

**Minutes of the Tax Rate Hearing – Truth in Taxation Hearing of the Board of Education
Community Unit School District #7
High School/Middle School Cafeteria
612 Broadway Street
Gillespie, Illinois 62033
(and Broadcast on Zoom)
December 21, 2020**

President Hayes called the Tax Rate Hearing – Truth in Taxation Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mark Hayes, Weye Schmidt, Dennis Tiburzi, Becky Hatlee, Bill Carter, Jenni Alepra, Don Dobrino, and Superintendent Owsley attended the hearing.

Superintendent Owsley conducted the Tax Rate Hearing (Truth in Taxation Hearing) pursuant to ILCS 5/17-2, ILCS 5/17-2.2c. He gave a presentation of the proposed tax rate for FSY 2020-2021. Superintendent Owsley stated that Macoupin County is under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), caps limit any increase in property taxes to 5% or the percent of increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), whichever is less.

The Amount of Levy proposed at the Consumer Index is:

• Educational	\$1,490,071
• Operations & Maintenance	385,160
• Transportation	154,567
• Working Cash	36,083
• Municipal Retirement	103,828
• Social Security	93,924
• Tort Immunity	206,841
• Special Education	28,871
• Total Levy	\$2,499,345

He then gave the opportunity for discussion.

No one from the public was present for any questions or comments nor did anyone comment on the Zoom Hearing. Superintendent Owsley stated that he had not gotten any responses to the tax levy on display. The hearing was then closed.

The hearing adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Community Unit School District #7
High School/Middle School Cafeteria
612 Broadway Street
Gillespie, Illinois 62033
(and Broadcast on Zoom)
December 21, 2020**

The regular meeting of Community Unit District #7 School Board was called to order at 6:02 p.m. at the High School/Middle 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; Carter, present

Superintendent Owsley attended the meeting. Principals Jill Rosentreter, Tara Cooper, and Angela Sandretto attended the meeting remotely on Zoom. Any visitors following along were doing so via zoom.

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

Motion made by Hatlee, seconded by Alepra for Roll Call Vote to Adjourn to Closed Meeting at 6:03 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).

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

Motion made by Carter, seconded by Dobrino for Roll Call vote to return to open session at 7:33 p.m. Schmidt, yes; Hatlee, yes; Carter, yes; Hayes, yes; Alepra, yes; Dobrino, yes; Tiburzi, yes. Motion carried

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

Action on Closed Session Matters

Motion made by Carter, seconded Schmidt to appoint Liz Thackrey as 7th Grade Volleyball Coach. Schmidt, yes; Hatlee, yes; Carter, yes; Hayes, yes; Alepra, yes; Dobrino, yes; Tiburzi, yes. Motion carried.

Non-certificated job descriptions were tabled.

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Schmidt, seconded by Carter to approve the Regular and Executive Session Minutes of the Regular Meeting dated November 23, 2020. Schmidt, yes; Hatlee, yes; Carter, yes; Hayes, yes; Alepra, yes; Dobrino, yes; Tiburzi, yes. Motion carried.

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

Education Fund	\$100,429.59
Operations/Maintenance/Building Fund	\$ 28,315.14
Bond & Interest Fund	\$ 9,190.20
Transportation Fund	<u>\$ 4,246.85</u>
For a Grand Total of	\$142,181.78

Schmidt, yes; Hatlee, yes; Carter, yes; Hayes, yes; Alepra, yes; Dobrino, yes; Tiburzi, 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

There was no District Focus.

There was no Union Update Report.

