

LEYTON BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 17-0003
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
May 11, 2020 – 7:30 PM

The Leyton Board of Education held their regular meeting virtually via Zoom on Monday, May 11, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. Publicized notice of the meeting was posted in the Leyton High School, Leyton JH/Elementary School, at various businesses in the community, and on the www.leytonwarriors.org website on or before May 5, 2020. Said posting gave date, time, and zoom connection information.

1 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Board President Jed Benish called the regular school board meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1.2 ROLL CALL

1.2.1 The following Board of Education members were present: Galen Bartling, Jed Benish, Ryan Borges, Colleen Cruise, Kevin Henke, and Anne Rexroth. Absent: None

1.2.2 The following Administrators were present: Superintendent Chris Geary, Elementary/JH Principal Dana Morgan and HS Principal Nick Brost. Absent: None.

1.3 COMMUNICATIONS

A thank you card was read from Dana Morgan.

2 HEARINGS AND PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None

3 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

None

4 REPORTS

4.1 STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS REPORT

None

4.2 BOARD REPORTS

4.2.1 Mr. Bartling presented the minutes of the Building & Grounds meeting on April 29, 2020. Items of discussion included the completion of asphalt filings for Dalton (south of the old bus barn) and Gurley (bus drop off); carpet installation in two rooms at Gurley later this summer; and concrete repair and drain work at Dalton before fall. In addition, grass will be planted around the concession stand in Dalton and a concrete pad with a fence is being installed around the incinerator in Gurley. Financially, the Depreciation Fund (balance \$329,551) may be used for repairs, while the Building Fund (balance \$239,018) may be used for improvements. Long range plan recommendations for Dalton include:

- 1) 2020 Marquee Sign (\$10,000), may receive matching funds from NHS;
- 2) move the Science room renovation to summer 2021;
- 3) carpet/treads seating in gym (building fund levy) move to 2022;
- 4) carpet in DL and Publication rooms – postpone to later; excellent condition;
- 5) double doors (east/north) not to be replaced at this time;
- 6) electrical in DL room (students need access for computers);
- 7) bathrooms in entryway to gym (need to be handicapped accessible) – get bids
- 8) locker rooms (committee is recommending that this item be removed from the long range plan because of lack of use).

Long range plan recommendations for Gurley include:

- 1) 2020 carpeted rooms (x2);
- 2) 2020 building entrance sign (\$5,000);
- 3) 2020 main bathroom floors epoxy (\$6,000)
- 4) add preschool renovations to 2021 (\$150,000).

Both Dalton and Gurley locations will be considered for the preschool. Mr. Geary added that new kitchen hoods were not on the list, but they are required and will be done this summer.

4.2.2 Mr. Borges presented the minutes of the Technology Committee meeting on May 5, 2020. The committee reviewed purchases for fifteen laptops and four Mimio boards that will need to be approved by the Board. They discussed the need for a new projector in the gym and that it would be relocated to the center of the room. The committee reviewed the use of technology devices and updated student options for those devices in the student handbook. The NETA Conference should be used for professional development with a set schedule in sending staff to fall and spring conferences. The committee is recommending the addition of a Leyton Public School Facebook page. This would be a public view page where comments would be disabled and any posts would need approval. The Facebook page will not post photos of students unless they have signed the proper release. Other issues discussed include COVID-19 Technology issues; a cycle to replace iPads every three to four years; and that teacher device updates are based on machine age and functionality.

4.3 STAFF MEMBERS REPORT

None

4.4 ELEMENTARY/JH PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mrs. Morgan attended meetings for administrators, Building & Grounds, Technology, transition IEP, and many student and teacher zooms. She presented YAG information to all K-12 teachers and worked with several teachers individually on those documents. YAG refers to "Year at a Glance" and is used to align our curriculum by career and then break it down into what is taught by subject and in each class. Mrs. Morgan and the K-3 teachers met with Jadie Beam on the K-3 Reading Improvement Act updates and requirements for the end-of-year documentation.

