**LIBERAL R-II SCHOOL BOARD MINTUES**

**July 16, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Liberal R-II School District was held on Thursday, July 16, 2020 in the Elementary Music Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President Brian King. There were several board members, administrators and guests who participated in the meeting via *ZOOM.us.;* they are marked below.

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

Christie Ulrich (2023), Vice-President, Attended via *ZOOM.us*

Bryce Barton (2022), Attended via *ZOOM.us*

Chris Morrow (2023), Attended via *ZOOM.us*

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, Attended via *ZOOM.us*

Leticia Fry, Elementary Principal

Travis Walton, Athletic Director, Attended via *ZOOM.us*

Jessica Struckoff, Paragon Architecture, Attended via *ZOOM.us*

Wendy Rose, Board Secretary

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

**Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Simpson to approve the presented agenda for the regular July16, 2020 meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Simpson to approve the open session minutes from the regular meeting held on June 22, 2020. Motion carried 6-0-1, Williams abstained.

**B. Motion** by Morrow, seconded by Barton to pay July 2020 bills as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

**C. Motion** by Simpson, seconded by Williams to approve the monthly bank statement from June 2020. Motion carried 7-0.

**D. Motion** by Williams, seconded by Suschnick to transfer $200,000 from MoSIP General Fund Account to the NOW account. Motion carried 7-0.

**Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Simpson to transfer $85,000 from MoSIP Bond Account to the NOW account. Motion carried 7-0.

**E. Motion** by Simpson, seconded by Suschnick to transfer $24,458 from debt service to the NOW account to reimburse the district for the MOHEFA payment. Motion carried 7-0.

**F. Motion** by Williams, seconded by Suschnick to rollover CD #81906320 for 12 months at the current interest rate of 0.65% with Citizen’s Bank. Motion carried 7-0.

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**Motion** by Williams, seconded by Suschnick to rollover CD #81906321 for 12 months at the current interest rate of 0.65% with Citizen’s Bank. Motion carried 7-0.

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**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Jessica Struckoff updated the Board on the both building projects. The ductwork, drywall and primer paint at the high school is nearly complete and the paint is about 20% complete. The mezzanine concrete slab failed the 28-day strength test. The concrete needed to test at a level of 4,000 psi (pounds per square inch). On the rebound test 75% of the slab passed; the 25% that didn’t pass was the newer part of the concrete. Another test will need to be done at around 56 days to determine if there is any improvement and if the area is still a good fit for housing weight equipment. Owner contingencies on the high school project are under $120,000.

The elementary site work has begun with a lot of dirt moving. There have already been a couple change orders with the project due to unsuitable soil where the old gym was located and possible unsuitable soil where the new gym is supposed to be located. There is approximately $200,000 allocated for contingencies with the elementary project and any unspent contingencies from the high school project will be able to used as well.

The board asked about the extra cost for the elementary project due to the unstable soil and if that would affect the total cost of the project and what insurance will pay. Harvey explained that insurance had paid $2.7 million for actual cost value upfront. The district will then go back to negotiate the actual replacement value when the project is complete. Branco and Paragon lowered some of the contingency when the insurance company asked them to adjust the asking price in the beginning. Jessica stated she is a little nervous about the extra cost right here at the start of the project.

*Jessica Struckoff exited the ZOOM meeting at 7:20 p.m.*

Mr. Harvey updated the board on the ending balances for the 2019-2020 budget; the surplus is estimated close to $148,000 surplus but there are still a few changes on the ASBR and with the new software accounting program that are still being worked out.

The budget for the current year (2020-2021) is still also being worked on as well. The district’s assessed valuation came just slightly above where it as last year. The budget will need to be amended in September after the new levy is officially set by the Board.

There is no teacher orientation schedule at this time; the administrators are still working on an exact schedule for those days. Required safe school training for all staff will be offered online this year. There will be extra days of AMI (Alternative Method of Instruction) training for the teachers possibly on August 12 & 13. Harvey and the board discussed ways to hold a “Meet the Teacher” evening without putting that many people together at one time. Different possibilities included holding for a few key grades (K,6,10) only, setting teachers up in the gym or cafeteria so there is extra room, hosting a time for new students only or teachers hosting virtual tours of their classrooms. The administrators will also work on this schedule.

