

*Regular Meeting of the Board
of Education of School Dist. 190
Henry and Rock Island Counties, IL*

*February 8, 2024
Colona, IL*

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Present: Patricia Sedlock, Dennis Teichman, Julie Arnold, Julie VanDeWoestyne, Jim Legare and Lindsey Trickey

Absent: Bill Rossow

Also Present: Nate Fretz, Mike Carlson, Michael Ruff, Vicky Bohlman, Irene Parker, Cindy Whipple, and Eydie Glackin

The meeting began with the recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance

Cindy Whipple gave an update about the Trojan Triumph program at Colona Grade School. The enrollment goal for the year was 140 students and the current enrollment is 169 students participating in the TT program. The program partners with the Colona Public Library and the First Baptist Church. Clubs that are offered are: Spanish club, craft club, UI Extension Cooking Club. A family and parent education event is being planned for the spring. She reminded the BOE that there is only one more year approved for grant funding.

Irene Parker was present to speak about Kindergarten and their first 100 days of school celebration on January 19, 2024. Activities were planned around the celebration that included smarties, cookies and crowns.

Dr. Ruff shared with the BOE that Colona School District was approved for the FY24 School Maintenance Grant. More information will be shared at a later date.

Aniyah Mays was the winner of the 2024 Colona Grade School Elementary. Jason Betcher placed second. Due to a scheduling conflict, Jason will represent Colona Grade School at the Regional Spelling Bee at Augustana College.

There were no public comments.

The Principal reported Students of the month were: Paige Descamps, Lydia Descamps, Kayden Jett, Audrey Maust, Violet Real, Alex Mayo, Norah Schutt, Anthony Betcher, Waylon Holke, Isaac Rangel, Michael Perrigo, Morgan Ash. Valentine celebrations will be held on February 14 in the afternoon. The Junior High will have a dance on Friday, February 16. Mrs. Monahan is piloting the IXL math program with her 6th grade students. Professional Development will be on Friday February 16. Additional work he has been able to accomplish with the administrative support includes 15+ walkthroughs since December, able to review the current reading curriculum and plan a week's worth of lessons and spend an additional hour with a staff member. Additional time was spent reviewing possible reading curriculums and the state literacy plan. Students have solved 962K math facts.

The Assistant Principal report included her daily schedule and administrative duties. Mrs. Bohlman does morning supervision, building checks throughout the day and cafeteria supervision. She has started to attend IEP meetings, meet with teachers and support staff regarding student behavior, conference with the school counselor and social worker.

The Athletic Director shared that girls basketball has started. Wrestling is about halfway over. Wrestlers competed in the Geneseo Invite on January 6. IESA regionals will begin on Saturday, February 25. The Scholastic Bowl had their first match on Thursday, February 1. The seventh grade team lost and the eighth grade team won.

The PTA reported they are planning a February pie sale incentive and will need volunteers. The date for the Spring Craft Fair is to be determined. Mrs. Dietz received a grant for inside recess items for the Junior High in the amount of \$65.93.

The Maintenance report listed general maintenance performed for the month. This month included snow removal and building checks due to the weather.

The School Resource Officer detailed his daily schedule and future tasks. Officer Tony is working with Mrs. Shape's class on good behavior initiatives for students. He also detailed the extreme weather this month during arrival and dismissal times.

A Motion was made by Jim Legare, seconded, by Dennis Teichman to approve Consent Agenda, which included the following:

- 5a. Approve the regular board meeting minutes from January 11, 2024*
- 5b. Approve the closed session board meeting minutes from January 11, 2024*
- 5c. Approve the bills for the month*
- 5d. Approve the activity fund report for the month*
- 5e. Approve the Certified Teacher and Classified Staff Seniority list (revised)*
- 5f. Approve Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn as the district's legal counsel for FY25*
- 5g. Approve the Superintendent's request to begin drafting the FY25 district budget*

Roll Call Vote: Teichman- aye; VanDeWoestyne - aye; Trickey - aye; Arnold - aye; Legare - aye; Sedlock - aye; 6 ayes, no nays, one absent, Motion carried

Nate Fretz from Stifel was present to update the BOE on the final steps of the bond sale. Three bids were received for both bond issues and all offers were competitive. People's National Bank of Kewanee was the lowest bid with a callable option and has agreed to waive fees.

A meeting will need to be scheduled with the architect and the Building and Grounds Committee to begin the discussion for facility upgrades. Jim Legare asked if the building project will align with the 10 year Health, Life, Safety needs in the future. This concern will be addressed with the architect.

