

EAST CARTER COUNTY R-II SCHOOL

24 South Herren Avenue

Ellsinore, MO 63937

News Release: January 28, 2021; Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

EAST CARTER COUNTY R-II BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 28, 2021

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Board President Ben Thies called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. in the Elementary Cafeteria. The following Board members were present: Ben Thies, Jordan Collins, Stonie Croy, Johnathan Collins, Becky Fischer, JoEllen Carter and John Walker. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Richard Sullivan, High School Principal Jon McKinney, Middle School Principal Theresa Kearbey, Elementary Principal Kacie Kendrick, SpEd Director Veronica Hollis, Network Administrator Bill Lewis, Bookkeeper Jamie Shaffer and Board Secretary Kathey Dalton, staff members Jordan Penn, Kristin Penn, Daniel Baucom, Jesse Cupp, Ethan Boyer, Kendra Asher, Tyler Owen and Kristie Orchard. Also in attendance were Gracie Baucom, Missy Cox, Susie Fann, Sally Stahl, Olivia Price, Logan Copeland, Raymond Ochoa, Jake Wilder, Eli Marvin and William Cooley.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Sullivan reported the electric bill was down \$494.20 from last year. Dr. Sullivan said a congratulations go out to the High School Boys Basketball Team for winning the Yellow Sucker Game, the Boys and Girls Basketball teams for their strong finishes in the Black River League Tournaments and to our High School Cheerleaders for winning the Black River League Cheer Championship. Dr. Sullivan said we received many compliments as a host on the hospitality and organization of the Black River League Tournament. Home Coming is this Saturday night, games start at 5:00 p.m. Dr. Sullivan said we have only had to close 2 days so far this year and temperature forecast for next week shows warmer daytime temperatures. February 14-21, 2021 is School Board Appreciation Week. Dr. Sullivan said recently, there is an apparent 'fast-track plan' which combined SB23 and SB25 together into SB55. A summary of some of the provisions of this bill are: School Board Member Recall, Education Scholarship Account/Vouchers, Charter School Expansion, turning MOCAP into virtual Charter Schools, Withholds state funding from members of MSHSAA and Limiting State Board of Education members to one full term. Dr. Sullivan asked the we pleased review the details of SB55 and contact your State Senator as to your position on the Bill. Dr. Sullivan talked about the Bus Grant. Bills were discussed.

MINUTES/BILLS

The Board approved the December 15, 2020 Regular Board Meeting minutes and bills were approved for payment.

## NEW BUSINESS

The Board set Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 for Digital Board Document training. The Board approved a donation of \$1,000 to project prom with the School providing transportation, Band/Choir trip to Silver Dollar City/Dixie Stampede with the School providing transportation and the Baseball Tournament at Camdenon with the School providing transportation. Curriculum Director Jesse Cupp provided a PowerPoint overview of iReady data. January Climate Survey was discussed. Board Member Jordan Collins read a statement concerning the climate survey. Jordan said, "I would like to thank the faculty and staff for taking time to complete the climate surveys. It is an extra task on an already overburdened and overwhelmed team, which is clear from reading the comments. We are all experiencing an unprecedented stressful time and it's important to consider each and everyone of us have different interactions which shape our perceptions. I think I saw many responses and comments which point toward positive improvement, however I especially appreciate those with courage to deliver remarks of constructive criticism. Serving on the Board of Education is an extremely trying and simultaneously rewarding position which under very rare circumstances delivers any personal benefit to the individual serving. We all as humans have flaws and I think our journey through life allows us the opportunity to grow and become better members of society. I will briefly touch on a few of my own individual flaws that I am already aware of. I know I have a very blunt and abrupt delivery method which can often be perceived as rudeness in a public setting. I know that I personally struggle with building personal relationships largely due to my own self-criticism which I can at times extend to those around me. I do have a love for my community, and a desire to see improvement and unity among our school district. I think every member currently on this Board has pure intentions of making the best possible decisions for all the stakeholders of the district. It is important to remember that those stakeholders include everyone and not just the faculty/staff. I know from my conversations with other Board Members that we all have communications with those various stakeholders which we apply to our decisions as a Board. This Board has great empathy for the current environment of the workplace and understands there are unprecedented burdens being experienced by all. It is equally difficult to be responsible for making the decisions which will affect each and everyone suffering from stress and anxiety. A common theme in the survey is that the Board should have more communication with staff and address individual concerns more directly. I think these climate surveys allow for that direct line of communication to the board of Education without circumventing the chain of command between staff, building administrators, and Superintendents. I would like to directly let the administration and staff know that I read each and every comment in the survey and will definitely take an introspective approach to applying the criticism as needed. I hope we all can have empathy and understanding for one another, as no one knows the personal struggles of the other, especially under the trying times of the past 10 months. I extend a heartfelt thanks to each and everyone of the staff, administration, and other members of this Board for their continued love and support of this district."

The Board asked that another survey be done in early April. The Board approved the Community Involvement, Food Service and Technology Program Evaluations and appointed the High School Counselor as Foster Care Liaison. The Board accepted resignations from Dawn Hood as paraprofessional, Roxana Salamone as part time Speech Therapist, Pam Sanders as Special Education Teacher and Jon McKinney as High School Principal. The Board approved to extend COVID-19 benefits for staff, following the same guidelines, through the end of 2020-21 (FY'21) as recommended by Dr.

Sullivan. The Board approved the Career Education Program Evaluation Completion rates as presented by Jon McKinney.

#### STAFF/COMMITTEE REPORTS

CTA President Daniel Baucom said all is going well at this time. Curriculum Director Jesse Cupp talked about the math series and number reviews. Elementary Principal Kacie Kendrick said the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students have just finished their chapter on Land Forms and invited the Board to take a look at their projects. She said they are moving forward with plans for Playday and will try to run it as they would normally. Mrs. Kendrick said she has been looking at T-shirts to order for students to wear for Playday.

The Board moved to enter into Executive session in accordance with Public Law, section 610.21: items 3, 13 and 14 for closed meeting to the extent authorized by law.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive session meeting was called to order by Board President Ben Thies at 8:51 p.m. The agenda was approved and the minutes for the December 15, 2020 meeting were approved. The Board approved Abigail Gregory as a substitute teacher. The Board voted to employ Dr. Richard Sullivan as Superintendent thru the 2022-2023 school year. The Executive meeting adjourned at 11:55 p.m.