4.5 SECONDARY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Brost attended an administrator meeting, a Building & Grounds meeting, a Technology meeting, and hosted zoom staff meetings. He discussed graduation plans with Mr. Geary, Mrs. Peters, senior students and senior parents. He held individual graduation ceremonies that will be compiled into a virtual video ceremony to be released on May 16th at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Brost continued to work on 2020-2021 activity schedules and updating National Honor Society bylaws. He stated that the National Honor Society Faculty Council reinstated two members to NHS who had been dismissed.

4.6 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

4.6.1 SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mr. Geary recognized the fifteen seniors who graduated. He stated that we have committed to holding a traditional ceremony, on a date of their choosing, should restrictions be lifted. Mr. Geary acknowledged Neal Thompson on his retirement after 25 years of service. He also created a directive for retirement procedures and presented it to the Board. Mr. Geary stated that Mrs. Bartling's letter to her 5th grade class was published in the NRCSA letter to the Governor and Commissioner.

4.6.2 MEETINGS/TRAVEL

Mr. Geary attends the Commissioner of Education's weekly zoom meetings. He announced that the most recent update allows for baseball practice and weight room usage effective June 1st, following appropriate COVID guidelines. Launch Nebraska will create committees to help with the stages of reopening schools. The NDE is navigating waivers for specific rules and laws governing schools with much uncertainty surrounding the next academic school year. Mr. Geary also attended Panhandle Public Health District meetings, a Building & Grounds meeting, and a Technology meeting. He spoke on KSID Swap Shop to discuss Leyton's COVID response and plans for completing this year and beginning the next. Mr. Geary met with the Nebraska Advisory Committee for Cognia to discuss plans for continuous improvement as well as the need for additional team members. He recommends that a teacher from both the elementary and high school serve on accreditation teams next year. He also attended a NRCSA meeting to discuss

recommendations to the Governor and Commissioner, specifically as it relates to rural schools.

4.6.3 CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Mr. Geary reported that the newly planted grass is growing, the concrete has been patched, and we are just waiting on a few more items (installation of shot put toe board and fixed runways) to be completed.

4.6.4 ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Geary stated that action items will include the purchase approval of Mimio boards and laptops; board endorsement and support on a letter to the Governor; approval of an Interlocal Agreement for Day School/Treatment Facility with ESU #13; and the approval of a carpet bid for two rooms in Gurley. In addition, graduation requirements are being presented for consideration. These recommendations will create more flexibility in our class schedules; help all Leyton students achieve their maximum potential and align more closely to other area schools.

4.6.5 OTHER ITEMS

Mr. Geary reported that the NDE finance office has certified our state aid and budget authority. State aid is almost identical to this year at just over \$99,000. Our budget authority will increase to \$4,695,949 (2.5% increase), for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Geary announced that they will interview a Spanish teacher this week. If hired, the teacher would be shared with a neighboring school district. Mr. Geary presented the Virtual Instruction Plan, previously released on the school website, for Board members to review.

5 REGULAR AGENDA

5.1 EXCUSING A BOARD MEMBER

None

5.2 SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Motion by Cruise, seconded by Henke to recognize the Cheyenne County Family and Education (FCE) essay winners (Madison Frerichs-1st place; Riley Benish-2nd place; and Brody Turman-3rd place); to Community Shepherds for their generosity; to our teachers for all of their hard work during this very unprecedented time; to Cindy Reilly, Heidi Rushman, Mark Carley, and Bruce Ernest for going above and beyond at the ES/JH building; to our parents for all of their support they provided to students and teachers during our virtual learning platform; to Jill Bartling for ordering cabinets and countertops for a classroom; to Dave Nyffeler for picking up the cabinets with his trailer; to Glen Lipska, Jodi Craig, Christy Schumacher, Buffy Dye, Allie Peters, and Ginny Post for their work on the virtual graduation; to the NCPA Spring Activity Academic All State Selections (Aly Holt, Megan Ernest, Jeremy Carley, Jonathan Borges, Hannah Vath, and Courtney Holt); to multiple students who are receiving MAC Academic Awards; and to Neal Thompson a big Thank You for his years of hard work and dedication to Leyton and Congratulations on his retirement. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Henke, Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, Borges and Cruise. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.3 APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion by Rexroth, seconded by Borges to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on April 20, 2020. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, Borges, Cruise and Henke. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.4 APPROVAL OF REPORTS

