

Litchfield Community Unit District No. 12  
Board of Education Meeting  
District Office  
1100 N Old Route 66  
Litchfield, IL. 62056  
Tuesday, November 21, 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 AND Shane Cress LEA representative were in attendance. John Hanafin, Litchfield News Herald and Mary Herschelman, Journal News. Concerned parents and citizens.

Citizens agenda

Mrs. Karen Cress, high school guidance counselor presented certificates to the Illinois State Scholars. This year's recipients included: Jon Conlee; Emma Diveley; Nolan Dougherty; Zach Leitschuh; Amanda Niemann; Cam Quarton; Annika Rhodes; Caitlyn Schneck; and Kendall Stewart. Julie Abel, board president presented certificates of accomplishment to the High School and Middle School ECO teams. Members included: Isaiah Burdell; Conner Favre; Lahna Kruse; Jackson Mullins; Claire Reid; Sarah Rieke; Ethan Rosado; Jake Wilson. Mrs. Jennifer Schwab volunteer coach for the Middle School Cross Country team introduced member that went to state this year. Members included: Madi Betz; Nolan Engstrom; Maggie Schwab; Jake Wilson. Mr. Adam Favre, Elementary School principal was recognized for his distinction of IPA Elementary Principal of the year. Mr. Favre will receive his award at a banquet in December.

Consent Agenda

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

Approve special meeting minutes from October 10, 2023

Approve special meeting minutes from October 11, 2023

Approve special meeting minutes from October 12, 2023

Approve public hearing, regular and closed session minutes from October 17, 2023

Approve monthly bills

Approve Treasurer's report

Bills payable for November 2023 total \$1,680,456.69. Total from Education fund is \$279,154.52. From Operations & Maintenance: \$94,188.12. From Transportation: \$21,455.14. From Capital Projects \$311,592.32. From Tort \$22,077.25. From Health-Life-Safety: \$951,989.34. Balance in all funds at Oct 31, 2023 is \$22,209,650. Balance in Operating Funds is \$12,398,225. Balance in Capital Projects is \$2,650,533. Balance in Health-Life-Safety is \$5,340,191.

Roll call vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried. 7-0

New Business

Updates were given on each of the sites by Peter Ratermann, Poettker Construction and Emily Spindler, FGM Architects on the Litchfield Primary project. The Board was presented with a video of student testimonies at SCI. The video will be used in recruiting students/districts out to the Area Career Center. A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the contract change order PCCO # 0025 with Poettker construction for the South Central Illinois Training and Innovation Center in the credit amount of (\$ 48,927.80.) This change order is tracking the cost associated with the allowances that were included in the base bid per allowance spec section 01 21 00. 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 contract change order PCCO # 0026 with Poettker construction for the South Central Illinois Training and Innovation Center in the amount of \$ 0.00. This change order is tracking the cost associated with Litteken back charging E.L.Pruitt for the damage to the countertop in Welding A129 from E. L. Pruitt's lift. This is a \$0.00 change order to the owner. 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 Jimmy Gorowski to approve the contract change order PCCO # 008 with Poettker construction for the Litchfield Primary School project in the credit amount of (\$25,035.25). This change event is for tracking the costs associated with removing the sawcutting and patching work associated with the existing concrete pavement on the north side of the existing building. This scope is being removed from this project because new concrete pavement is being constructed as part of the PreK addition making it no longer needed under this contract. 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 Jimmy Gorowski to approve the contract change order PCCO # 009 with Poettker construction for the Litchfield Primary School project in the amount of \$ 1,192.58. This change event is for tracking the costs associated with providing a smaller diameter roof drain and flange to accommodate the existing roof clearance as all existing roof drain locations. 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 contract change order PCCO # 002 with Poettker construction for the Litchfield Prekindergarten project in the amount of \$ 52,266.06. bid package No.3 masonry being rejected due to being over budget, this change event is to track cost associated with changing the brick veneer to fiber cement siding. The cost for this work is forecasted in the project's overall budget, but a change order is needed to incorporate this work into bid package No. 1. 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 approve the contract change order PCCO # 003 with Poettker construction for the Litchfield Prekindergarten project in the amount of \$ 27,925.30. bid package No.3 masonry being rejected due to being over budget, this change event is to track cost associated with the general trades package picking up the fluid applied air barrier. This cost for this work is forecasted the project's overall budget but a change order is needed to incorporate this work in bid package No. 1. Roll call vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. PRESENT: Bloome Motion carried. 6-0.

