**LIBERAL R-II SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**

**May 20, 2021**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Liberal R-II School District was held on Thursday, May 20, 2021 in the Board of Education Office. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President Christie Ulrich.

**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) - ABSENT

**Others Present:** William Harvey, Superintendent

Nicole Ruddick, HS / MS Principal

Rachel Miller, HS / MS Assistant Principal

Leticia Fry, Elementary Principal

Travis Walton, Athletic Director

Jay Johnson, District Tech Director

Wendy Rose, Board Secretary

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

**Motion** by Barton, seconded by James to approve the presented agenda for the regular May 20, 2021 meeting with the following additions; Technology Plan during Program Review and Elementary Gym Project during Superintendent’s Report. Motion carried 6-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Barton to approve the open session minutes from the regular meeting held on April 14, 2021. Motion carried 6-0.

**B. Motion** by Morrow, seconded by Barton to approve the open session minutes from the special meeting held on May 5, 2021. Motion carried 6-0.

**C. Motion** by Morrow, seconded by Simpson to pay the May 2021 bills as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

**D. Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Simpson to approve the monthly bank statement from April 2021. Motion carried 6-0.

**E. Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Barton to transfer $120,000 from the MOSIP General Account to the NOW General Account. Motion carried 6-0.

**Motion** by Simpson, seconded by Morrow to transfer $13,159.80 from the MOSIP Bond Account to the NOW Bond Account. Motion carried 6-0.

**F. Motion** by Barton, seconded by Simpson to transfer $24,083 from debt service to the NOW account to reimburse the district for the MOHEFA payment. Motion carried 6-0.

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**PROGRAM REVIEW**

**B.** Jay Johnson presented the revised district Technology Plan for 2021-2024. The technology committee is comprised of staff, community members and students. The purpose of the plan is to keep all district equipment, servers and software up to date and to make sure the district is setting aside enough funds to make that happen. During the past year CARES funding has been a great help to the district and was used to purchase new servers, chrome books, online tuition and WIFI equipment.

**Motion** by Morrow, seconded by Simpson to approve the presented district technology plan. Motion carried 6-0.

*Jay Johnson left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.*

**A.** Mrs. Fry presented the 2021-2022 Elementary Student Handbook. She reviewed all changes made in the current year’s handbook; several changes dealt with the new elementary building, entry /exit from the building and pick up / drop off procedures.

**Motion** by Simpson, seconded by James to approve the presented 2021-22 elementary handbook. Motion carried 6-0.

Mrs. Ruddick presented the 2021-2022 Middle / High School Student Handbook and Athletic Handbook. All changes made to the current handbook were reviewed. Areas that were revised included a further explanation of AMI and AMI-X days, sick days verses quarantine days with distant learning guidelines and newly required MSBA policies.

Mrs. Ruddick discussed adding academic letters in the coming year for students who carry a 3.5 grade point average (4.0 scale). Grades from the first three quarters will be used and grades from the fourth quarter will be reviewed to make the determination on who earns the letter. All guidelines for the academic letter will be included in the handbook.

In review of the athletic handbook, grade eligibility was discussed; a minimum of sixteen grades are required to be entered by teachers for each quarter. The board asked for a requirement of at least eight grades be entered by mid-quarter.

**Motion** by Simpson, seconded by James to approve the presented 2021-2022 Middle / High School Student & Athletic Handbook. Motion carried 6-0.

**BUILDING PRINCIPAL REPORTS**

**Elementary**

Mrs. Fry reported a final enrollment of 111 in class students and 2 distant learners. The school year ended with several activities for the students. FFA students came to the elementary and presented Food for America. Student rotated through a greenhouse station where they planted a tomato plant. Other stations included farm animals, tractor safety and butter making.

Awards Day and Track/ Field Day were held on the same day. Track & Field was held on at the high school track; students were allowed to choose their own events and awards were given to those who placed in each of those events. Kindergarten graduation was also held along with awards and there were 18 students graduate. There were eleven children who participated in kindergarten orientation for next years class with an estimate of at least 15 students starting in August. Mrs. Harrison won a giveaway of $400 for classroom supplies from Pitsco Education.

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**Middle School / High School**

Mrs. Ruddick reported enrollment for the middle school at 87 for in class students and the high school has an enrollment of 100 in class students and 11 distant learners. Additional end of the year FFA events included an awards banquet and Farm Safety Day at the Lamar Park. Several students who participated in Archery had the opportunity to shoot in a virtual national competition. Prom was held at the Frisco Building in Pittsburg and went very smoothly. High School and Middle school awards as well as the spring concert were as well attended.

**Athletic Director**

Mr. Walton briefly updated the board on spring sports. Baseball ended their season 9-15. They had 5 players make the all-district team. Softball finished their season5-17 and also had 5 players named to the all-district team. The boys and girls track teams did very well at the sectional meet last weekend and will participate in the state track meet this coming weekend.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Mr. Harvey reported on the district’s finances. He is narrowing down the remaining federal reimbursements that will need to requested for the current fiscal year. All revenues and expenditures are both currently up, revenues by $361,551 and expenses by $153,937.

The exact amount of ESSER III funds allocated to the district is to be released in the next couple of weeks. ESSER II money should start being distributed to districts by early fall. Due to the district being Hold Harmless, the state money received next year will not change. Local money is still uncertain due to no definite numbers on the windmill tax money yet.

There will be a new minimum raise increase of $0.85 set for January 1, 2022 which will need to be considered when setting non-certified salaries next month for next year’s budget. The salary committee are putting numbers together for all staff for next month’s meeting.

There are currently still two opening in the district, Industrial Technology and Preschool.

Summer maintenance projects include repairing the high school gym bleachers, graveling parking lots, replace front door to the board office, repairs to the elementary playground area, repair industrial shop ceiling and routine painting and classroom maintenance.

The elementary gym project is almost complete. Work for this week include sanding the gym floor, which should be finished by Memorial Day. Cabinets and laminate flooring installed in the office area. Asphalt on the parking lot should go down next week; the track will have to wait until weather permits and the ground dries out.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A.** DESE Food Service hasn’t released the lunch equity information for the coming year at meeting time.

**B. Motion** by Simpson, seconded by Barton to hold the next regular meeting on Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

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**Motion** by Barton, seconded by James to go into closed session in accordance with Missouri State Statute 610.021 for the purpose of exception #3 (hiring, firing, disciplining and promotion of personnel) and #13 (Individually identifiable personnel records, performance ratings or records pertaining to employees). Roll Call Vote: Barton-yes, James-yes, Morrow-yes, Simpson-yes, Suschnick-yes and Ulrich-yes. Motion carried 6-0. **(9:10 p.m.)**

**Motion** by Barton, seconded by Simpson to adjourn. Motion carried 6-0.

**CLOSING TIME: 9:30 p.m.**