

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Community Unit School District #7
High School Cafeteria
612 Broadway Street
Gillespie, Illinois 62033
October 26, 2020**

The regular meeting of Community Unit District #7 School Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the High School Cafeteria, 612 Broadway Street, Gillespie, IL 62033 by President Hayes.

ROLL CALL: Hatlee, present; Dobrino, present; Hayes, present; Schmidt, present;
Tiburzi, present; Alepra, present remotely; Carter, absent

Superintendent Owsley, Principals Jill Rosentreter, Tara Cooper, and Angela Sandretto attended the meeting. Dave Ambrose, Chris Best, Michelle Brannan, Richard Sedlak, Casey Sholtis, Jacob West, and Tracy Petersen also attended the meeting.

Motion made by Hatlee, seconded by Tiburzi to approve the agenda as presented. Hatlee, yes; Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes; Carter, absent. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alepra, seconded by Hatlee for Roll Call Vote to Adjourn to Closed Meeting at 6:01 p.m. for the following:

- A. Discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District, pursuant to 105 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)
- B. Discussion of probable or imminent litigation, pursuant to 105 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)
- C. Discussion of student disciplinary cases, pursuant to 105 ILCS 120/2(c)(9)
- D. Discussion of collective negotiation matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives pursuant to 105 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).

Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes; Carter, absent; Hatlee, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alepra, seconded by Schmidt for Roll Call vote to return to open session at 7:16 p.m. Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes; Carter, absent; Hatlee, yes; Dobrino, yes. Motion carried

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

Action on Closed Session Matters

Motion made by Alepra, seconded Dobrino to employ Teresa Remer as a paraprofessional in Community Unit School District #7, pending certification and background check. Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes; Carter, absent; Hatlee, yes; Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Tiburzi, seconded by Hatlee to accept the retirement of Kathy Wheeler as a paraprofessional effective November 24, 2020, and post the vacated position. Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes; Carter, absent; Hatlee, yes; Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alepra, seconded by Schmidt to appoint Nikki Brawner as a Temporary High School Women's Assistant Basketball Coach and post the temporary position. Alepra, yes; Carter, absent; Hatlee, yes; Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Schmidt, seconded by Alepra to approve Matt Brawner as a Volunteer High School Assistant Women's Basketball Coach. Carter, absent; Hatlee, yes; Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Schmidt, seconded by Hatlee to approve Darian Gill as a Volunteer Assistant High School Cheer Coach, pending certification and background check. Hatlee, yes; Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes; Carter, absent. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Alepra, seconded by Schmidt to approve the Regular and Executive Session Minutes of the Regular Meeting dated September 28, 2020. Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes; Carter, absent; Hatlee, yes. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Dobrino, seconded by Alepra to approve payment of the October 2020 bills as follows:

Education Fund	\$336,770.60
Operations & Maintenance Fund	\$ 35,179.99
Bond & Interest Fund	\$ 6,180.72
Transportation Fund	<u>\$ 4,411.62</u>
For a Grand Total of	\$382,542.93

Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes; Carter, absent; Hatlee, yes; Dobrino, yes. Motion carried.

Freedom of Information Requests

No Freedom of Information Requests were received.

Recognition of the Public

No one from the public addressed the Board of Education.

Superintendent's Report

Under "District Focus", Middle School Principal introduced Jacob West (Gillespie High School Alumni) who was recently employed as Gillespie Middle School PE Teacher.

There was no Union Update at this time.

Principal Sandretto gave the Ben-Gil Elementary Report:

- Map Testing
 - Students are taking on-line test in reading and math
 - K-3 in computer lab
 - 4-5 test in room
- Red Ribbon Week
 - Monday: Ben-Gil is "Paw" sitivity Drug Free
 - Wear Tiger Attire
 - Tuesday: From Heat to Toe, I'm Drug Free
 - Crazy Hair and Crazy Socks
 - Wednesday: Live Your Dreams Drug Free
 - Wear Pajamas (remote learning day)

- Thursday: Drugs Can't Find Me!
 - Wear Camo
 - Say, "Boo!" to Drugs
 - Wear Halloween Costumes
 - Students/teachers are working to the transition back to in-person learning
 - Continuing to work with remote learners
 - Teachers/staff are working through challenges and changes as we all continue to work through the changing school year
 - Preparing for a Birth-3 review of the program and a monitoring visit from the state
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- Overall, this transition has been very successful at the elementary
 - Huge thank you to all for working so hard to make these days successful for students
- Remote students were 89 then 94. Average attendance since October 5th is 91%.

Principal Cooper gave the Gillespie Middle School Report:

- Students and staff have done a great job with the transition to the blended learning plan. Although some of the changes have been challenging, we have adapted and will continue to adapt.
- Parent/Teacher conferences on Wednesday, October 7 and Thursday, October 8 went well. We had in-person and virtual conferences.
- October 8th – 16th – GMS MAP ELA and Math benchmark testing completed
- Friday, October 16 = GMS/GHS fire drill completed
- Monday, October 19 = School Leadership Team meeting with Linda B.
 - SIP Goal developed based off our MAP benchmarking scores
 - Worthy Target #1-2: At winter benchmarking in each grade level, our goal is to level; for example, 10% of students scoring in Level 3 in Fall Testing will score in retain or improve their RIT score in subsequent testing.
- Friday, October 23rd = Law Enforcement modified lockdown drill completed
- Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Thackrey announced our 20-21 GMS Student Council members on Friday. Congratulations to:
 - Mitchell Clark
 - Olivia Kelly
 - Lucca Kapp
 - Cole Katich
 - Marshall Garwood
 - Daniel Montano
 - Tyler Palmer
 - Emily Bergen
 - Traegen Madeline
 - Araelya Well
 - Ellie Wilson
- Monday, October 26 – Friday, October 30
 - GMS celebrates Red Ribbon Week
 - This year's theme = BE HAPPY. BE BRAVE. BE BULLY and DRUG FREE!
 - Student prizes give for daily dress up days
 - Student drug-free pledges and in class activities
- Grade-level PASS meetings begin this week – discuss students of concern and begin individualized intervention
 - Tuesday, Oct. 27 = 6th grade
 - Thursday, Oct. 29 = 7th grade
 - Monday, Nov. 2 = 8th grade

