

BROWN COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.1

Mt. Sterling, Illinois

November 15, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday evening, November 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Brown County High School band room. The meeting was called to order by Heath Fullerton. The minutes were recorded by McKenzie Taute.

Roll call: Fullerton, yea; Blaesing, yea; Blakeley, yea; Hughes, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Koch, yea; Boylen, yea.

Attendance: Lan Eberle, Pollee Craven, Alex Ebbing, Sally Ruble, McKenzie Taute, Tracy Conley, Kris Gallaher, Dave Phelps, Abby Wilkes, Phonics Monroe, Sandra Aplogan, Ben Lerch, Emily Lerch, Emma Lerch, Jon Metz, Deana Metz, Kayla Metz, Chelsey Howard, Jaelynn Schimpf, JoAnna Hilburn, Carol Howard, Raimundo Sanchez, Enyer Sanchez, Rainiel Sanchez.

Public Comment:

- Abby Wilkes spoke about the district's alternate education placement policy regarding truancy.
- Emily Lerch addressed the Board regarding the IESA's new policy allowing athletes to participate in school sports and travel teams at the same time.
- Jon Metz spoke about the potential benefits that traveling teams can have on an athlete's performance.
- JoAnna Hilburn explained that many athletes have already been picked to be a part of travel teams and asked that the Board allow athletes to participate in both school and travel teams this year.

Visitors:

Mr. Ebbing recognized Brown County Middle School student of the month, Enyer Sanchez. Ebbing said Enyer was nominated by 3 teachers for his kindness and helpfulness.

Mrs. Craven recognized Brown County High School student of the month, Jaelynn Schimpf. Craven said Jaelynn was nominated for her positive attitude and hard work in the classroom.

Motion by Eichelberger, seconded by Fullerton, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Roll call: Fullerton, yea; Blaesing, yea; Blakeley, yea; Hughes, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Koch, yea; Boylen, yea.

Motion Carried

Correspondence: Fullerton announced the September and October Affinity Card donations totaling \$1,084.93 from Brown County State Bank.

Reports: Mrs. Craven reported that the high school currently has 7 Illinois State Scholars.

Discussion Items:

Truth in Taxation Reminder: Fullerton reminded the Board and those in attendance of the December 13, 2021, Truth in Taxation Hearing.

Update on Collected Tax Dollars: Fullerton reported that the district has received about 90% of the levied tax dollars from the county.

ESSER III Grant: Eberle informed the Board of the recent approval of the ESSER III Grant. Eberle said projects with the funds have already begun and he would be providing monthly updates as the projects continue.

Health Life Safety Visit: Eberle discussed the recent Health Life Safety visit. Eberle went on to say that the district is already correcting the smaller items noted in the reports. Eberle also mentioned the need to contract out the larger projects, such as the suppression system needed in the high school kitchen.

Bus Garage: Eberle discussed the poor condition of the bus garage. Eberle noted that the boiler heating system recently stopped working and is not able to be repaired. Eberle went on to say that a new form of radiant heating was purchased and is being installed by our maintenance team. John Eichelberger spoke about potentially securing some bids to replace the current bus garage structure. Eichelberger noted that the current building cannot properly service our fleet of busses.

Billboard Update: Fullerton announced that the billboards west of the high school will be removed the week of January 3, 2022. This comes after the Board voted at the October meeting to not renew the contract with Link Media.

Motion by Blaesing, seconded by Koch, to approve the development of an agricultural plot west of the high school.

Roll call: Fullerton, yea; Blaesing, yea; Blakeley, yea; Hughes, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Koch, yea; Boylen, yea.

Motion Carried

Fullerton announced that 8th grade promotion will be held on Thursday, May 26, 2022, and high school graduation on Friday, May 27, 2022.

Motion by Blaesing, seconded by Eichelberger, to approve 8th grade promotion and high school graduation dates.

