

*August 10, 2023
Colona, IL*

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Julie Wittenauer, Lindsey Trickey, Patricia Sedlock, Bill Rossow, and Julie Arnold

Absent: Dennis Teichman, Jim Legare

Also Present: Mark Hansen, PMA Financial, Chrissy Winters, Cindy Whipple, Ian Malmstrom, Mike Carlson, Mike Ruff and Edith Glackin

The meeting began with the recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance

Good News Items included a recap of the first day inservice with staff and the first day of school. Chrissy and Eydie were invited to attend the 3M School Daze event. Cindy Whipple gave an update on the Trojan Triumph program. Colona Grade School students will participate in the NIU High Impact Tutoring Program. The district received a donation of \$500 from Judy Caddy to be used toward school supplies. UTHS students that are enrolled in the Early Childhood Program have the opportunity to volunteer at Colona Grade School. Ms. Flaherty is coordinating this partnership.

There were no visitors or individuals present to speak to any agenda item.

The Principal reported backpack night was held on July 31st and the first day of school was on August 1st. The first day for PreK was on Monday, August 7th. PD included Schema review with Marisa Romanelli and the staff reviewed restorative circles and previewed the Character Strong Curriculum. The staff will receive more training on Character Strong on Friday, September 1st. Colona Grade School has approximately 381 students enrolled.

The Athletic Director shared that sign ups for fall sports have begun. There were 28 girls that tried out for volleyball and the coach had to make cuts. Colona has 15 football players on the coop team and there are 17 running cross country. A chess club sponsor is needed.

The PTA minutes detailed they need volunteers for Backpack Night. The PTA Fall Craft Fair is scheduled for October 28th. PTA is supplying lunch for the staff inservice.

The Technology report listed items that were sent from E-Waste recycling and installation highlights that were completed over the summer break.

The Maintenance report listed general maintenance performed for the month and also listed summer maintenance projects that were completed over summer break. The maintenance crew also helped organize the E-Waste items for recycling.

The School Resource Officer listed security topics and current projects he is working on. Security topics included the new security system (cameras).

A Motion was made by Bill Rossow, seconded, by Julie Arnold to approve Consent Agenda, which included the following:

- 5a. Approve regular board meeting minutes from July 20, 2023*
- 5b. Approve the bills for the month*

5c. Approve the activity fund report form the month

5d. Accept the resignation of Hailey Charter effective 7-24-23

5e. Accept the donation from J. Caddy in the amount of \$500 for school supplies

Roll Call Vote: Sedlock- aye; Arnold - aye; Wittenauer – aye; Rossow - aye; Trickey - aye; 5 ayes; no nays, two absent, Motion carried

Dr. Ruff updated the members of the BOE on the registration process. He explained to the BOE that residency and enrollment are two different requirements. Any concerns with residency were handled at the district level with face to face meetings. All conversations were handled with integrity, fairness and home visits have been scheduled. Dr. Ruff also explained that the residency ensures that resources are spent on families that truly live in the district.

IASA will facilitate a Strategic Planning process if the BOE would like to move forward with the process. This process will analyze the needs of the district with input from the stakeholders. A one day workshop is possible. Dr. Ruff will inquire with the IASA for more details.

The BOE was updated with enrollment numbers from the past ten years. Enrollment has decreased by 140 students over that time.

Mr. Mark Hansen from PMA Financial (a Fiduciary Agent working as a Municipal Advisor, not a Broker) to review the existing debt structure of the district with a presentation to the BOE. The district currently has two bonds that will be retired in the next two years. The district must make a decision before February 24, 2025 if they would like to issue additional bonds to maintain the current tax levy. Mr. Hansen reminded the BOE that the best plan is to always be looking 3-5 years in advance to keep accomplishing projects/goals. This can be done in conjunction with the strategic planning for the district.

The City of Colona has not issued body cameras to their officers. This includes Officer Tony Armstrong, SRO. The City of Colona has provided the school district with a copy of the BOdy Camera Policy. Most of the duties of the SRO are community care taking functions. If an incident happened at school that would require police capacity, the camera and the audio would be activated.

Recruitment and retention of staff is an ongoing challenge for Colona School District. The BOE will talk about creative ways to promote the school and community including spirit wear for the current staff.

The FY24 Budget Hearing is set for September 14 at 6:00 p.m. New staff will be introduced at 6:15 p.m. and the Regular Board Meeting will be held at 6:30.

A motion was made by Lindsey Trickey, seconded by Julie Arnold 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)]

Roll Call Vote: Sedlock- aye; Arnold - aye; Wittenauer – aye; Rossow - aye; Trickey - aye; 5 ayes; no nays, two absent, Motion carried

The board entered closed session at 8:18 p.m.

A Motion was made by Bill Rossow, seconded by Patricia Sedlcok to return to open session at 9:01 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Lindsey Trickey, seconded by Patricia Sedlcok to approve the FY24 tentative budget and place it on file in the District office for public inspection

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

A motion was made by Patricia Sedlock, seconded by Bill Rossow to approve Chris Bisby to serve as a long term sub (Elem. PE) until a more permanent solution can be found

Roll Call Vote: Wittenauer - aye; Arnold - aye; Rossow - aye; Trickey - aye; Sedlock - aye; 5 ayes, no nays, none absent, Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bill Rossow, seconded by Lindsey Trickey to approve the superintendent to declare 13 lunch tables as surplus and execute the necessary documents to complete the transaction as per BP4:80

Roll Call Vote: Trickey - aye; Rossow - aye; Sedlock - aye; Arnold - aye; Wittenauer - aye; 5 ayes, no nays, none absent, Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Patricia Sedlock, seconded by Julie Arnold to approve the Scope of Work summary for Madison Flaherty

Roll Call Vote: Sedlock - aye; Trickey - aye; Rossow - aye; Wittenauer - aye; Arnold - aye; 5 ayes, no nays, none absent, Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Lindsey Trickey, seconded by Julie Arnold to approve the updates to the 2023-2024 Parent and Student Handbook

Roll Call Vote: Rossow - aye; Arnold - aye; Wittenauer - aye; Trickey - aye; Sedlock - aye; 5 ayes, no nays, none absent, Motion Carried.

A Motion was made by Julie Arnold, seconded by Patricia Sedlock to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote: 5 ayes; no nays, none absent, Motion carried

Having noted that all agenda items had been discussed, the meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

DATE