

**Community Unit School District #7  
High School/Middle School Cafeteria  
612 Broadway Street  
Gillespie, Illinois 62033  
January 25, 2021**

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

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

Superintendent Owsley attended the meeting. Principals Jill Rosentreter and Tara Cooper attended the meeting. Micki Romanus, Jennifer Brown, Tracy Petersen, Dave Ambrose, and Chris Best also attended the meeting.

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

Motion made by Carter, seconded by Schmidt 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, absent; Alepra, yes; Carter, yes; Hatlee, absent. Motion carried.

Member Tiburzi arrived at the meeting at 6:05 p.m. and was seated in the closed session.

Motion made by Schmidt, seconded by Carter for Roll Call vote to return to open session at 7:30 p.m. Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes; Carter, yes; Hatlee, absent; Dobrino, yes. Motion carried

**The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.**

**Action on Closed Session Matters**

Motion made by Dobrino, seconded Carter to extend Superintendent Owsley's contract as presented. Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes; Carter, yes; Hatlee, absent; Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Tiburzi, seconded by Dobrino to accept, with regrets, the retirement request of Mrs. Donna Easton as School Nurse effective at the end of the 2021-2022 School. Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes; Carter, yes; Hatlee, absent; Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes. Motion carried. (Mrs. Donna Easton will have served 22 years at the time of her retirement.)

Motion made by Carter, seconded by Schmidt to approve the maternity leave of Gillespie Middle School Principal Cooper beginning May 15, 2021, subject to change if necessary. Alepra, yes; Carter, yes; Hatlee, absent; Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Carter, seconded by Schmidt to employ Michael Smith as District Transportation Director effective July 1, 2021. Carter, yes; Hatlee, absent; Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Dobrino, seconded by Schmidt to appoint Shelsie Timmermeier as Assistant High School Volleyball Coach pending certification. Hatlee, absent; Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes; Carter, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Tiburzi, seconded by Alepra to accept the resignation of Christina Blevins as High School Girls' Assistant Basketball Coach effective immediately. Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes; Carter, yes; Hatlee, absent. Motion carried.

### **Consent Agenda**

Motion made by Alepra, seconded by Dobrino to approve the Regular and Executive Session Minutes of the Regular Meeting dated December 21, 2020, and the Special Board Meeting dated January 7, 2021. Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes; Carter, yes; Hatlee, absent; Dobrino, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Dobrino, seconded by Alepra to approve payment of the January 2021 bills as follows:

Education Fund	\$330,718.90
Operations/Maintenance/Building Fund	\$ 26,700.15
Bond & Interest Fund	\$ 9,190.20
Transportation Fund	<u>\$ 3,053.55</u>
For a Grand Total of	\$369,662.80

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

### **Freedom of Information Requests**

A request was received December 21, 2020, from Amanda Yeager requesting information regarding why students were not participating in in-person instruction instead of Remote Instruction.

A request was received December 22, 2020, from Amanda Yeager requesting the name of a parent of a student who witnessed a situation that took place at Ben-Gil Elementary Monday, December 21, 2020.

A request was received December 22, 2020, from Amanda Yeager requesting all audio/video of an incident that took place at Ben-Gil Elementary School Monday, December 21, 2020.

A request was received December 22, 2020, from Amanda Yeager requesting student work.

A request was received January 7, 2021, from Amanda Yeager requesting the reason law enforcement was needed when she was on school grounds.

### **Recognition of the Public**

No one from the public addressed the Board of Education.

### **Superintendent's Report**

There was no District Focus.

Jennifer Brown gave the Union Report. She stated that the Union members will continue to have weekly meetings with Superintendent Owsley in order to communicate the needs of our teachers and support staff as union members during this transition from hybrid learning four day back to five day. The Union appreciates the open communication opportunity between our administration and the Board of Education.

Principal Rosentreter gave the Gillespie High School Report:

- January's Student of the Month: Ambrosia Redmon.
- IHSA Academic Award: Keaton Link and Brock Fredericks – Nominees must be a senior, participant in at least 2 extra-curricular activities, hold a 3.0 to 4.0 GPA and involved with volunteer work. These two student-athletes will now complete the application process that will be entered and sent to HAS judges.
- MAP testing is currently taking place in English and Math classes.
- PSAT is taking place tomorrow, Tuesday, January 26.
- GHS teachers are in the process of updating their course descriptions and flow charts to provide students an "Easy to Read" matrix as they prepare for career and college options.
- The Junior Class will begin their annual fundraiser next Monday, February 1 which will be an online Miner apparel sale.
- A special "Thank You" to all our staff for their additional responsibilities this year: building secretaries and nurses for tracking daily attendance; Gary Niehaus and his transportation crew for doubling up on routes, symptom checking and monitoring seating charts; the cafeteria staff for preparing and packing lunches and breakfasts every day; technology department for preparing and up keeping teacher and student devices; the custodians who are cleaning, disinfecting and maintaining a beautiful campus; and for our teachers who have transformed their curriculum and instruction. This year has required teamwork and our staff has responded to the challenge.
- GHS Coaches and AD, Mike Bertagnolli, responded immediately to IHSA and IDPH's announcement last week that we have moved into Phase 4, Tier 1 which meant our teams started Open Gyms and Practices the following day.
- On behalf of our staff, I would like to give MCHD a huge "Thank You" for their outstanding response to deliver vaccines to our staff and other community members.

