**LIBERAL R-II SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**

**August 19. 2021**

A tax-rate hearing was held on Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.in the Board of Education Room prior to the regular meeting. No public opinion was present.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Liberal R-II School District was held on Thursday, August 19, 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 Treasurer, Wendy Rose.

**Members Present:** Christie Ulrich (2023), President

John Simpson (2024), Vice-President

Bryce Barton (2022)

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

Wendy Rose, Board Treasurer

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

**Motion** by Williams, seconded by James to approve the presented agenda for the regular August 19, 2021 meeting. Motion carried 7-0

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Motion** by Barton, seconded by Morrow to approve the Open Session minutes from the regular meeting held on July 15, 2021. Motion carried 7-0.

**B. Motion** by Morrow, seconded by Simpson to pay the August 2021 bills as presented. Motion carried 6-0-1; Suschnick abstained from check #87373.

**C. Motion** by Williams, seconded by James to approve the monthly bank statement from July 2021. Motion carried 7-0.

**D. Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Barton to transfer $50,000 from the MoSIP General Account to the NOW Account. Motion carried 7-0.

**E. Motion** by Simpson, seconded by James to transfer $24,083 from Debt Service Account to the NOW Account to reimburse the district for the MOHEFA payment. Motion carried 7-0.

**PROGRAM REVIEW**

**A. Motion** by Morrow, seconded by Williams to accept the presented Special Education Compliance Plan. Motion carried 7-0.

August 19, 2021

Open Session

Page 2 of 3

The Board briefly met the following new teachers:

Jill Goodwin – FACS

Joey Ross – Weights & PE

Garrett Zouch – History

Kayla Ayres- Industrial Arts

**B. Motion** by Williams, seconded by Morrow to amend the district’s Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (SRCSP) to include the CDC mask mandate for all students riding on school buses to and from school, all school activities and Vo-Tech. Motion carried 4-3.

**C.** Mr. Harvey briefly updated the board on the process of completing the American Rescue Plan – Elementary ad Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP-ESSER III) which is the third round of Covid Relief money for school districts. The application is due by the first day of school next week.

**BUILDING PRINCIPAL REPORTS**

**Elementary**

Mrs. Fry reported that enrollment in the elementary is 118 Kindergarten through fifth grade and there are 9 preschoolers. Meet the teacher was very successful with 90-95 % attendance.

**Middle School**

Mrs. Miller reported enrollment for the middle school at 77; with 1 student doing online tuition through Launch. There were approximately 65 students who attended meet the teacher.

**High School**

Mrs. Ruddick reported enrollment in the high school is 114; with 3 students doing virtual online classes through Launch and Acellus. Meet the teacher and open hours went well.

**Athletic Director**

Mr. Walton reported there are 25 varsity football players and they will play a full JV schedule. There are approximately 11 middle school football players expected to play. There are 15 varsity volleyball players and middle school practice will start Monday. Cross-country has also been practicing through August.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Mr. Harvey reported that the district’s Assessed Valuation had been incorrectly reported in July. The county clerk contacted him about an error that had been made when dividing new tax within the county. Liberal’s new AV went to $65,084,678, which lowered our tax rate ceiling to $3.15; Harvey recommended to the Board to leave the tax levy at the same rate as last year. The budget will need to be amended next month to accommodate these changes.

August 19, 2021

Open Session

Page 3 of 3

The district is still down one custodian and two bus drivers. A daytime custodian for the high school is still needed. Due to the number of available drivers, bus routes have been changed to have five rounds in the mornings and 4 routes in the afternoons.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Motion** by Simpson, seconded by Barton to adopt the presented board resolution authorizing the redemption of $135,000 in principal of General Obligation Bonds. Motion carried 7-0.

**B. Motion** by Barton, seconded by Simpson to adopt the presented board resolution for Covid-19 Leave for Staff for the 2021-2022 school year; the leave allows for 80 hours of leave once the employee uses three of their own sick days. Motion carried 7-0.

**C. Motion** by Morrow, seconded by Williams to solicit bids for a 40 X 60 barn. Motion carried 7-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Motion** by Simpson, seconded by Williams to set the 2021 tax rate at $3.1068 in Fund I (operations) and at $0.6000 in Fund 3 (debt service) for a total of $3.7068. Motion carried 7-0.

**B. Motion** by Barton, seconded by James to hold the next regular meeting on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

**Motion** by Morrow, seconded by Suschnick to go into closed session for exception #3 (hiring, firing, disciplining and promotion of personnel). Roll Call Vote: Barton-yes, James-yes, Morrow-yes, Simpson-yes, Suschnick-yes, Ulrich-yes and Williams-yes. Motion carried 7-0. **(8:28 p.m.)**

Mrs. Ruddick briefly talked about allowing the public to rent the high school faculties and the charge for renting. Currently there are two groups of adults that regularly use the faculties; an adult group for volleyball on Sunday evenings and a group for basketball on Sunday afternoons. There are other groups asking about renting and the current rate is $50 for the cafeteria and $50 for the gym.

Consensus by the board to leave the rate for rent the same.

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

**CLOSING TIME:** **9:05 p.m.**