Principal Rosentreter gave the Gillespie High School Report:

- A. November's Student of the Month: Hannah Barrett, daughter of Alyssa and Frankie Barrett.
- B. December's Student of the Month: Cameron Hailstone, son of Jennifer and Chris Hailstone.
- C. Yearbook class hosted holiday contests to keep student participation alive. Clever themes were created and prizes were given.
- D. Semester Exams are today and tomorrow. Collection times for bringing back semester class supplies were this afternoon and tomorrow afternoon from 1:30 to 3:00.
- E. We would like to thank the various student organizations and their sponsors who have been busy ringing bells for Salvation Army for the past few weekends.
- F. Area administrators continue to collaborate and discuss accommodations for students struggling academically and socially/emotionally.
 - a. Students have been coming in person to get additional support.
 - b. Counselors are spending their days communicating with students and making home visits.
 - c. Teachers are practicing tremendous flexibility to accommodate students.
 - d. Blackburn has offered to partner educational students with our students next semester for academic tutoring and mentoring.
 - e. We are working with the ROE to prepare for credit recovery 2nd semester and this summer.
- G. IHSA continues to monitor health risks and will advise member schools about 2nd semester activities. Currently, there are no new announcements.
- H. IBCA presented our GHS Boys' Basketball team with the *2019-2020 Boys' Division 6 All State Academic Award*. This team earned 3rd place out of 184 schools! Congratulations boys!
- I. Finally, on behalf of GHS staff, we would like to thank our students and families for their patience, dedication and cooperation throughout this challenging time. We wish you a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

There is an average of a dozen students a day coming in for extra help.

Principal Cooper gave the Gillespie Middle School Report:

- November Students of the Month
 - 6th Grade = Lucca Kapp

- 7th Grade = Madyson Grogg
 - 8th Grade = Elissa Plasters-Cline
 - SMASE = Mason Cerentano
 - December Students of the Month
 - 6th Grade = Cole Katich
 - 7th Grade = Lucas Rosenthal
 - 8th Grade = Vincent Tesio
 - SMASE = Quin Halteman
 - GMS Student Council Activities
 - Student Council raised over \$800 for Joyful Angels to provide holiday gifts for families
 - Student Council Sponsors and students spent Saturday, December 5 bell ringing for the Salvation Army
 - GMS Mullet Contest Winner = Hunter Hegel
 - Holiday Attire Contest Winner = Olivia Kelly
 - GMS Yearbook Gingerbread House Decorating Contest ends this evening
 - Congratulations to Ellie Wilson who was named Runner Up of Scholastic Scope Magazine's November 2019 Write-a-Story Contest! To enter, students were given the first line of a story that didn't exist, and then had to write the rest of the fictional story. Author Jennifer Nielsen chose the winning entries. Nielsen said of Wilson's Story, "I really liked Owen as the narrator, and this piece had a fantastic blend of adventure and humor. This was very fun to read and had just the right amount of detail to draw me into the story." Wilson submitted the story in 7th grade, but due to offices being closed (Covid-19), Scholastic just announced the winners.
 - GMS raised over \$2,000 from the Little Caesars Fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who sold and bought pizza kits to support GMS. And a HUGE thanks to our top sellers who earned cash prizes:
 - Isaac Kravanya
 - Ethan Niebrand
 - Jersey Helvey
 - Thank you to our local Knights of Columbus for their generous donations of coats through their annual Coats for Kids Drive
 - School Leadership Team
 - Teachers are holding individual goal-setting conferences with students prior to MAP winter benchmarking
 - MAP winter benchmarking tests have been rescheduled for January
 - Grade-level PASS meetings were held last week
 - 6th Grade = Monday, December 14
 - 7th Grade = Tuesday, December 15
 - 8th Grade = Thursday, December 17
 - GMS has provided afternoon in-person support for students to help improve grades prior to the end of the quarter
 - We are continuing to follow IESA guidelines. The most recent update (12/15/20) states, "Until Tier 3 mitigations are changed, and/or sports are approved and moved to the low-risk category, and/or the state has moved to Phase 5 of Restore Illinois, all activities remain paused."
 - Upcoming GMS (drive thru) Pick-Up Day = Wednesday, January 6 from 1:30-3:00 PM
 - GMS had a staff holiday "grab'n go" luncheon today, December 21, 2021.
 - Thank you to ALL CUSD 7 staff members for their hard work (and flexibility) throughout first semester. Please enjoy the well-deserved holiday break!
- Twenty students a day are coming in for extra help.