Principal Cooper gave the Gillespie Middle School Report:

- GMS Student Council Activities
  - Snack Cart Friday
  - "Soup-er" bowl food pantry fundraiser from February 1 – February 5
- Jostens met with our 8<sup>th</sup> graders today (1/25) to have a "commit to graduate" discussion
  - Students signed their Class of 2025 shirts
- School Leadership Team
  - Met Friday, January 22 to discuss Math MAP test scores
  - Meet again Wednesday, January 27 to discuss ELA MAP test scores
- Math MAP results
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
    - 69% of students met or exceeded goal
    - Fall RIT 209.7 → Winter RIT 213.6
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade
    - 60% of students met or exceeded goal
    - Fall RIT 212.6 → Winter RIT 222.2
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
    - 53% of students met or exceeded goal
    - Fall RIT 220.5 → Winter RIT 222.2
- Students who have met/exceeded their MAP goals have earned Dilly Bars!

- Remote students will be picking Dilly Bars up during drive-thru in front of GMS tomorrow (1/26)
- In-person learners will be getting Dilly Bars on Friday during class
- GMS is continuing to provide afternoon in-person support for students
- Athletics have officially begun at GMS – all teams are following approved Phase 4 Return to Play plans
  - Volleyball had first open gym Saturday and try-out today
  - Boys' Basketball has first official practice tomorrow
  - Cheerleading has first official practice Wednesday

Principal Sandretto submitted the Ben-Gil Elementary Report in her absence:

- Pass Meetings
  - Title teachers, Lisa Ballinger, Monica Ahrens, Angela Sandretto are working to create a system for Pass
  - Pass meetings will begin in February
  - These meetings will address current students who are struggling with academics or behavior
- School Improvement Committee
  - Representatives from all grade levels, special education, and title
  - Working to develop a plan for next school year
  - Group is working hard to develop plans for the next school year
  - Keeping what is working for the elementary and brainstorming what needs to be changed
- Birth-3 Monitoring
  - Birth-3 developing a virtual play activity for families
- Teachers continue to work with students
  - Assessing students' current academic levels and working to build on those skills
  - Remote learners come to meet with teachers as needed
- Packet pick-up will continue Wednesdays for remote students
  - 8:45 am – 1:00 pm
  - 2:30 – 5:45 pm
- Technology Update
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – computers have been added in the classroom 1:1
    - Teachers are beginning to teach students how to use the basics of the computers for communication and some academics
  - K-2 – Tablets have been added for use during the academic day
    - Each classroom received 10 tablets

Superintendent Owsley reported that 80 Staff Members have received their first COVID-19 vaccination. 800 people in Macoupin County were vaccinated that day. Compliments extended to MCPH Clinic that no one had to wait in long lines.

Superintendent Owsley reported that CUSD 7 has been receiving equipment from Blackburn for the Cooperative Learning/Sharing Teachers Program funded by a USDA Rural Development grant secured by Blackburn for distance learning. Equipment will be installed beginning March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Superintendent Owsley reported that he meets with Union leadership on Tuesdays and Thursdays to keep plans formed and carried out.

### **Old Business**

Superintendent Owsley reported that in the Shop Expansion Project, the concrete has been poured. The building is to arrive in February.

Superintendent Owsley gave the IESA/IHSA Update. He sent out information Thursday. However, information was changed on Friday. IHSA announced that having received good news from IDPH, all Regions are now out of Tier 3 mitigations. Having now being placed in Phase 4, our district can now conduct intra-conference and intra-region contest in high-risk sports. Moderate-risk sports competing outdoors in Phase 4 also received expanded scheduling opportunities, including tournaments and out-of-state contests. IHSA Board of Directors will set season dates for the remainder of the school year when they meet Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. As previously directed from IHSA all winter low risk sports must conduct practice on seven days prior to their first contest. Basketball teams must conduct 12 days of practice prior to their first contest. Fall, spring, and summer sports can begin contact days on Monday based on the allowances of EMS Region and local school district approval. Masks must be worn in practice and competition. Social distancing should be adhered to for bench players and game personnel. School must follow the mitigations and guidelines established by the IHSA. IDPH 's guidance for spectators at contest, with no differentiation in the numbers regardless of whether the sport is indoors or outdoors, in Phase 4 Regions, a maximum of 50 spectators; in Tier 1 Regions, a maximum of 25 spectators; in Tier 2 Regions, no spectators.

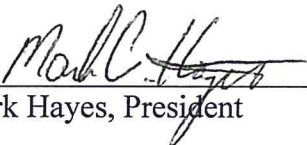
### **New Business**


Motion made by Alepra, seconded by Schmidt for students to return to In-Person Instruction 5 Days per week with the continued 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. dismissal times. Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes; Carter, yes; Hatlee, absent; Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alepra, seconded by Dobrino to approve the Bid for Fuel from M & M Service Company as presented. Alepra, yes; Carter, yes; Hatlee, absent; Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Carter, seconded by Schmidt to approve the School Improvement Professional Development Contract, as required by ISBE, and as presented. Carter, yes; Hatlee, absent; Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Schmidt, seconded by Carter to **adjourn** the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Hatlee, absent; Dobrino, yes; Hayes, yes; Schmidt, yes; Tiburzi, yes; Alepra, yes; Carter, yes. Motion carried.

  
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Mark Hayes, President

  
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William J. Carter Jr., Secretary