

## LIBERAL R-11 SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

October 20th, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Liberal R-II School District was held on Wednesday, October 20th, 2021, in the Board of Education Office. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President Christie Ulrich. The minutes were recorded by Board Secretary, Eli Short.

**Members Present:** Christie Ulrich (2023), President  
John Simpson (2024), Vice-President  
Bryce Barton (2022) – (7:10 pm)  
Denise James (2024)  
Chris Morrow (2023)  
Tonya Suschnick (2022)  
Brian Williams (2023)

**Others Present:** William Harvey, Superintendent  
Nicole Ruddick, HS/ MS Principal  
Rachel Miller, HS/ MS Assistant Principal  
Leticia Fry, Elementary Principal  
Travis Walton, Athletic Director  
Eli Short, Board Secretary  
Kari Meadows, Susie Christian  
Kati Wolf, Adam wolf  
Tabitha Beaman, Sam Meyers  
Dana Meadows, Rebekah  
Borghardt  
Elizabeth Banwart, Tonya  
Crabtree  
Haley Workman, Doug Strahm  
Amanda Strahm

### PRELIMINARY MATTERS

**Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by James to approve the presented agenda for the regular October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting. Motion carried 6-0

### CONSENT AGENDA

**A.** **Motion** by Williams, seconded by Morrow to approve the Open Session minutes from the regular meeting held on September 15th, 2021. Motion carried 5-0-1. Suschnick abstained

**B.** **Motion** by Simpson, seconded by Morrow to pay the October 2021 bills as presented. Motion carried 5-0-1. Williams abstained (check #1165)

**C.** **Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Williams to approve the monthly bank statement from September 2021. Motion carried 6-0.

**D.** **Motion** by Williams, seconded by James to transfer \$355,000 from the MoSIP General Account to the NOW Account. Motion carried 6-0.

**E.** **Motion** by Simpson, seconded by James to transfer \$162,059.74 from the MoSIP Bond Issue Account to the NOW Account. Motion carried 6-0.

## PROGRAM REVIEW

Barton  
Arrival  
7:10pm

October 20th, 2021  
Open Session  
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A. Several parents attended the meeting to discuss some issues with the board. Mr. Harvey addressed the current Covid policies with the parents and helped explain whether they were county, state, or local policies. An initial issue the parents wanted to discuss was marginally opening the school to parents as the current policy does not allow parents in the schools and is a local policy remaining in place from last year. Many of the parents expressed their want to be allowed back into the school for class parties and eventually for them to be allowed to accompany their child to lunch. Additional issues discussed were the potential return for field trips and the ability to alter a child's bus schedule throughout the week to account for changes in schedules of parents, grandparents, babysitters, etc.

Mr. Harvey explained to the parents that the school is looking into field trips for the spring and that the restrictions for field trips and bus schedules are related to a lack of bus drivers and bus routes. He elaborated that with the addition of two drivers currently in the testing process more leniency on the bus riders policy would be allowed.

Following discussion, the board moved to allow for room mothers to be present for school parties and potentially an additional helper depending on need. This allowance would also pertain to Heidi Lanz being allowed to come into the school and read to the students. No motion or vote was needed for this issue because the current policy allows for "Essential Volunteers" to be allowed into the school after a pre-screening process. Those mentioned above will now be considered essential volunteers per the current policy.

B. Mr. Harvey presented four updates to the MSBA policies to the board.

**Motion** by Williams, seconded by James to accept all four updates to the MSBA policies as presented. Motion carried 7-0

### **BUILDING PRINCIPAL REPORTS**

**Elementary** – Mrs. Fry presented to the board that enrollment has dropped by 3 to 124 since the last meeting. Midterm reports were sent home with students on sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. Parent teacher conference schedules are being set. Additionally, the October title 1 family night will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup>. PAT is planning a group connection featuring farm life for Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Fry is also planning a collaboration with the Liberal FFA for a farm safety day to be held on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. Finally Fall parties have been scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 3:00.

**Middle School** – Mrs. Ruddick presented that Middle school enrollment is 79. She also noted that the Middle school Student council sponsored tailgating for the football homecoming game.

**High School** – Mrs. Ruddick also presented for the high school stating that enrollment is 113. She went on to say that homecoming festivities were a success and the dance had great attendance. Mrs. Ruddick also discussed the upcoming Veteran's Day program and how it will be carried out.

**Athletic Director** – Mr. Walton presented on the school's athletic teams. Posting records for the various teams and mentioning the district tournament dates for each sport.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Harvey presented briefly to the board showing in his financial report that compared to last year revenues are still up and expenditures down leaving the school \$165,351 ahead of where they were this time last year. He spoke about an application for additional ESSR III money that he is in the process of completing to get the remainder of the ESSR III money allocated to the district.

Mr. Harvey further discussed enrollment with the board and spoke on the enrollment trends over the past 10 years. Finally, Mr. Harvey discussed some of the final insurance payments coming in from the fires and noted that the insurance money was enough to cover the building costs it was allocated for. He also spoke about the timeline for the re-building of the bus barn directly behind the superintendent's office.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. No Unfinished business to handle at this meeting.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A.** This year's Board Election will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. The sign-up period for this year has changed by state law and will be a week earlier and much shorter. Applicants may file for office beginning at 8:00 am on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 and will continue during the district's regular business hours, which are Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. Except for the first and last day of filing, filing will not occur on days that the school district's central office is closed due to inclement weather or the covid-19 pandemic. The Board of Education Office will also be closed during Christmas recess beginning at 3:30 pm on Friday, December 17, 2021. Filing will resume on Tuesday, December 28, 2021 at 9:00 am until 5:00 pm, which is the end of the filing period for the April 2022 election.

**Motion** by Simpson, seconded by Barton to set the filing dates for April 2022 board of education elections according to the above calendar Motion carried 7-0

**B.** **Motion** by Morrow, seconded by Williams to set the date for the November Regular meeting as Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Motion carried 7-0

**Motion** by Morrow, seconded by Barton to go into closed session for exception #6 (Scholastic Probation, expulsion, or graduation of identifiable individuals) Roll Call Vote: Barton-yes, James-yes, Morrow-yes, Simpson-yes, Suschnick-yes, Ulrich-yes and Williams-yes. Motion carried 7-0. (8:36 p.m.)

**Motion** by Williams, seconded by Simpson to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0.

**CLOSING TIME: 10:15 p.m.**