Principal Sandretto gave the Ben-Gil Elementary Report:

- Map Testing

- Parents/students were contacted to complete Map testing for 1st semester
- 4th/5th grade students were able to complete Map testing remotely
- Birth-3 Monitoring Visit
 - Program monitoring visit has been completed with a final exit review (Jen Lubrant and Angela Sandretto)
 - Review went very well with just a few corrections to be made with CQIP
- Teachers have been working with students during remote learning
 - Parents have reached out to teachers for assistance teacher have responded with a variety of help
 - Virtual, phone calls, face time, 1:1
- Vision and hearing screenings
 - Pre-K – vision and hearing requirement
 - Kindergarten, 1st grade, 3rd grade – hearing requirement
 - 2nd grade – vision and hearing requirement
 - IEP student – vision and hearing requirement (speech and academic IEPs)
 - ¾ of the requirement has been met at the time
 - Mrs. Easton has worked through in-person and remote to accomplish the requirement
- Next packet pick-up Wednesday, January 6
 - 7:45 am – 5:45 pm

Thank you was expressed to the Knights of Columbus for their donation.

Superintendent Owsley received a \$600 donation to the Girls and Boys Track Program. Don and Cookie Dobrino gave Joe Tieman a gift of \$200 be given to the charity of choice for Joe Tieman's retirement. Joe and his wife Marti decided to match the donation with \$200, and Marti's brother Scott Shehorn also matched with \$200. They chose to donate the \$600 to the Girls and Boys Track Program in memory of George "Red" Cavanaugh who had been a longtime supporter of CUSD 7 athletics and had been a track meet starter.

Superintendent Owsley reported that he and his office staff continued Mr. Tieman's tradition of giving donations to families in need in lieu of giving each other Christmas gifts. All CUSD 7 staff was invited to contribute. Donations were collected and were given to three of the District's families who are in need in these trying Covid-19 Times.

The "Welcome to Gillespie" sign constructed by Justin Spencer for his Eagle Scout Project has been installed.

Superintendent Owsley thanked the Board of Education, CUSD Family, and the Health Department for everything they have done and contributed to help in any way to make this school year function in these unforeseen times. A special thank you to the teachers for learning new ways of teaching to make the remote learning and the hybrid learning programs work for students.

Old Business

Superintendent Owsley reported that the Shop Expansion Project has the gas line work completed. They are now working on the water line for the Sprinkler System and the concrete work. The steel building addition is to be delivered in February.

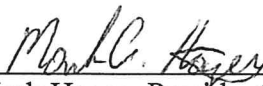
New Business

Motion made by Alepra, seconded by Schmidt to approve the 2020 Tax Levy Resolution as presented. Schmidt, yes; Hatlee, yes; Carter, yes; Hayes, yes; Alepra, yes; Dobrino, yes; Tiburzi, yes. Motion carried.

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

Motion made by Carter, seconded by Hatlee to approve the Second Reading and to adopt Press Plus Issue 106 as presented: Policy 3:40 Superintendent; Policy 4:150 Facility Management and Building Programs; Policy 4:80 Accounting and Audits; Policy 4:90 Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds; Policy 5:270 Employment At-Will Compensation, and Assignment; Policy 6:20 School Year Calendar and Day; Policy 6:300 Graduation Requirements; Policy 6:310 High School Credit for Non-district Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students; Policy 6:315 High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8; Policy 6:320 High School Credit for Proficiency; Policy 6:340 Student Testing and Assessment Program; Policy 7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students; Policy 7:140 Search and Seizure; Policy 7:300 Extracurricular Athletics. Schmidt, yes; Hatlee, yes; Carter, yes; Hayes, yes; Alepra, yes; Dobrino, yes; Tiburzi, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Schmidt, seconded by Hatlee to **adjourn** the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Schmidt, yes; Hatlee, yes; Carter, yes; Hayes, yes; Alepra, yes; Dobrino, yes; Tiburzi, yes. Motion carried.



Mark Hayes, President



William J. Carter Jr., Secretary