**LIBERAL R-II SCHOOL BOARD MINTUES**

**December 22, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Liberal R-II School District was held on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 in the Board of Education Office. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board President Brian King.

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

Christie Ulrich (2023), Vice-President, *Absent*

Bryce Barton (2022)

Chris Morrow (2023)

John Simpson (2021)

Tonya Suschnick (2022)

Brian Williams (2023)

**Others Present:** William Harvey, Superintendent

Rachel Miller, HS / MS Assistant Principal

Leticia Fry, Elementary Principal

Wendy Rose, Board Secretary

Renda Armstrong, DSWA Auditor

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

**Motion** by Barton, seconded by Simpson to approve the presented agenda for the regular December 22, 2020 meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Motion** by Williams, seconded by Suschnick to approve the open session minutes from the regular meeting held on November 18, 2020. Motion carried 6-0.

**B. Motion** by Morrow, seconded by Simpson to pay the December 2020 bills as presented. Motion carried 4-0-2; Williams abstained from direct deposit check #490, Suschnick abstained from checks #86614 and #86706.

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

**D. Motion** by Williams, seconded by Morrow to transfer $260,000 from MoSIP General Account to the NOW account. Motion carried 6-0.

**Motion** by Simpson, seconded by Suschnick to transfer $160,000 from MoSIP Bond Account to the NOW Bond account. Motion carried 6-0.

**E.** No MOHEFA transfer needed this month.

**PROGRAM REVIEW**

1. Renda Armstrong of Daniel, Schell, Wolfe and Associates presented a review of the Independent Auditor’s Report covering the district’s 2019-2020 audit and briefly

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highlighted several areas to the board. She reported there were two small compliance findings, the first was a debt amortization schedule that had been left out of the budget and the second was that required financial reports posted to the district’s website were not searchable. Both issues have been resolved and corrected for the current year. She stated the audit was clean and the district’s finances are in good standing.

**Motion** by Morrow, seconded by Barton to accept the presented findings of the district’s 2019-2020 audit. Motion carried 6-0.

**BUILDING PRINCIPAL REPORTS**

**Elementary**

Mrs. Fry reported enrollment for the elementary at 119 for in class students and 7 for distant learners. The elementary Christmas program went virtual this year. The program was taped during the school day and then posted to Facebook and Class Dojo for parents to view. The spelling bee will be held on January 21st in the elementary library and it will also be posted to Facebook Live so parents may view the event.

**Middle School / High School**

Mrs. Miller reported enrollment for the middle school at 88 for in class students and 6 distant learners. The high school has an enrollment of 108 in class students and 11 distant learners. The Christmas program was also held virtually for the middle and high school. Archery practice has begun with 8 elementary students, 20 middle school and 22 high school students.

**Athletic Director**

Mr. Walton submitted a written report. The girls team currently has a 1-5 record and received the 10 seed in the WEMO tournament, the girl’s JV is 3-0. The boys team has a 2-3 record and the three seed in the WEMO tournament, the JV is 3-2. Middle school boys’ basketball team ended the season 3-9 with one win the WEMO tournament. Middle School girls ended their season 8-3 with a 3rd place finish in the WEMO tournament.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Mr. Harvey reported that district revenues and expenditures are up approximately $100,956 when compared to this time last year. Current taxes began coming in this month and are coming in higher than they did last December. One of the areas the district’s expenditures are down is the benefits the board pays out for all employees. The monthly payments to the PSRS / PEERS system for retirement is smaller due to the reduction in the number of staff members.

Board election filings began on December 15th. At this time Brian King has been the only candidate to sign up.

The high school FEMA storm shelter is still receiving some finishing touches. The lobby area has been closed off and a subcontractor team is grinding that floor down to put a new finish on it. The carpet tile for the lobby area is due to be installed the week after Christmas. Branco is

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working with the district on helping to cover the cost of grinding down the floor and the carpet tiles.

The elementary FEMA project received a three-month extension for completion. The weather has cooperated and Mid-American roofing has been able to get the roof on the storm shelter portion of the building They are still in hopes of finishing by the original deadline of February 14th if the weather continues to cooperate. CDL has been working with the city on the completion of hooking up all electricity to the elementary project.

Mr. Harvey briefly updated the board on the Covid Re-Entry of the district. Everything seems to be going smoothly and there are no real concerns at this point. Several schools in the conference are limiting the number of fans attending basketball games. Most of the home games at Liberal haven’t seen large crowds yet. The biggest concern about crowd size will come during the championship games at the Liberal tournament. The administration will continue to plan for that event.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A.** Mr. Harvey reported that the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (ESPLA) set by the federal government for Coronavirus relief is set to expire on December 31, 2020. The board will need to decide if they want to extend the leave for employees for the upcoming months. This leave gives employees 2 weeks’ worth of paid sick leave when out for Covid sickness or contact quarantine.

**Motion** by Williams, seconded by Barton to accept the presented MSBA Board Resolution extending the Covid-19 Leave until June 30, 2021. Motion carried 6-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A.** Harvey reported that several of the district buses have had multiple breakdowns and many costly repairs this year. He had planned on waiting another year to purchase any new buses but after so many breakdowns in the last couple months the district is going to need look at new buses before next year. He would like to seek bids on standard size buses.

**Motion** by Simpson, second3ed by Morrow to allow Mr. Harvey to solicit bids on new school buses for the district. Motion carried 6-0.

**B. Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Simpson to hold the next regular board meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

**Motion** by Barton, 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, King-yes, Morrow-yes, Simpson-yes, Suschnick-yes and Williams-yes. Motion carried 6-0. **(7:30 p.m.)**

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

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