**LIBERAL R-II SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**

**March 18, 2021**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Liberal R-II School District was held on Thursday, March 18, 2021 in the Board of Education Office. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President Brian King.

**Members Present:** Brian King (2021), President

Christie Ulrich (2023), Vice-President

Bryce Barton (2022) – *LATE ARRIVAL*

Chris Morrow (2023) - *ABSENT*

John Simpson (2021)

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

Shelley Muncy, Guest

Grace Williams, Guest

Wendy Rose, Board Secretary

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

**Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Simpson to approve the presented agenda for the regular March 18, 2021 meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Ulrich to approve the open session minutes from the regular meeting held on February 17, 2021. Motion carried 4-0-1, Simpson abstained.

**B. Motion** by Simpson, seconded by Williams to pay the March 2021 bills as presented. Motion carried 4-0-1; Williams abstained from direct deposit #694.

**C. Motion** by Williams, seconded by Suschnick to approve the monthly bank statement from February 2021. Motion carried 5-0.

**D. Motion** by Williams, seconded by Simpson to transfer $45,000 from the MOSIP Bond Account to the NOW Bond Account. Motion carried 5-0.

**F. Motion** by Simpson, seconded by Ulrich to transfer $24,083 from debt service to the NOW account to reimburse the district for the MOHEFA payment. Motion carried 5-0.

**BUILDING PRINCIPAL REPORTS**

**Elementary**

Mrs. Fry reported enrollment for the elementary at 112 for in class students and 2 for distant learners. There have been 24 children screened for next year’s kindergarten, 12 of those children are in pre-school this year. Spring Parent-Teacher conferences were held earlier this evening. Upcoming events that have been planned include an in-person spring concert for 3-5th

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grades on May 10th. Plans are also being made for Track and field day later in May. Mrs. Fry asked the Board their opinion of whether to continue the tradition of Kindergarten Graduation. It wasn’t held last year due the Covid Shut down. If they do go ahead with it again this year, it could possibly be held on a smaller scale and on the same day as the awards assembly.

**Middle School / High School**

Mrs. Ruddick reported enrollment for the middle school at 89 for in class students and the high school has an enrollment of 107 in class students. There are 11 distant learners and 2 virtual learners for both schools. The 7th graders participated in the 4-H SNAC Program for the first 3 weeks of March which focused on nutrition, leadership and citizen ships skills. High School students took 4th overall at the Crowder Engineering Competition. High School students were taught CPR / Heimlich procedures by the Barton County Ambulance earlier this week. The junior class visited the Vo-Tech school and there are five students interested in attending next year. Prom will be held April 24th.

Mrs. Ruddick also asked the Board their opinion of doing away with or changing the way the 8th grade graduation ceremony is held due to the fact that is was skipped last year during the shut downs. The principals suggested possible changes such as it could be held in the day time along with the awards ceremony. After some discussion it was suggested the principals from all buildings send surveys to parents in regards to opinions about having Kindergarten and 8th grade graduations.

Mrs. Ruddick also asked the Board their opinion of allowing last year’s seniors to attend prom this year due to the shut down last year. She was asked by the current juniors / seniors about letting the previous seniors attend. There are a couple of these previous seniors who are signed up as the dates of students who are in the junior / senior class this year, but several others wouldn’t have high school dates.

Consensus by the Board to leave prom guest rules as they are. Only current junior / seniors and their dates will be allowed to attend.

*Barton arrived at 7:15 p.m.*

**Athletic Director**

**Motion** by Williams, seconded by Barton set the nine-day dead period for sports during the upcoming summer for July3-11, 2021. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Walton briefly updated the board on the end of basketball season and the beginning of spring sports. Caleb Suschnick and Gunner Miller received all conference and district awards for basketball. All spring sports are practicing, with games beginning soon. There are 15 girls playing softball with the Liberal and Bronaugh girls combined.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Mr. Harvey reported the district’s revenues are up by approximately $141,035 when compared to last year. Revenues appear to be up in all areas; local, county state and federal. Expenditures are down by $4,137 when compared to last year. The governor released a statement last week that the formula will be fully funded this year. The budget has a built in

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proration factor of 91.4% which should allow the district to meet and exceed the budget numbers. The district still has CARES ESSER II funds that haven’t been used yet and an even larger allocation of CARES ESSER III funds is expected. These funds must be spent on Covid Relief; partial expenses being considered are new furnaces as well as salaries and summer school funding.