Roll call: Fullerton, yea; Blaesing, yea; Blakeley, yea; Hughes, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Koch, yea; Boylen, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Boylen, seconded by Fullerton, to approve the contract with Firefly Studio for student and athletic photography beginning the 2022-2023 school year.

Roll call: Fullerton, yea; Blaesing, yea; Blakeley, yea; Hughes, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Koch, yea; Boylen, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Fullerton, seconded by Blaesing, to approve Superintendent to prepare Tax Levy.

Roll call: Fullerton, yea; Blaesing, yea; Blakeley, yea; Hughes, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Koch, yea; Boylen, yea.

Motion Carried

Middle School Assistant Principal, Alex Ebbing, spoke about the proposed change to the middle school handbook. Ebbing explained that the current language regarding retention is very vague. The updated language would provide parents a warning if their child was at risk of retention. Ebbing went on to say that the change would be implemented immediately, and parents would be notified via letters sent home.

Motion by Fullerton, seconded by Blaesing, to approve the middle school handbook promotion policy language.

Roll call: Fullerton, yea; Blaesing, yea; Blakeley, yea; Hughes, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Koch, yea; Boylen, yea.

Motion Carried

After much discussion, the Board decided to table the decision regarding student athletes participating in travel teams during regular season sports. The Board will follow the IESA guidelines, allowing athletes to participate in both school sports and travel leagues. The Board will revisit this situation prior to the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion by Blaesing, seconded by Fullerton, to enter closed session at 7:04 p.m. for the following subjects: a) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the School District; b) collective negotiating matters between the School District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

Roll call: Fullerton, yea; Blaesing, yea; Blakeley, yea; Hughes, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Koch, yea; Boylen, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Koch, seconded by Blaesing, to return to open session at 7:49 p.m.

Roll call: Fullerton, yea; Blaesing, yea; Blakeley, yea; Hughes, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Koch, yea; Boylen, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Fullerton, seconded by Blaesing, to approve the minutes of closed session.

Roll call: Fullerton, yea; Blaesing, yea; Blakeley, yea; Hughes, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Koch, yea; Boylen, yea.

Motion Carried

Eberle explained that the maternity/catastrophic leave pay rate would kick in when a substitute teacher takes over all classroom duties for an extended period. The superintendent, building principal, classroom teacher and substitute teacher, would all sign a document with expectations listed. This rate will be equivalent to the first-year teacher salary and will begin November 15, 2021.

Motion by Blakeley, seconded by Fullerton, to approve the implementation of a maternity/catastrophic leave pay rate beginning November 15, 2021.

Roll call: Fullerton, yea; Blaesing, yea; Blakeley, yea; Hughes, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Koch, yea; Boylen, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Koch, seconded by Boylen, to approve the following personnel action.

Roll call: Fullerton, yea; Blaesing, yea; Blakeley, yea; Hughes, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Koch, yea; Boylen, yea.

Motion Carried

Approval:

Gale Smith – Middle School Evening Custodian – effective November 4, 2021
Patricia Logsdon – High School Paraprofessional – effective November 15, 2021
JoAnna Hilburn – JH Assistant Volleyball Coach – effective November 15, 2021

Request for Leave:

McKaylia Fields – Maternity Leave – January 3 through March 28
Wyatt Gard – Paternity Leave – April 11 through May 1
Kelsey Jones – Maternity Leave – April 17 through end of 2021 – 2022 school year

Resignation:

Jill Schenk – High School Girls Track Coach – effective October 22, 2021
Gale Smith -Middle School Evening Custodian – effective November 8, 2021
Amanda Ketcham – Elementary School Paraprofessional – effective November 11, 2021

Retirement:

Kathy Yingling – Library Intervention - effective end of 2022 – 2023 school year
Kim Root – 5th Grade Teacher - effective end of 2022 – 2023 school year

Substitutes

Scott Dalton
Danielle Bunge

Motion by Blaesing, seconded by Koch, to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Motion Carried by Acclamation