

The Brimfield Board of Education held its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 7p.m. in the High School Library. Board President Thompson called the meeting to order with the following members present: Bell, Meyer, Updyke, Johnson, Heinz, and Graham.

The board recognized the following visitors: Brandon Porter and John Ballentine.

Updyke moved and Johnson seconded to approve the minutes from:

- January 20, 2021 Regular Meeting

Motion Carried

Board President Thompson reported. He complimented Administration for their flexibility and doing what it takes to keep school in session (in-person instruction).

Superintendent Shinall reported on his board report. He echoed Thompson, thanking the other administrators, athletic directors, and coaches. He explained the Safe2Help Illinois program, why it would be best to waive the statewide assessments this year, that he has updated the Economic Statement of Interest list, the need for an amended budget, and end-of-year activities.

Mr. Robison reported on his High School Report. Unfortunately, we lost a day of student and sports activities due to the weather, but we are now back in full affect! He congratulated Haley Wallace for her achievement! He provided sports updates including the fact that both boys and girls are undefeated in their respective sports. He complimented the teamwork at BHS and thanked them for going above and beyond! The Board was briefed on the 8th grade visit to the High School next week. The Board was briefed on the continuation of their hashtag.

Superintendent Shinall reported on the Grade School Report. The Board was briefed on enrollment numbers as well as the number of students participating in remote learning. A message from the District Nurse was shared; Shinall thanked her for her tremendous efforts- they are paying off! The Board was briefed on Student Achievement/Instruction/Curriculum/Initiatives, Extracurriculars and upcoming events.

There was new business to discuss/approve.

Superintendent Shinall elaborated on the 1:1 initiative. The District is not committing to an official timeline for a full implementation at this time. The plan is to use anticipated funds from the second round of federal funding and the PTO. Heinz inquired if there was a funding plan in place in case the District does not receive the anticipated federal funds. Shinall explained that other options are being explored, but feels confident as funds for technology purchases were included in the first round of federal funding. The hope is to get approval sooner than later due to delays in ordering and shipment. It is our understanding that a goal of the federal government, with these funds, is to close the technology gap. The last figure we were provided was around \$180k; the PTO has promised \$18k to assist with the 1:1 implementation. There is no plan to immediately spend the full amount we may receive from the government. Students will be charged yearly so as to assist with upgrades, virus protection, and licensing.

Updyke moved and Graham seconded to approve the expenditure of \$110,000 for 1:1 implementation for the 2021-2022 School Year. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Johnson – yes, Bell – yes, Graham – yes, Heinz – no. Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion Carried

The Co-op Agreement with Elmwood was discussed. Right now, the financial risk of pulling away from the Co-op is unknown; more time will be needed to explore the possibility. Brandon Porter explained that we had made the same decision two years ago when the financials were presumably better. The Board explained two primary financial concerns: the likely tier move (relating to State Aid) will bring about much less funding than we currently receive and the startup cost to get a football program implemented. It was added that we can pull individual sports away from the co-op at any time, but is an IHSA rule that the agreement be mutual before the end of the Co-op agreement. Porter inquired about the financial goal in order to stand alone. Shinall explained that state funding is a concern and we will have a better idea what that will be sometime this summer. Additionally, if funding is cut, one area of focus will be transportation. Porter and Heinz agreed that a conversation needs to take place between Brimfield and Elmwood and a decision needs to be based on that dialogue.

Graham moved and Updyke seconded to approve the Co-op agreement with Elmwood for extra-curricular activities for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Johnson – no, Bell – yes, Graham – yes, Heinz – yes. Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

Heinz moved and Updyke seconded to approve Gorenz & Associates for the FY21 Audit. Shinall and Board Clerk Petty explained that requests for quotes did not happen because they do good work and we are satisfied with them. Yes, the price increase is a little high, but it is standard across the board due to additional state and federal requirements. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Johnson – yes, Bell – yes, Graham – yes, Heinz – yes. Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

Updyke moved and Johnson seconded to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar. Superintendent Shinall mentioned that the Institute day in January has been reinstated and is designated to the ROE. There was a question as to how Spring Break is determined. Shinall mentioned it is decided by feedback from Teachers. Motion carried

Heinz moved and Johnson seconded to approve the resignation of Melissa McCauley-BGS Special Education Teacher with appreciation for her time and commitment to the District and its students. Motion carried

Heinz moved and Meyer seconded to approve the resignation of Terri Reeves-High School 2nd Shift Custodian. Motion carried

Johnson moved and Updyke seconded to approve Nathan Porter-High School 2nd Shift Custodian. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Johnson – yes, Bell – yes, Graham – yes, Heinz – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

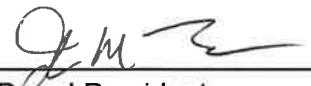
Heinz moved and Johnson seconded to approve Kevin Faulkner-8th grade Girls Basketball Coach. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Johnson – yes, Bell – yes, Graham – yes, Heinz – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried


Johnson moved and Bell seconded to approve the Consent Calendar items. Shinall noted that we should not have to worry much about an increase in gas/electric prices due to recent events; we are part of the Illinois Energy Consortium. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Johnson – yes, Bell – yes, Graham – yes, Heinz – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

Thompson welcomed comments from the community members; there were none.

At 7:58pm, Johnson moved and Meyer seconded to leave open session and enter closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of an employee *Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120, being Sec. 2 (c)* Roll Call: Heinz – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – yes, Graham - yes, Updyke - yes, Meyer - yes, Thompson - yes. Motion carried

At 9:13 p.m. the Board returned to Open Session. Johnson then moved and Updyke seconded to adjourn the February 17, 2021 regular board meeting of the Brimfield CUSD #309 Board of Education. Motion carried



Board President


Board Secretary