Motion by Cruise, seconded by Borges to approve reports presented at this meeting. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Bartling, Benish, Borges, Cruise, Henke and Rexroth. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

- 5.5 APPROVAL OF CLAIMS, WARRANTS, AND TRANSFERS
- 5.5.1 Motion by Rexroth, seconded by Cruise to approve General Fund bills and Financial Reports as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Benish, Borges, Cruise, Henke, Rexroth and Bartling. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.
- 5.5.2 Motion by Borges, seconded by Bartling to approve bills and financial reports from the remaining funds as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Borges, Cruise, Henke, Rexroth, Bartling and Benish. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.
- 5.6 APPROVAL OF GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:
- Mrs. Allie Peters presented the proposed graduation requirements. She stated that by not requiring some of the previously required classes (ex. Speech and Info Technology) it will allow for more flexibility in the schedule. She added that not all students go to a four year college and those classes are not needed for them. Mr. Borges stated that he felt Speech and Info Technology need to be required. These are essential skills that everyone needs to have, not just for school, but for work as well. He also questioned why the graduation requirement credits dropped from 270 to 260. Mrs. Peters stated that she didn't reduce them, that it was listed in current policy as 260 credits.
- Motion by Benish seconded by Rexroth to approve the updated Graduation Requirements as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Cruise, Henke, Rexroth, Bartling and Benish. VOTING NO – Borges. MOTION CARRIED: 5-1.
- 5.7 APPROVAL OF TECHNOLOGY PURCHASES
- 5.7.1 Motion by Borges, seconded by Bartling to approve the bid from AV Associates of Nebraska to replace four (4) Mimio Boards in the amount of \$6,396.00. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Henke, Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, Borges and Cruise. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.
- 5.7.2 Motion by Henke, seconded by Borges to approve the bid from Dell Computers to purchase fifteen (15) laptops for the incoming freshmen class in the amount of \$12,117.60. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, Borges, Cruise and Henke. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.
- 5.8 APPROVAL OF CORRESPONDENCE TO GOVERNOR RICKETTS; RE: COVID-19
- Motion by Henke, seconded by Bartling to direct the Superintendent to send the letter, as presented, to the Governor appealing for considerations related to graduation, school fitness facilities, and the 2020-2021 school year. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Bartling, Benish, Borges, Cruise, Henke and Rexroth. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.
- 5.9 APPROVAL OF PANHANDLE BEGINNINGS DAY SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH ESU #13
- Motion by Cruise, seconded by Rexroth to approve the Panhandle Beginnings Day School Agreement with ESU #13, as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Benish, Borges, Cruise, Henke, Rexroth and Bartling. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.
- 5.10 APPROVAL OF GURLEY CARPET INSTALLATION
- Motion by Bartling, seconded by Borges to approve the bid from The Flooring Garage, in the amount of \$6,609.50, to replace carpet in two rooms at the elementary. Mr. Geary stated that this expense will be paid out of the Depreciation Fund. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Borges, Cruise, Henke, Rexroth, Bartling and Benish. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

6 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6.1 Next Regular Board Meeting: June 8, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

7 MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Cruise, seconded by Rexroth to adjourn the regular school board meeting at 8:27 p.m. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Cruise, Henke, Rexroth, Bartling, Benish and Borges. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.