

September 16, 2020

The Brimfield Board of Education held its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Grade School Library (moved due to a sudden notice of a positive COVID-19 case at the High School). Board President Thompson called the meeting to order with the following members present: Meyer, Updyke, Johnson, and Graham.

There was a moment of silence held in memory of Aaron Miller.

Updyke moved and Johnson seconded to open the Budget Hearing. Motion Carried

Superintendent Shinall elaborated on the budget details and highlighted key factors in budgeted expenses being much higher than revenues:

- Protective Equipment (PPE) expenses- so far we have spent over \$13,000
- Extra supply costs to accommodate remote and online learning
- Extra supply cost because students cannot share certain school items
- Deep cleaning- if necessary, would cost about \$10,000 per building
- Advice from Legal counsel
- No increase in revenue from Evidence Based Funding; we are also at risk of getting less than what we received last year (there are different tiers and they were explained)
- Governor Pritzker has advised districts to plan for less revenue
- Although we are blessed to have great taxpayers, we cannot reasonably expect the same amount of tax levy revenue
- Facility Sales tax revenue is expected to be much less
- FEMA and IEMA may be assisting with reimbursement for PPE, but, to what extent, is unknown

Updyke moved and Johnson seconded to close the Budget Hearing. Motion Carried

Meyer moved and Updyke seconded to approve the Budget for FY21. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Johnson – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes.

Motion Carried

The board recognized approximately 10 visitors

Johnson moved and Graham seconded to approve the August 12, 2020 Regular meeting & Closed Session, August 28, 2020 Special Meeting, and September 8, 2020 Building & Grounds Committee Meeting. Motion Carried

Board President Thompson reported. He applauded Administration and all they continue to do to keep the school open and running. It is not going unnoticed. Thank you!

Superintendent Shinall reported on his board report. He read a letter that contained information given to the public via email and robocall regarding an incident that happened at the grade school and headlined incorrectly by the local paper. He publicly thanked Lonna Sumner, Julie Albritton, and Billy Robison for everything they continue to do to assist in keeping the school open! He also thanked all staff and especially custodians (Jim Treadway, Terri Reeves, Lee Ray, and Dave Wiltz) for their tireless efforts! He once again mentioned the possibility of receiving financial assistance from FEMA and IEMA. He mentioned that all students will be able to have a free meal (a la carte items not covered) as these

meals will be reimbursed through the Summer Food Service Program. Lastly, he provided a few details regarding the Facility Sales Tax.

Mr. Robison reported on his High School Report. He publicly thanked staff and students in ensuring that COVID-19 guidelines are being followed. He touched on the energy that exists: during theme week, 70% of students participated in the first two theme weeks! In addition to the other Athletic information in his report, he mentioned that the golf team (to date) has lost one match by one mere stroke! He praised Addie Simmons and the other cross country runners for how well they are doing. He described a way families would be able to live stream basketball and volleyball games. He described how Parent/Teacher Conference days will be ran. He briefed the Board on the NWEA Testing and thanked Mrs. Messineo for helping to ensure it was a smooth process. He mentioned our new hashtag and how it continues to be implemented

Mrs. Albritton reported on her Grade School Report She briefed the Board on enrollment numbers. She mentioned the number of remote learners. She mentioned that several teachers will receive new laptops and there are two grants covering the cost. She elaborated on the upcoming SIP day (next week), the parent/teacher conferences (in October), and the Institute Day (also in October). She updated the Board on Inside and Outside Maintenance; the outside maintenance is complete. She also elaborated on the extracurriculars and how well cross country, softball, and baseball are doing! Lastly, she mentioned that midterm reports are going out this Friday.

There was old business to discuss/approve.

Updyke moved and Johnson seconded to approve the Second Reading of the Policies below and to adopt as Board Policies:

- 2:220
- 2:220 Exhibit 9
- 4:180
- 7:190
- 7:340
- 7:345

Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Johnson – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

There was new business to discuss/approve.

Upon Superintendent Shinall's request, Meyer moved and Johnson seconded to table the intent to spend \$105,000 on Health/Life Safety Projects. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Johnson – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

Johnson moved and Meyer seconded to create an account for the Aaron Miller Scholarship. Superintendent Shinall explained that there is a golf outing coming up to raise funds for this purpose and an account needs to be established. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Johnson – yes, Graham – yes, Updyke – yes, Thompson – yes. Motion carried

The eligibility of homeschool students in extra-curricular/interscholastic activities was discussed. It was explained that this should not be confused with remote learners; remote learners are eligible. There was a question as to certain classes that require attendance; there are. There was a question regarding the point of contact if this becomes possible; most likely the Athletic Director. There will need to be

guidelines. Superintendent Shinall mentioned that we are not obligated, but certainly have to have confirmation on this. It was confirmed that tax money is not gained or lost with a decision for or against. Lastly, Mrs. Albritton read, per the ISBE site, that homeschools are considered private schools; this could help sway a decision.

Parent/Teacher conferences were detailed for the High School and Grade School; they will be similar in schedule.

The floor was given to the members from Keach Architectural. They explained what they do as Maintenance Plan Consultants. They confirmed that they would assist with whatever specific project requests we may have. They also shared that these types of plans are seen in the smaller districts as larger districts have the time and resources available.

Thompson welcomed comments from the community members.


Marilyn Eberle asked if a student, learning remotely (with below-expected achievement), would be able to switch to in-person learning come October? Superintendent Shinall explained that right now, it is policy and has been agreed to, and remote learners must remain so through the semester. The policy can be revisited- that option is up in the air.

At 7:54pm, Updyke 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: Johnson – yes, Graham - yes, Updyke - yes, Meyer - yes, Thompson - yes. Motion carried

At 8:27 p.m. the Board returned to Open Session. Johnson then moved and Graham seconded to adjourn the September 16, 2020 regular board meeting of the Brimfield CUSD #309 Board of Education. Motion carried



Board President



Board Secretary