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Mr. Harvey presented options for returning to school in August 2020 during the COVID 19 pandemic. In reviewing the results of the parent and staff surveys, around 85% of those surveyed were very comfortable with going back to school as normally as possible. Using these

results, a three-tiered system was put together. Green-onsite learning like normal, Yellow-a combination of some students learning onsite and other students learning virtually and Red-everyone is at home with virtual learning. Due to survey results, the coming school year will be opened with a combination of onsite learning as well as virtual learning. An additional survey will be sent to all parents in which they will be required to select either onsite attendance or virtual learning for their children. Once that information is collected, enrollment for the new semester will be possible.

The district will continue to make plans for many new safety precautions for students and staff. Some of the areas that will have to be encouraged will be hand washing and sanitizers, daily wellness checks for staff and students, social distancing, face masks when social distancing isn’t possible and keeping groups and classes small. The custodial staff will be working on plans to keep all areas of the school clean throughout the day. A plan for safely riding district buses and keeping those buses cleaned is also being worked on. OPAA and the kitchen staff are also working on plans for serving meals in the cafeteria while practicing social distancing. Students being able to come and go at lunch time will need to be limited and visitors to the school will be discouraged.

Several options of virtual learning are being considered for the approximately 15% of students who are not comfortable with onsite learning. A committee of teachers is looking at Google Classroom and Launch which is a virtual school system put out by the Springfield School district. If the district uses the Launch program, a district teacher would be assigned to each student as a mentor for those classes. Students that participate in virtual school would still be allowed to participate in other school activities and athletics. If a student chose virtual learning, they would only have a small window to change their mind once the semester starts. Otherwise, a change wouldn’t be made until the beginning of the second semester.

Mr. Walton talked briefly about the information coming from MSHSAA. A three-tier plan is also being worked on for the upcoming school year concerning athletics. Tier one would only allow essential people; coaches and players. Tier two would allow additional media for streaming the activity or radio broadcast. Tier three would open the event to everyone. Walton has met with the other conference schools and there is a concern about traveling long distances on school buses to events. He also stated that if any player tests positive the whole team would have to be quarantined for 14 days, resulting of a possibility of loosing three weeks of the season.

Staff will be devoting some of their in-service training time to reviewing how to make and keep up with online plans for the coming year. The district has ordered extra Chromebooks that will be distributed to students for their use in case the district has to go into a red phase and everyone is learning from home.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Harvey reported that no bids had been turned in for building the 40’ X 60’ storage building to replace lost to fire. He has talked with Brandon Poindexter from Branco about

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possibly incorporating it as a change order into the elementary project but the downfall of that is prevailing wage would most likely have to be used. Branco is going to put some numbers together for the possible addition.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Motion** by Simpson, seconded by Suschnick to set the tuition rate at $6,000 for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried 7-0.

**B. Motion** by Simpson, seconded by Williams to authorize participation in the Federal Nutrition Program for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried 7-0.

**C. Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Simpson to authorize transporting students living less than one mile from school during the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried 7-0.

**D.** **Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Williams to correct the balances in student activities account for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried 7-0.

**E.** **Motion** by Simpson, seconded by Suschnick to authorize the required monthly transfers from Fund 1 to Fund 2 for certified payroll for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried 7-0.

**F.** The next board meeting will be held on the regular day and time of Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

**G.** **Motion** by Morrow, seconded by Barton to hold a tax rate hearing prior to the next regular meeting on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

**Motion** by Suschnick, seconded by Simpson to go into closed session for exception #3 (hiring, firing, disciplining and promotion of personnel). Roll Call Vote: Barton-yes, King-yes, Morrow-yes, Simpson-yes, Suschnick-yes, Ulrich-yes and Williams-yes. Motion carried 7-0. **(8:00 p.m.)**

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

**CLOSING TIME:** **8:55 p.m.**