**LIBERAL R-II SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**

**April 14, 2021**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Liberal R-II School District was held on Wednesday, April 14, 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)

**Others Present:** William Harvey, Superintendent

Nicole Ruddick, HS / MS Principal

Rachel Miller, HS / MS Assistant Principal

Leticia Fry, Elementary Principal

Travis Walton, Athletic Director

Wendy Rose, Board Secretary

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

**Motion** by Barton, seconded by James to approve the presented agenda for the regular April 14, 2021 meeting with the following additions; District Covid Plan in Program Review and Health Insurance Premiums in Superintendent’s Report. Motion carried 7-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Williams to approve the open session minutes from the regular meeting held on March 18, 2021. Motion carried 5-0-2, Morrow and James abstained.

**B. Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Barton to pay the April 2021 bills as presented. Motion carried 6-0-1; Williams abstained from direct deposit #765.

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

**D. Motion** by Williams, seconded by Suschnick to transfer $125,000 from the MOSIP Bond Account to the NOW Bond Account. Motion carried 7-0.

**F. Motion** by Simpson, seconded by Suschnick to transfer $24,083 from debt service to the NOW account to reimburse the district for the MOHEFA payment. Motion carried 7-0.

**PROGRAM REVIEW**

**A.** Mr. Harvey presented training paperwork for the Board members to read and sign for the MACHS (Missouri Automated Criminal History System). After the recent audit the district went through with MACHS, they recommended that all Board members complete the training in case employee information from their system is ever shared with the Board.

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**B.** Harvey reported that there have been some requests from district parents that all Covid Restrictions be lifted for the final month of the school year. Currently the district plans to hold in person spring concerts, awards assemblies, track / field day and graduation ceremonies. Masks are still recommended but not required with many choosing not to wear them. Classroom, lunch room and bus seating charts are still being followed on a daily basis as required by the Health Departments rules. Lifting the restrictions at this time will require a vote by the Board. Regardless of any decisions made for the current year the board will still have to reevaluate the situation and make plans for next August. The guidelines for the CARES ESSER III money which is estimated at $715,000 states the district must have a Covid plan in place and made known to the public to receive at least 20% of that allocation.

**Motion** by Simpson, seconded by Suschnick to remove the current Covid Plan for the district and all restrictions for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. Motion failed 3-4.

**BUILDING PRINCIPAL REPORTS**

**Elementary**

Mrs. Fry reported enrollment for the elementary at 111 for in class students and 2 for distant learners. Elementary students have been participating in Zoom meetings with Miss Heidi from the Barton County Library and in nutrition classes with Theresa Dalby from the Barton County Health Department. Testing in the elementary building will be held April 26-30th;

SAT-10 for Kindergarten through second grade and MAP testing for third through fifth grade.

Track and Field Day / Awards Day is scheduled for May 10th; Kindergarten graduation will be held in conjunction with their Awards Day.

The elementary students all signed the new gym floor before the flooring material starting going down. A tornado drill was held earlier this week and all students were able to use the new tornado shelter.

**Middle School / High School**

Mrs. Ruddick reported enrollment for the middle school at 90 for in class students and the high school has an enrollment of 108 in class students. There are 11 distant learners and 2 virtual learners for both schools. Prom will be held next weekend on Saturday, April 24th. The book fair was recently held in the library; students purchased $2600 in books. Archery students will be given the opportunity to shoot in the National Virtual Tournament on May 1st. The high school art class is working on a mural for the Rec League at the city park.

The Board asked how virtual learning had gone overall through out the year. Mrs. Ruddick said she has been told by several distant learners they will be back in class next year. There are a couple students doing well with virtual who will stay with that course next year.

Mrs. Miller reported that all eighth-grade students and parents were sent the survey about making changes to graduation. The slight majority of those polled preferred the change to a day time event held along with the Awards Ceremony. Staff members were also in favor of changing 8th grade graduation to a day time event.

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**Motion** by Morrow, seconded by Simpson to hold 8th grade graduation during the daytime during awards ceremony. Motion carried 7-0.

**Athletic Director**

Mr. Walton briefly updated the board on spring sports. High School Baseball is currently 4-6; districts will be held May 14-22 at Lockwood. High School Softball is currently 2-9; districts will be held May 3-8 at Jasper. High School Track has 9 girls and 13 boys out; Districts will be May 8th at SBU and Sectionals will be May 15th at Sarcoxie. Middle School Track has 6 boys and 14 girls out.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Mr. Harvey reported when comparing the district’s revenues vs expenditures to last year the district is up approximately $151,650.

The FEMA safe rooms in both schools are for the most part complete. The elementary storm shelter has just a couple of minor things to finish up. He has been working on the final paperwork with Visionary Group in order to meet the May 14th deadline. Part of that final paperwork includes putting together a non-school hour’s support team and providing all required training on the facilities.

Much progress is being made on the elementary gym replacement project. Painting on the inside of the gym is about finished. Paving on the outside track and parking lot will be done as soon as the weather cooperates. Scoreboards are up in the gym and the wood floors will begin to go down soon. The gym portion should be finished within the next month and then the contractors will be working on completing the lobby and office areas.

Consensus by the Board to hold the Faculty Appreciation dinner on the last day of school for staff members, Monday, May 17th.

There is a possibility that Mr. Harvey will be able to spend some of the CARES ESSER II and III funds, to replace the windows in the existing elementary building. Branco is helping him obtain some bids for that kind of project.

MET is requesting the board make a decision on health insurance premiums for next year; employees will go through open enrollment next week and it is helpful for the board portion to be set. It was reported last month that there was a slight increase in the premium cost per month and the board can use CARES ESSER money to help fund any increase the board gives towards the monthly premium.

**Motion** by Barton, seconded by Suschnick to set the monthly board paid portion of health insurance premiums to $561.70 for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried 7-0.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A.** Mr. Harvey reported that a change order will need to be voted on to cover the costs of painting all of the district buildings: Elementary $41,025, MS /HS $33,268 and Board Office $11,475. The bid amounts include painting and some of the needed repairs to the outside of those buildings. The board may want to only paint the elementary at this time until it can be determined how much remaining bond money there will be.

Consensus by the board to go ahead with the change order for painting the elementary.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**A.** The next board meeting will be held on the regular day and time; Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

**Motion** by Morrow, seconded by Williams 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, Ulrich-yes and Williams-yes. Motion carried 7-0. **(9:03 p.m.)**

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

**CLOSING TIME: 9:32 p.m.**