for the September 27 board meeting. Voice Vote: all ayes

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Mr. Lenisa to approve the items in the Consent Agenda which included Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on 8-23-21 and the Special Board Meeting held on 9-13-21. Approval of Bills in the Education Fund in the amount of \$170,693.66; the Operations and Maintenance Fund for in the amount of \$102,071.23; Debt Service in the amount of \$1,864.30; Transportation Fund in the amount of \$570.00; Capital Projects in the amount of \$0.00; and Tort Fund in the amount of \$0.00; Payroll (8-25-2021) in the amount of \$399,827.70, (8-10-2021) in the amount of \$443,957.96, and (9-25-2021) in the amount of \$473,234.58 as shown in (F.D. 9/27/2021-1); the Fund Balance Report as shown in (F.D. 9/27/2021-2); the Balance Sheet as shown in (F.D. 8/23/2021-3); the Revenue Report as shown in (F.D. 9/27/2021-4); the Expenditure Report as shown in (F.D. 9/27/2021-5); and Activity Report as shown in (F.D. 8/23/2021-6); **New Hires**, Jessica Malpede, Paraprofessional at Erickson for an hourly rate of \$13.52/hr., effective 8/30/21, Bethany Hudnut, Paraprofessional at Erickson for an hourly rate of \$13.25/hr., effective 8/30/21, Jaime Mathy, Paraprofessional at Erickson for an hourly rate of \$13.52/hr., effective 9/20/21; **Resignations/Retirements**, Eva Cegeiski, Paraprofessional at Erickson effective 8/20/21, Alexandra Meyer, Paraprofessional at Erickson effective 8/23/21, Lisa Grosenbach, Paraprofessional at Erickson effective 8/24/21, Kathy Reich, Paraprofessional at Erickson effective 9/03/21; **Re-Hire**, Kathy Reich, Paraprofessional at DuJardin for an hourly rate of \$13.75/hr., effective 9/7/2021, Nancy Knoll, Paraprofessional at Erickson for an hourly rate of \$13.50/hr., effective 9/17/21; **Change of Position**, Karen Hosty to Secretary at DuJardin effective 9/13/21; **Leaves**, Sara Cross Maternity effective 9/17/21.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Peterson, Lenisa, McKeown, Zehme, Boebel

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 – 0

Superintendent's Report

Student Presentation - Diwali

Westfield Students, Shaan Kothari and Roshan Desai made a presentation to the board entitled "A Day for Diwali". In their presentation, they indicated that Diwali is the largest Hindu holiday celebrated across the world by Indians. They gave a brief overview of the current holidays that are celebrated with a day off by the district, and stated that in fairness, giving a day off to students for Diwali would allow our Indian population to go to the temple and celebrate with their families. Shaan and Roshan showed a chart with student demographics, and indicated that since a large number of students already take the day off to celebrate Diwali, they miss what is happening in school and need to catch up on what they missed. They encouraged the board to consider taking action to recognize Diwali as an official District 13 holiday to help students who celebrate, build

their cultural identity, as well as give all students and staff an opportunity to learn about another culture and become more aware of other cultures.

Return to Learn Plan

Dr. Bartelt indicated that a parent message would be going out on Tuesday, August 24th regarding the state board of education's statement pertaining to synchronous instruction if they are identified as COVID positive or are a close contact of a COVID positive individual. Dr. Bartelt also told the board that we have dedicated two teachers, one at the elementary and one at the middle school level to push out this remote synchronous instruction. This will be a short term bridge to keeping those students active on their material until they return to class. Information will be published on the website with information on free COVID testing locations.

Institute Day

Mrs. Gabany stated that the upcoming Institute Day will mostly be focused on data. Students just finished MAP testing, so teachers will take a look at that data to see what students are ready for next. Teachers will have the option to take sessions from the Illinois Virtual Conference that is happening on that same day.

District Leadership Council

Dr. Bartelt explained the District Leadership Council is something that came out of the strategic plan. It will include 15 staff members in addition to Dr. Bartelt. They will come together to talk about various issues focusing on how we can create processes procedures and communications across the district, address issues of concern and share some of our leadership with our staff. Staff members involved include secretarial staff, teaching staff and administrators. The council will meet at least quarterly, if not more often.

IASA State Superintendent's Conference

Dr. Bartelt shared that he will be attending the IASA State Superintendent's Conference later in the week in Springfield. He will share the details of the conference with the Board in his next Thursday letter.

Public Comment

Joe Meister, a parent of two children at DuJardin addressed the board regarding the email that was sent out by Dr. Bartelt concerning the Tik Tok challenges that were taking place at District schools. He spoke about a seminar that he was presenting called Flip Phones for Kids that he wanted to offer to the District.