Mr. Carlson gave a presentation regarding the summative designation for Colona Grade School. Colona received a Commendable rating for the 2024 school year. A school's summative designation is calculated by how well an individual school is meeting the needs of the students overall and specific groups in the categories of English Language Arts, Math and Science. Subgroups of students include demographics, children with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students and English learners. Chronic absenteeism remains a concern for student growth. A Commendable designation is the second highest designation from ISBE and means that there is still room for growth in these areas, but the students are performing in the commendable range.

Colona School District used three emergency days this past month due to weather conditions. Parents/Families were notified via text message, website and Facebook. These cancellations have caused a change in the school calendar. School will now be in session on February 19 (President's Day), April 1 and May 28, 2024. This information has been communicated to families since the beginning of the school year. Dr. Ruff would like to revisit the E-learning plan in the future to discuss this option for the students.

The BOE discussed BP 7:60 Residency regarding the update of allowing Non-Resident children of staff to attend Colona Grade School. The board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of this policy.

The BOE was given a potential job description for the Assistant Principal position for the 24-25 school year. Dr. Ruff would like to have this position posted soon in order to have the most beneficial opportunity for interviews.

Recruitment and retention were discussed at the strategic planning meeting earlier this year. An appreciation event for current district staff could be a way to thank staff for their service to Colona Grade School. Ideas are welcome, please send them to Dr. Ruff.

A new form will be used for the Residency portion of registration this year. Mrs. Norville has prepared a new form for residency. The online registration process will be available for all Colona Grade School families, but all families will need to present proof of residency in person to complete enrollment. Dr. Ruff will meet with any families that have difficulties with submitting residency documentation. Information will be communicated with families to help with the process through school email, District website and social media.

Mrs. Bohlman has recommended an updated Kindergarten readiness checklist before students start this fall. This process will help balance classrooms with the ability to identify the strengths and needs of incoming students.

BHASED has provided Colona School District #190 with the results of the annual needs assessment results. This assessment identifies areas of improvement or needs for special education programming. 72 students receive special education services at the school. Suggestions for improving the program included co-teaching, paraeducator support and programming.

A motion was made by Jim Legare, seconded by Lindsey Trickey to enter closed session in accordance with Chapter 5, Act 120, Section 2 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, an Executive Session will be held to possibly discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District [5 ILCS 120 / 2 (c)(1)]; other matters relating to individual students (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10))

Roll Call Vote: Sedlock - aye; Teichman - aye; VanDeWoestyne - aye; Trickey - aye; Arnold - aye; Legare - aye; 6 ayes, no nays, one absent, Motion carried

The board entered closed session at 8:34 p.m.

A Motion was made by Dennis Teichman, seconded by Jim Legare to return to open session at 8:57 p.m.

Julie VanDeWoestyne left the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Sedlock - aye; Teichman - aye; Trickey - aye; Arnold - aye; Legare - aye; 5 ayes, no nays, two absent, Motion carried

A motion was made by Patricia Sedlock, seconded by Julie Arnold to approve the Resolution providing for the issue of \$575,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2024A, of the District for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.

Roll Call Vote: Legare - aye; Sedlock - aye; Teichman - aye; Trickey - aye; Arnold - aye 5 ayes; no nays, two absent; Motion carried.

A motion was made by Patricia Sedlock, seconded by Dennis Teichman to approve the Resolution providing for the issue of \$269,000 General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2024B, of the District for the purpose of altering, repairing and equipping District facilities and improving the sites thereof, to pay the principal and interest on said bonds and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.

Roll Call Vote: Arnold - aye; Legare - aye; Sedlock - aye; Teichman - aye; Trickey - aye; 5 ayes; no nays, two absent; Motion carried.

A motion was made by Jim Legare, seconded by Dennis Teichman to approve the First readings of the following Board Policy updates:

2:105 Ethics and Gift Ban

4:30 Revenue and Investments

4:60 Purchases and Contracts

5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria

5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal

7:60 Residence

Roll Call Vote: Trickey - aye; Arnold - aye; Legare - aye; Sedlock - aye; Teichman - aye; 5 ayes; no nays; two absent; Motion carried.

A Motion was made by Dennis Teichman, seconded by Julie Arnold to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote: 5 ayes; no nays, two absent, Motion carried

Having noted that all agenda items had been discussed, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

DATE

