April 15, 2020

The Brimfield Board of Education held its regular meeting, remotely, on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 7:03 p.m. Board President Thompson called the meeting to order with the following members present: Meyer, Kenney, Heinz, Updyke, Graham, and Johnson.

The board recognized several community members.

Updyke moved and Johnson seconded to approve the March 11, 2020 Regular meeting & Closed Session Minutes. Motion Carried.

Thompson reported that he understands Buffie Stewart will be retiring at the end of the fiscal year; on behalf of the Board, he thanked her for all of her years of service and dedication to the District. He wishes her the best; she will be missed. He could not thank the Staff/Administration/Teachers enough for everything they have been, and continue to do, in light of COVID-19.

Superintendent McNamara reported on his board report. He shared some takeaways from the Governor’s recently signed Executive Orders (relating to the Open Meetings Act). He shared what this meeting would look like as well as any possible future remote meetings. He shared details from his report (included in the packet). He highlighted the Life Safety Amendment. He mentioned that, in light of COVID-19, the timeline for this to be signed off by ISBE has been pushed back. He also mentioned that the May Board Meeting may be moved up or a special meeting may be held due to time-sensitive business.

There was new business to discuss/approve.

Meyer moved and Updyke seconded to approve Board Policy 3.45 - Emergency Powers of the Superintendent (First Reading). Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Heinz – yes, Johnson – yes, Kenney – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

Kenney moved and Meyer seconded to approve Board Policy 4.180 - Pandemic Preparedness (First Reading). Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Heinz – yes, Johnson – yes, Kenney – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

Mr. Shinall reported. He shared information regarding Brimfield’s response to COVID-19 (included in packet). He highlighted and gave special thanks to Sprint for donating hotspots to the District. He also gave a special thanks to the custodial staff, cafeteria staff, the maintenance man, secretaries, Kevin Faulkner, Brandon Porter, and Michele Cox for everything they have done to get the District up and running (for remote learning).

Mrs. Albritton reported. She shared information relating to remote learning implemented statewide on March 31. She highlighted Mr. Harr’s and Mrs. Gibbs’s use of YouTube to provide music instruction. She also highlighted Mrs. Wagner’s daily storytime. Many Teachers have been utilizing Google classroom! She also highlighted the amount of chromebooks and hotspots dispersed in April.

In regards to Old Business, Superintendent McNamara again mentioned that the Life Safety Amendment is awaiting ISBE approval. Other projects will be planned according to the Fire Safety Levy.

Kenney moved and Johnson seconded to approve the Technology Coordinator position. There was some discussion. Heinz questioned if we should reconsider due to cuts to future funding. It was discussed that, right now, we are just approving the position and no money is involved at this time. However, Mrs. Albritton did emphasize one of the agenda items will be dependent upon the approval of this position as it creates an opening. Superintendent McNamara added that cuts are most likely going to be to categorical grants. Additionally, projects have more of an impact on the budget than the position(s) we are proposing the Board accept. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Heinz – no, Johnson – yes, Kenney – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

Updyke moved and Meyer seconded to approve Ashley Wetherill in the position of K-2 Special Education Teacher. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Heinz – yes, Johnson – yes, Kenney – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

Kenney moved and Updyke seconded to approve Meredith Wahl in the position of 5th Grade Teacher. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Heinz – yes, Johnson – yes, Kenney – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

Heinz moved and Updyke seconded to approve the Grade School extracurricular assignments for the 2020-2021 School Year (as presented). Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Heinz – yes, Johnson – yes, Kenney – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

Updyke moved and Meyer seconded to approve the High School extracurricular assignments for the 2020-2021 School Year (as presented) with the addition of Trent Trotter as High School Golf Coach. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Heinz – yes, Johnson – yes, Kenney – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

Kenney moved and Johnson seconded to approve the High School extracurricular assignments for the 2019-2020 (Spring) School Year (as presented). Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Heinz – yes, Johnson – yes, Kenney – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

Heinz moved and Meyer seconded to approve the Support Personnel assignments for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year (as presented) Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Heinz – yes, Johnson – yes, Kenney – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

Meyer moved and Heinz seconded to approve the Consent Calendar items. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Heinz – yes, Johnson – yes, Kenney – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

Board President Thompson welcomed comments from the community members. Dave Peterson questioned the Board’s thoughts on the future of the remainder of the calendar year. Thompson stated that we are not trying to overreact and cancel. Mr. Shinall agreed and added that there are no good answers and we have been following guidelines set forth by the Governor’s Office.

At 7:52 p.m. Meyer moved and Johnson seconded to adjourn the April 15, 2020 regular board meeting of the Brimfield CUSD #309 Board of Education. Motion carried

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Board President

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Board Secretary