

Litchfield Community Unit District No. 12
Board of Education Meeting
District Office
1100 N Old Route 66
Litchfield, IL. 62056
Tuesday, October 17, 2023
6:00p.m.

The Litchfield Board of Education held their regular monthly meeting beginning at 6:00p.m. at the District Office, 1100 N. Old Route 66, Litchfield, IL. 62056 Board members in attendance included: Julie Abel, President; Ron Anglin, Vice-President; Valerie Cain, Secretary, David Belusko, Mark Bloome, Jimmy Gorowski and Gregg Hires. Also, in attendance were: Dr. Gregg Fuerstenau, Superintendent; Jennifer Thompson, Director of Curriculum; Kris Adamson, Recording Secretary and Administrators: Adam Favre, Jeremy Heigert, Russ Tepen, Hilary Wagenblast and Juletta Ellis. Bob Witter, Buildings and Grounds/Transportation Director was in attendance. John Hanafin, Litchfield News Herald and Mary Herschelman, Journal News. Concerned parents and citizens.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing to present the terms of the proposed research-based e-learning program for use of e-learning days district-wide that permits student instruction to be received electronically while students are not physically present in lieu of the school district's scheduled emergency days, and to receive public comments related thereto. All members were present. Dr. Fuerstenau presented the updated e-learning plan. No public input was given. A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to adjourn at 6:03p.m. Voice Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

Regular Board meeting

The regular monthly board meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. All members were present.

Citizens agenda

The Boys High School Golf Team was recognized by the Board. The team won third place at the IHSA State tournament. The team is coached by Mr. Justin Ripley. Members of the team include: Brawly Jacobs, Tucker Maguire, AJ Odle, Ian Otto, Sam Schwab, Tug Schwab. Mr. Toby Baugher and Mr. Chris Baugher Middles School Science and STEM teachers, along with a few of their students gave a demonstration to the Board on the STEM activities. Students in attendance included Augustus Hale, Ella Hunn, Tessa Pastrovich, Kolby Rhodes, and Blake Stewart.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approve minutes from Public Hearing on September 19, 2023
- Approve minutes from the closed session and regular monthly meeting on September 19,2023
- Approve regular and closed minutes from October 3, 2023
- Approve monthly bills

Bills payable for October 2023 total \$1,858,804.51. From Education fund: 385,597.39. From O&M: 59,149.56. From Transportation: 26,130.22. From Capital Projects: 795,866.85. From Tort: 4,628.57. From Health-Life-Safety: 587,431.92 Ending balance in all funds at September 30, 2023 is \$22,922,932. Balance in operating funds is \$11,840,511. Balance in Capital Projects is \$3,346,678. Balance in Health-Life-Safety is \$5,902,378. Roll call vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

Old Business

After interviews and a lengthy discussion, the Board of Education chose to repost the superintendent position. The Board will be working with Mr. Helton, IASB to accomplish this task. Deadline for the new posting will be November 9, 2023.

New Business

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the annual financial audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, as presented by Ms. Robin Klinger of Scheffel Boyle, Certified Public Accountants. The District received a 3.7 out of recognition for the year. The auditors announced it as a clean audit. There are were a few items

noticed by the auditors. One including proper board training, which was already being taken care of. Another concern is the control over the activity funds. Minor findings were presented. The average daily attendance for the district was 1209; which in turns means the per capita charge per student is \$ 11,068.00. The Illinois State Board of Education likes to see schools have 180 days of cash on hand. Litchfield has 301 days, which includes some working cash. Roll call vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

Updates were given on each of the sites by Peter Ratermann, Poettker Construction and Emily Spindler, FGM Architects. Gave updates on the three projects the district has at this time. A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the contract change order PCCO#005 with Poettker construction for the Litchfield Primary School project in the amount of \$7,218.15. Roll call vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Present: Bloome. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the contract change order PCCO# 006 with Poettker Construction for the Litchfield Primary School project in the amount of \$ 4,381.72. Roll call vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Present: Bloome. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to award bid package No.2- Concrete for the prekindergarten addition of the Litchfield Primary School to RCS Construction , Inc in the amount of \$349,000.00. Roll call vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Present: Bloome. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Gregg Hires to reject all bids for package No.3- Masonry for the prekindergarten addition of the Litchfield Primary School. Roll call vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Present: Bloome. Motion carried 6-0.

There will be an "Open House" at the SCI center on November 6, 2023 from 6-8 p.m. The public is invited to tour this new facility. No presentation was given on the Career and Technical Education (CTE) for the District.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve a resolution adopting the Litchfield School District's e-learning program as presented. A public hearing which was advertised in the newspaper, was held prior to tonight's board meeting. The school board 's approval of a district's initial e-learning program and renewal of the e-learning program shall be for a term of 3 years. Roll call vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

Information Items

Enrollment is at 1345. Make IT presented their financial and directors report. In OPAA Food services report; 14,710 breakfasts and 16,701 lunches were served in September. Mr. Favre announced that the Literacy Night for K-5 grade would be held at the District Office on November 9th. There will be a job fair for substitutes in all aspects of the District at the library on October 23, 2023. Substitute Teachers, Aides, Custodians, Bus Drivers and Secretaries are able to begin the necessary paperwork. Regional Office and Litchfield Staff will be on hand to answer questions. Mrs. Juletta Ellis, Mrs. Karen Cress and Mrs. Abby Carlson gave a presentation at the Illinois Principal Associations conference on our career and technical curriculum and pathways. The District received a \$50,000.00 maintenance grant that will be used at Litchfield Primary. State report cards will be released October 30th and be presented at the November meeting. Mr. Favre is researching playgrounds for the Litchfield Primary School. A FOIA request was answered on October 16, 2023 by Dr. Fuerstenau for Allium Data out of Boulder Co. The request was for property and casualty insurance information as well as employee health benefits currently.

Personnel

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the family medical leave request from Caeley Stutz, Special Education teacher, beginning February 9, 2023 and continuing through the 2023-2024 school year. Roll call vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Valerie Cain to approve the hire Sara Gibson as an aide for the Make It program effective immediately. Roll call vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Gregg Hires and seconded by Jimmy Gorowski to approve the hire of Charlene Matuszak as an aide for the Make It program effective immediately. Roll call vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the hire of Patience Kruse as an aide for the Make It program effective immediately. Roll call vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the voluntary transfer of Scott Merano from fulltime custodial position to four-hour part-time position effective immediately. Roll call vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the hire of Kayla Davidson as fulltime custodian at the Litchfield Elementary School effective immediately. Roll call vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the hire of Caleb Payne as a substitute custodian for the District effective immediately. Roll call vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the hire of Paula Miller as a substitute custodian for the District effective immediately. Roll call vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Jimmy Gorowski for the Board to go into closed session at 7:31pm to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) Roll Call: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

The Board returned to open session at 9:32pm. Roll call vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried 7-0.

Seeing no further action to be taken, a motion was made Valerie Cain and seconded by Ron Anglin to adjourn the meeting at 9:00p.m. Voice Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski and Hires Motion carried 7-0.