May 20, 2020

The Brimfield Board of Education held its regular meeting, remotely, on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Board President Thompson called the meeting to order with the following members present: Meyer, Kenney, Heinz, Updyke, and Johnson. Graham joined later.

The board recognized approximately 10 visitors.

Heinz moved and Meyer seconded to approve the April 15, 2020 Regular meeting, April 28, 2020 Special meeting, April 30, 2020 Extracurricular Committee meeting, and May 5, 2020 Special Meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

Thompson reported. He shared his gratitude for the Administrators’ efforts in assisting with the graduations. He wished the 8th graders and the Seniors the best of luck moving forward. Superintendent McNamara also shared his gratitude. He commended the students’ participation in the graduation ceremonies as well as Mr. Shinall and Mrs. Albritton for putting the virtual ceremony together. He also wished the 8th graders and Seniors the best of luck.

Superintendent McNamara reported on his board report. He highlighted shared his thoughts on the past month. He reminded the Board that he is nearing the end of his 120 day limit. He mentioned a discussion that took place between him and the Alumni Association in regards to the composite pictures. He found, what he believes, to be a solution. He referred to a handout included in the board packet providing information about display boards. He suggested fundraising as a way to fund the display board purchase. He thanked the Board members for making themselves available for the many meetings that have taken place these last few months.

Mr. Shinall reported for the High School. Things have been super busy! He gave a big thank you to Mr. Henson for ALL of his assistance with the virtual ceremonies. He also applauded the High School Teachers for all their patience and ability to adapt to the remote learning environment.

Mrs. Albritton reported on her Grade School Report. In addition to also thanking Mr. Henson for all of his assistance, she also thanked Monte and Melissa Kenney for their assistance with graduation pictures. She also thanked the Grade School Teachers and teacher assistants for helping ensure that guidelines (social distancing, face coverings, etc.) were applied during locker cleanout and supply pickup and drop-off.

There was new business to discuss/approve.

Johnson moved and Kenney seconded to approve the IHSA membership for 2020-2021. 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 Peoria County Co-op Purchasing Program. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Heinz – yes, Johnson – yes, Kenney – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

In regards to Old Business, Superintendent McNamara provided an updates on lingering projects / discussions. There was a meeting held, recently, where there was a healthy discussion with the architects regarding the air conditioning at the Grade School. He would like the alumni pictures displayed soon. The memorial wall is still in process; this pandemic has set that process back as well. The project is looking like it will begin in July.

Heinz moved and Johnson seconded to approve the Resignation of Mr. Jeff Binder as the Assistant Jr. High Baseball Coach. Motion carried

Meyer moved and Updyke seconded to approve summer workers. Mr. McNamara added that there will possibly be three helpers, working no more than 40 hours a week, to assist in getting the school ready for the next school year. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Heinz – yes, Johnson – yes, Kenney – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

Updyke moved and Graham seconded to approve the hire of Rebecca (Lambert) Goodell in the position of High School Art Teacher. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Heinz – yes, Johnson – yes, Kenney – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

Mr. McNamara elaborated on the finance items. He suggested selling working cash bonds while the interest rates are at an all-time low. He added that he is not proposing we take action now, rather he is mentioning it as the first step in the process and to not discount that option. He also wanted to bring it up as an educational and informative experience for the incoming Superintendent. Mr. McNamara also updated the Board on how our year-end financials look. They look grim, but, if we receive around 750k in early tax money, we may be ok; 1.2 million would look better! Lastly, he applauded Kyle and Petrina in their efforts in helping put together a document that lists the outlook of hourly wages through 2025. He plans on sharing this with the Board; it shows how we plan on meeting the $15/hr minimum wage.

Heinz moved and Johnson seconded to approve the Bread and Milk bids 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

Meyer moved and Kenney seconded to approve the removal of payment to Warner Mechanical, LLC from the list of bills for payment for the month of May. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Heinz – no, Johnson – yes, Kenney – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

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

Board President Thompson welcomed comments from the community members. There were none

At 7:43pm, Meyer moved and Johnson 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: Meyer – yes, Heinz – yes, Johnson – yes, Kenney – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

The Board returned from closed session at 9:14pm.

Updyke moved and Heinz seconded to approve the payment to Warner Mechanical, LLC, contingent on completion of the items on the punch list. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Heinz – yes, Johnson – yes, Kenney – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

At 9:15 p.m. Heinz moved and Kenney seconded to adjourn the May 20, 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