The District's mental health team(ESteam) gave a presentation on their what their current goals and duties for the district are this school year. The Team includes: Lucas Alteberger, School Psychologist; Mae Wells, Social Worker; Sarah Huber, Behavior Analyst; Karen Cress, School Counselor; Kaylie Ripley, Counselor Intern; Joleen Jones; Crisis Mental Health Counselor of Locust Street Resource Center; Nancy Roasio, School Social Worker; Paula Dal Canton, School Counselor; and Brenda Elvers, School Counselor. The mission of the team is to improve both teacher and student understandings of the relationship between social-emotional health and increase the ability of students to focus in the classroom on educational tasks. The ESTeam services 361 students on three levels.

The state report card was presented by Dr. Fuerstenau and the Administrators. The Middle School was designated as exemplary while the other were listed as commendable. The graduation rate is 94% while retention is at 92%. Chronis absenteeism is listed at 21%. Dr. Fuerstenau stated that there was room for growth in all areas, hoping the new curriculum in reading and math with help with test scores. The Administrators utilize IREADY for assessment testing. The testing is a good resource for teachers to see the strengths and weaknesses in each student. Scores were up over last year. Students will be tested again in January and at the end of the school year.

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Mark Bloome to approve the preliminary 2023 Tax levy. The Board shall approve the tentative levy. A truth in taxation hearing will be set for December 19, 2023 prior to the regular Board meeting. 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 the first reading of board revisions to Policy, Administrative Procedures, and Exhibits from Issue #113.

As presented by IASB: 2:20;2:110;2:120;2:150AP;2:200;2:220;2:220E-E2;2:220-E6  
3:50;4:10;4:30;4:60;4:60-AP1;4:80-AP2;4:90;4:130;4:130-E;4:160;4:170;4:170-AP1  
5:30;5:50;5:90;5:90-AP1;5:120;5:120-AP2;5:150;5:150-AP;5:190;5:200;5:210;5:220;  
5:220-AP;5:250;5:285-AP;5:330;

6:15;6:20;6:30;6:50;6:60;6:60-AP1; 6:65;6:230;6:230-AP;6:270;6:280

7:50;7:60;7:70;7:160;7:165;7:190;7:190-AP9;7:250;7:270;7:270-AP2;7:285;7:285-AP;7:290;

7:290-AP;7:345;7:245-AP;8:30 Voice vote: YEA: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski, and Hires. Motion carried. 7-0

#### Information Items

Enrollment is at 1305. Reports on participation from Parent Teacher conferences were included in the Board packet. Make IT presented their financial and directors report. In OPAA Food services report; 13,091 breakfasts and 14,188 lunches were served in October. The District is working with Ameren to replace all of the light bulbs in the Middle/ High School complex with LED bulbs. Mr. Witter and Dr. Fuerstenau are working a "five year in review" for buildings and grounds / transportation. 17 applications were collected in the second posting of the superintendent position and then presented to the Board at a special meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The applications will be vetted and interviews will begin December 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### Personnel

A motion was made by Ron Anglin and seconded by Gregg Hires to accept the letter of intent to retire from Kimberly Carlile, Middle School teacher at the end of the 2027-2028 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 accept the letter of intent to retire from Tracy Favre, Elementary School Teacher at the end of the 2027-2028 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 Mark Bloome to approve the family medical leave request from Shelby Richter, elementary teacher, beginning January 16, 2024 and returning April 22, 2024. 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 family medical leave request from Brooke Borrowman, high school teacher, beginning February 20, 2024 through the end of 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 Mark Bloome to approve the hire of Bill Burke as a substitute bus driver 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 hire Olivia Jones as the High School Girls Basketball Assistant coach beginning 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 Mark Bloome to approve Matthew Boyd as a Volunteer Coach for the wrestling program beginning 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 Mark Bloome to approve the hire of Zac Going as the Assistant Coach for the Middle School Wrestling program beginning the 2023-2024 school year. 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 Valerie Cain for the Board to go into closed session at 7:50 p.m. 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 9:00pm. 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 Mark Bloome to adjourn the meeting at 9:00p.m. Voice Vote: AYE: Abel, Anglin, Belusko, Bloome, Cain, Gorowski and Hires Motion carried 7-0.