Casie Perry spoke out against the state mandates placed on schools, and urged the Board to reach out to their attorneys about the District's options to make their own decisions about which guidelines they follow.

Bill Bolen whose property connects to Erickson Elementary School spoke to the Board about issues with the current HVAC enclosure at the school. He said that it has become a spot for kids to go and hang out and cause trouble and has required an

increased police presence in the area. He has requested that the board consider covering it, enclosing it, or taking it down.

Carly Torracco inquired about the board vacancy and whether it will be an appointed position or if it will be voted on.

Deanna Corrado, parent of a 4th grade student at DuJardin addressed the board via the Zoom link. She expressed her concerns about students being sent home with symptoms, and the length of time it takes to receive the COVID results back. She would like for the Board to come up with a solution for the kids who are in that waiting period but aren't diagnosed with COVID to have some form of remote learning during that waiting period.

Board Reports and Requests

BIG – No Report.

LEND - Mr. Reiniche indicated that they had their 1st meeting of the year. Senators and Legislators were invited to the meeting where they had breakout sessions and were able to have close conversations with these representatives.

CCTS! – The celebration scheduled for October 5th has been cancelled. They are modifying how the awards will be presented.

Education Foundation – No meeting. A donation of \$42,000 was received, bringing total donations to \$250,000.

NDSEC – Ms. Peterson indicated that they met two weeks ago and are looking at the budget for the upcoming year, as well as job advancement.

Bloomington Council of Teachers – Mr. Boebel indicated that they are outlining the process for upcoming negotiation discussions.

Freedom of Information Act Requests

Dr. Bartelt indicated that the District received two Freedom of information Requests, and both were responded to within the timeline parameters under the Freedom of Information Act for commercial requests.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Student Ambassadors to the Board (F.D. 9/27/21-7)

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Mrs. Zehme for the Board to approve the appointment of Eshaan Aggarwal and Cheyenne Pavia as Student Ambassadors to the Board.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Peterson, Zehme, Lenisa, McKeown, Boebel

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 - 0

Approval of the FY22 Budget (F.D. 9/27/21-8)

A motion was made by Mr. McKeown and seconded by Mr. Lenisa for the Board to approve the FY22 Budget, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: McKeown, Lenisa, Peterson, Zehme, Boebel

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 – 0

Resolution for Certification of Previous Serious Safety Hazard Findings (F.D. 9/27/21-9)

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Mr. Lenisa for the Board to approve the Resolution for Certification of Previous Safety Hazard Findings, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Peterson, Lenisa, McKeown, Zehme, Boebel

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 – 0

Resolution in Support of School Principals (F.D. 9/27/21-10)

A motion was made by Mr. McKeown and seconded by Mrs. Zehme for the Board of Education to approve the Resolution in Support of School Principals, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: McKeown, Zehme, Lenisa, Peterson, Boebel

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 – 0

Approval of Strategic Plan Initiatives for 2021-2022 (F.D. 9/27/21-11)

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and second by Mr. McKeown for the Board to approve the Strategic Plan Initiatives for 2021-2022, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Peterson, McKeown, Lenisa, Zehme, Boebel

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 – 0

Approval of Second Reading of Amendments to Board Policies (F.D. 9/27/21-12)

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and second by Mr. Lenisa for the Board to approve the Second Reading of Amendments to Board Policies, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Peterson, Lenisa, McKeown, Zehme, Boebel

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 – 0

Election of Board Vice President (F.D. 9/27/21-13)

Mr. McKeown nominated Ms. Peterson for the role of Board Vice President. Ms. Peterson accepted the nomination.

Voice Vote All Ayes

Motion Carried: 5 – 0

Appointment of Liaisons (F.D. 9/27/21-14)

Mr. Boebel spoke to the Board about the District Committees and asked for members to express their interest in the committees that they are interested in serving on as ambassadors.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Community Collaboration Group

Dr. Bartelt indicated that this group was formerly the Citizens Advisory Group. It meets once a trimester to hear the voice of the tax payers, parents and community members. There will be a meeting on November 1st. Information will be provided through a parent communication.

Board Superintendent Expectations

Dr. Bartelt stated that these expectations are reviewed on an annual basis and asked the board members if they had any changes they would like to make to these expectations. The Board did not request any changes to the expectations at this time.

Topic(s) for Future Agendas

None

For Information

Enrollment Update

Dr. Bartelt explained that the August to September enrollment numbers will always look substantially different, because the August numbers are taken before the first day of school, and the numbers aren't all in yet. In addition, a lot of people waited until the last minute to complete their enrollment, causing the September numbers to be significantly higher.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Mr. McKeown to adjourn the meeting. All ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Matt Boebel, President

Terry McKeown, Secretary Pro Tem