The MS/HS storm shelter is officially completed; the mats on the gym walls and the south entrance canopy have been installed. The final cost of the high school project was estimated at $3.4 million but came in at $3.1 million. Mr. Harvey will work with Paragon on the final FEMA paperwork as soon as the elementary storm shelter portion is completed to meet the May 14th deadline.

The elementary storm shelter is almost complete. With the building completely enclosed the inside work has been able to continue regardless of weather. The plan is to have the storm shelter portion completed within the next couple weeks so FEMA paperwork can be finished. The gym floor will begin to go in the first week of April and it will take about a month to complete. The entire project should be finished close to the end of the school year.

Two change orders the board should be aware of are the elementary track and painting the existing buildings. Branco and Mid-Land will pay for the south side of the track to be replaced due to the damage from construction. The bid to resurface the remaining portion of the track came back at $19,526. The district was given a donation gift for the elementary of $18,000 which would mostly cover that project. A bid was also received for paving the parking lot on the south side of the high school FEMA gym which came in at $22,891. Mr. Harvey recommending holding off on paving that parking lot until a later time.

The existing elementary building needs to be painted to match the new construction. The metal portion of the high school roof also needs to be painted as well as the outside of the Superintendent’s office. The sub-contractor hired to paint the elementary addition will look at all three of the existing buildings and come up with a quote for those painting jobs. These jobs will also include a lot of soffit and gutter repair work to the existing buildings before they can begin painting.

Mr. Harvey spoke with Phil Spallo from Arthur J Gallagher regarding another insurance payment to cover the incoming expenses. The insurance company agreed to send another $500,000 payment at this time.

MET held a meeting on employee health insurance early in March to determine premium costs for next year. There will be a 3.2% increase in premiums for next year. The base PPO plan for the district will go from $571.60 to $589.89 per month. MET kept the increase down this year by using some of the built up reserves. Employees throughout all of the districts choose not to use their insurance as much during the Covid shut downs. The district is currently paying $471.60 each month this year and could consider using CARES money to help increase the board paid portion. The board will need to make a decision at the April board meeting on their portion of the employee premiums for next year.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A.** The district received two sealed bids for lawn mowing services. Mr. Harvey opened the bids at the meeting.

1. Stotts City Renegade Lawn Care $400 per mowing, Stotts City, MO

2. Green Meadows Landscaping $495 per mowing, Liberal, MO

**Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Simpson to accept the Green Meadows Landscaping bid of $495 per time mowed for lawn mowing services from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. Motion carried 6-0.

**B.** The principals reported that there are 32 elementary students and possibly up to 10 middle / high school students (credit recovery) who are interested in attending summer school. The cost of running summer school would be approximately $30,000 to $35,000 and can be paid for with CARES revenues. Core subjects (Math, Language and Reading) will be a big part of the curriculum due to lost classroom time during Covid shut down.

**Motion** by Simpson, seconded by Suschnick to approve holding summer school during June 2021. Motion carried 6-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Motion** by Williams, seconded by Barton to hold the annual Board Reorganization Meeting on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 6:45 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

**B. Motion** by Barton, seconded by Williams to hold the next regular meeting on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

**Motion** by Williams, seconded by Simpson 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, King-yes, Simpson-yes, Suschnick-yes, Ulrich-yes and Williams. Motion carried 6-0. **(8:20 p.m.)**

**Motion** by Williams, seconded by Suschnick to adjourn. Motion carried 6-0.

**CLOSING TIME: 8:40 p.m.**