**LIBERAL R-II SCHOOL BOARD MINTUES**

**August 20, 2020**

A tax-rate hearing was held on Thursday, August 20, 2020 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 20, 2020 in the Board of Education Office. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board Vice-President Christie Ulrich.

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

Christie Ulrich (2023), Vice-President

Bryce Barton (2022)

Chris Morrow (2023)

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

Jessica Struckoff, Paragon Architecture

Cathy Bott & Stacia Forest, Class of 2020 Sponsors

Wendy Rose, Board Secretary

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

**Motion** by Williams, seconded by Suschnick to approve the presented agenda for the regular August 20, 2020 meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Motion** by Barton, seconded by Simpson to approve the open session minutes from the regular meeting held on July 16, 2020. Motion carried 6-0.

**B. Motion** by Morrow, seconded by Simpson to pay August 2020 bills as presented. Motion carried 5-0-1; Barton abstained from check #86220.

**C. Motion** by Morrow, seconded by Suschnick to approve the monthly bank statement from July 2020. Motion carried 6-0.

**D. Motion** by Williams, seconded by Barton to transfer $167,253 from MoSIP General Fund Account to the NOW account. Motion carried 6-0.

**Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Morrow to transfer $201,500 from MoSIP Bond Account to the NOW account. Motion carried 6-0.

**E. Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Williams to transfer $24,458 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**

**A. Motion** by Williams, seconded by Barton to adopt a resolution to waive any district MSBA Board policies that that are in direct conflict to the Emergency Family Medical Leave Act or any of the new laws passed due to the COVID pandemic. Motion carried 6-0.

The Board briefly met the following new teachers; Mercedes Pankau, Kara Hamman, Stacy Paradee and Jared Hibbitts

**BUILDING PRINCIPAL REPORTS**

**Elementary**

Mrs. Fry reported that preliminary enrollment numbers at 117 which is down significantly from last year’s numbers. There will be 104 in class students and 13 distant learners who are at home. Meet the Teacher was Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights this week, with only 2 grades each night.

**Middle School / High School**

Mrs. Miller reported enrollment for the middle school at 88. There will be 80 in class students and 8 distant learning from home. Mrs. Ruddick reported enrolment of 118 at the high school. There will be 105 in class students with 13 distant learners from home. Meet the Teacher was also broken up into 3 nights and had a good turnout.

Stacia Forst and Cathy Bott addressed the board concerning the division of the money left in the Class of 2020’s account due to the Senior trip being canceled last spring. The class currently has $27,481.97. Their presented plan is to divide the money between the 15 students who were signed up to go on the senior trip last spring. The amount each student receives will be determined by the points they received for work done for the class.

Consensus by the Board to approve the plan presented for dividing the funds between students in the Class of 2020.

**Athletic Director**

Mr. Walton reported all high school fall sports have begun practice. There are 27 students out for varsity football, 15 out for varsity volleyball, 12 out for cross country and there are 6 out for cheerleading. Middle school sports will begin next week. All of the new scoreboards are in and up in both of the high school gyms.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Mr. Harvey reported on the district’s finances and the effect that the COVID pandemic has had. The district lost approximately $65,000 since July in state funding and another $75,000 from last May and June. The district has been listed as hold harmless but pro-rated at 77%. The state is saying that up to 95% of the districts funding should be reinstated by June 2021 as long as there is no more state wide shut downs. The budget is based on a 91% pay out so Harvey is in hopes that the finances will be ok for the coming year. We plan on using the $85,000 in CARES funds that we were awarded last spring throughout the coming year to pay two teachers and one bus driver salaries.

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Jessica Struckoff reported that the high school project is nearing competition with a completion deadline of September 29th. The railing for the mezzanine and the bleachers will arrive later in September. The gym floor will go down next week and students will all be allowed to sign the concrete floor under the wood. Basketball goals and volleyball equipment have been delivered and installed. Painting is about 75% complete and all light fixtures are about 90% complete. The building contingency allowances should be approximately $99,000 at the conclusion of the project.

The Engineers, architects and construction manager team met with Mr. Harvey and Bryce Barton earlier today to discuss the rebound testing done on the concrete mezzanine and the accuracy of those results. Another meeting is scheduled for tomorrow via zoom to discuss the testing farther.

Jessica briefly discussed the elementary project. The FEMA storm shelter part of the project has a completion deadline of December 24th with a FEMA complete deadline of February 24, 2021. Branco has been submitting many shop drawings that are being reviewed by Paragon. The pre-tying pillars for rebar in the safe room are being worked on and the footings are complete. Storm water work starts tomorrow. Currently the remaining contingency allowances stand at $156,173 after the unsuitable soils work was completed. The projected completion date for the entire project is March 10, 2021.

The district’s reentry manual has been sent to all parents and gone over carefully with all staff members. It explains in detail how the schedule will work at all three schools for in school learners. It also covers the steps being taken to ensure extracurricular activities will be safe. General health and safety concerns are addressed and the procedures the district will take to ensure the healthiest environment possible; within the facilities and on district buses with physical distancing, wearing face coverings and cleaning all areas of use. The manual states the district will be working closely with the Barton County Health Department in the cases where students or staff members become sick. The final areas addressed in the manual deals with the technology equipment that will be available to students for the purpose of online and at home learning in case of another shut down.

Since the Board met last month, the district has decided to take the distance learning a different direction than the Launch Program from Springfield. The cost was going to be considerable to the district and distance learning students would be on a completely different learning schedule than in school students. District teachers are going to use Google classroom, You Tube and other available online tools so all students are learning together. Several staff members and Jay Johnson are working with district teachers getting ready for the upcoming online instruction. The district used PDC funds to purchase a training program called Simple K-12 that trains staff in online instruction. The Board questioned the amount of bandwidth the district has and if it would be adequate for the type of instructions. The district is working with J-Mark to make sure our servers are where they need to be.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Motion** by Simpson, seconded by Williams to set the 2020 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 6-0.

**B. Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Simpson to hold the next regular meeting on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

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

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

**CLOSING TIME:** **8:30 p.m.**