

BROWN COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
Mt. Sterling, Illinois
October 16, 2023

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday evening, October 16, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the Brown County Middle School library. The meeting was called to order by President, Dawn Hughes. The minutes were recorded by McKenzie Taute.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Attendance: Lan Eberle, Pollee Craven, Alex Ebbing, Lisa Hannel, Kris Gallaher, Jessica Robertson, McKenzie Taute, Dave Phelps, Nichole Miller, Lily Wheeler, Theresa Blair, Josh Collins, Josh Collins, Jennifer Wisdom, Kimberly Lichtsinn, Sara Redman, Jaelynn Schimpf, Chelsey Howard, Marcia Shanty.

Hughes opened the public hearing and welcomed public comment on the proposal to sell the following:

1. Alternate Revenue Bonds in the amount of not to exceed \$9,000,000 for the purpose of improving the sites of and altering, repairing, and equipping school buildings and facilities.
2. Funding Bonds in the amount of not to exceed \$14,500,000 for the purpose of paying claims against the district.
3. Working Cash Fund Bonds in the amount of not to exceed \$1,500,000 for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the district.

Motion by Boylen, seconded by Koch, to Close Public Hearing at 5:36 p.m.

Motion Carried by Acclamation

Visitors:

Mr. Ebbing recognized Brown County Middle School Student of the Month, Josh Collins.

Mrs. Craven recognized Brown County High School Student of the Month, Lily Wheeler.

Nichole Miller – Grant Purchases: Mrs. Miller spoke to the board about a recent Dot Charitable grant she received allowing her to purchase approximately \$21,000 in new weight room equipment. Miller said the weight room is used each hour of the day and the kids have rave reviews about the new equipment.

Public Comment: Kim Lichtsinn, Jaelynn Schimpf, and Chelsey Howard addressed the Board regarding a handbook change impacting early graduates' participation in the end of the year graduation ceremony. Sara Redman also spoke about early graduates and graded after-school chorus events.

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

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Discussion Items:

Audit Exit Note Review: Eberle informed the board that the Fiscal Year 2023 financial audit was complete. Eberle said the audit went very well and the district's financial score remained 3.9 out of a possible 4.0. Eberle noted that the district received one finding for segregation of duties. Eberle said this finding is reoccurring and common in smaller districts with limited district office staff.

Expenditure and Revenue Report: Eberle explained that as of 10/03/2023 the district was 26% through the school year, had received 48% of expected revenue and disbursed 42% of expected expenditures. Eberle explained that the roof replacement project and early debt service disbursements played a role in elevated expenses.

Brown County Tax Levy Calculation Discussion: Eberle discussed how the tax levy is prepared and his process on calculations. Eberle explained that the equalized assessed valuation (EAV) plays a huge role in tax dollars received by the district. Eberle said the equalized assessed valuation (EAV), set by the assessor's office, will help determine the actual tax rate.

SMS Students Participating in Band: Mr. Ebbing discussed fifth and sixth grade St. Mary's students participating in the district's band program. Ebbing mentioned that students from St. Mary's would not require district transportation to travel over 3 days a week and participate in band during the last hour of the day.

Next Board Meeting – November 20, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.

December Board Meeting Date Change: Eberle requested the December Board meeting be moved from December 18, 2023, to December 19, 2023.

Motion by Gregory, seconded by Boylen, to approve the resolution authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$9,000,000 of General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) of the district for the purpose of improving the sites of and altering, repairing and equipping school buildings and facilities.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, no; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Ingram, seconded by Boylen, to approve the resolution of intent to issue not to exceed \$14,500,000 of Funding Bonds of the district.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, no; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Ingram, seconded by Gregory, to approve the resolution of intent to issue not to exceed \$1,500,000 of Working Cash Fund Bonds of the district.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, no; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Eberle discussed cost savings by having the district's maintenance staff build the Crows Nest's. Eberle explained that the lowest outside bid came in at \$96,000 per structure. Eberle mentioned that by utilizing maintenance staff and volunteers, the project is estimated to cost under \$25,000 per structure.

Motion by Koch, seconded by Reische, to approve the Purchase of Crow’s Nest Building Materials not to Exceed \$25,000 per Structure.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Boylen, seconded by Koch, to approve the Early Completion of High School Credits.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Koch, seconded by Boylen, to enter closed session at 6:36 p.m. for the following subjects: a) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the School District; i) pending, probable, or imminent litigation. – (I) was removed upon entering closed session

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Boylen, seconded by Koch, to exit closed session at 7:18 p.m.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Koch, seconded by Boylen, to approve the minutes of closed session.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Hughes explained that substitutes working as paraprofessionals, cooks, custodians, and secretaries, are currently making \$13.00 per hour. The district suggested raising that rate to \$15.00 per hour.

Motion by Eichelberger, seconded by Reische, to approve the Substitute Pay Increase for Paraprofessionals, Cooks, Custodians, and Secretaries

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Gregory, seconded by Boylen, to approve the Employment of Kris McCaskill – Substitute Teacher – effective October 16, 2023.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Boylen, seconded by Koch, to approve the Employment of Joseph Bridgewater - Substitute Custodian – effective October 16, 2023.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Eichelberger, seconded by Koch, to approve the Employment of Rabecca Schmidt – Paraprofessional – effective October 16, 2023.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Koch, seconded by Boylen, to approve the Employment of Kyle Long – Part Time Custodian – effective October 23, 2023.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Reische, seconded by Eichelberger, to approve the Transfer of Brooke Williams – Temporary Part-Time Substitute Paraprofessional to Part-Time Paraprofessional Pittsfield Early Childhood – effective September 22, 2023.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Boylen, seconded by Eichelberger, to adjourn at 7:21 p.m.

Motion Carried by Acclamation

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