Due to Covid, Girls Basketball cannot go house to house for Trick or Treat donations. They are asking for donations to be brought in to the school.

31% of middle school students are on Remote Learning.

Principal Rosentreter gave the Gillespie High School Report:

- September Student of the Month was CJ Frensko, son of Kerri and Kent Frensko and October Student of the month is Megan Labby, daughter of Carol and Robert Labby.
- October 5: Students returned. A huge thanks to all staff who are working through the new procedures with cooperation and team work.
 - Riding buses and taking temperatures,
 - Tracking remote and In-Person students for attendance,
 - Tracking temporary remote students, learning how to teach using a block schedule,
 - Instructing remote and In-Person learners simultaneously,
 - Refining the use of Microsoft Teams,
 - Developing new curriculum under strict guidelines,
 - Addressing social and emotional concerns,
 - Constant updating seating charts in the classroom and the buses,
 - Cleaning/sanitizing
 - Delivering paper packets for students without internet,
 - Servicing students with technical issues,
 - Setting classrooms up for appropriate instructional technology,
 - Covering for absent staff members
 - Providing “to go” breakfasts and lunches
- October 6: Coach Ringer took his boys’ golf team to the regionals at Timer Lakes. They placed 9 out of 10 teams. On October 7, he then took his girls’ golf team to their regionals in Taylorville. They competed as individuals and didn’t have a team score.
- October 7 and 8: Parent Teacher Conferences took place both “in person” and virtually.
- October 16: Evacuation Drill. This process worked differently because of social distancing guidelines, but the drill was a success.
- October 16: 1st quarter ended and report cards were sent home October 22.
- October 19-27: English and Math teachers are facilitating MAP testing for 9-11th graders
- October 23: Modified Lockdown Drill.
- October 27: Senior SAT’s will conclude with the 3rd round of testing.
- October 28: IHSA will meet and make an announcement on upcoming winter activities.

14 Students excluded for health noncompliance.

Superintendent Owsley reported that this is Principal Appreciation Month.

District #7 has received an additional grant from the state in the amount of \$96,810 to be used for Hot Spots for students who do not have internet at home and to be able to provide laptops for all 3rd grade students.

The Free Lunch Program that had been extended to all students through December 31st has now been extended through June 30, 2021.

Mike Bellavich has donated funds for a water bottle filling station to be installed at Ben-Gil Elementary.

John Schmidt sent a letter to the district with a check for \$20,000 to use as needed during these challenging times.

IASB through “Masks for Kids” has supplied the district with 1500 masks for staff and students.

Blackburn College has received a USDA Rural Development Grant of \$915,000 to expand education for dual credit classes for 26 participating school districts. CUSD #7 will be allotted \$99,000 for equipment and to be able to have access to shared teachers. This will allow high school students to earn college credits before they graduate.

Old Business

Superintendent Owsley reported that contracts have been signed for the Vocational Shop Expansion Project and a Pre-Construction meeting was held Friday, October 9th. Board of Education Members were given a calendar to show the expected date of completion.

Motion made by Alepra, seconded by Dobrino to approve the Second Reading and to Adopt PRESS Plus Issue 105 as presented: Draft Update: Policy 2:360 Uniform Grievance Procedure; Policy 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment; Policy 5:100 Staff Development Program; Policy 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited; Policy 5:220 Substitute Teachers; Policy 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves; Policy 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities; Policy 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment; Policy 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited; Policy 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited; Draft Update New: Policy 2:265 title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure. Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes; Carter, absent; Hatlee, yes; Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes. Motion carried.

New Business

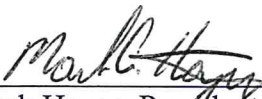
Michelle Brannan, accountant with Scheffel and Loy, reviewed the Audit Report with the Board of Education. The auditors gave a clean opinion on financial records, and there were no instances of non-compliance.

Motion made by Alepra, seconded by Schmidt to approve the FSY 2020 Annual Financial Report as presented. Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes; Carter, absent; Hatlee, yes; Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes. Motion carried.

Rick Sedlak reviewed the Commercial Insurance Renewal. For the past 20 years the insurance coverage was with Liberty, but due to a 20% increase in premium his recommendation was to renew with EMC which actually has an annual premium of \$4000 less than last year's premium. Another savings is that the deductible is lower than it was with Liberty.

Motion made by Schmidt, seconded by Tiburzi to approve Commercial Insurance Renewal with EMC for a total insurance premium of \$334,597 plus the cost of the tail for sexual harassment coverage. Alepra, yes; Carter, absent; Hatlee, yes; Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Schmidt, seconded by Alepra to **adjourn** the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Carter, absent; Hatlee, yes; Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes. Motion Carried.



Mark Hayes, President



William J. Carter Jr., Secretary