

LEYTON BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 17-0003
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
July 13, 2020 – 7:00 AM

The Leyton Board of Education met on Monday, July 13, 2020 at 7:00 a.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 July 8, 2020. Said posting gave date, time, and location of the meeting.

1 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Board President Jed Benish called the regular school board meeting to order at 7:00 a.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

There were no communications.

2 HEARINGS AND PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

2.1 Christina Boggess addressed the Board members regarding correspondence she had previously sent to them. Ms. Boggess testified that she is a graduate of Leyton High School where she received an excellent education from teachers such as Sue Kandel, Craig Hicks, and Sean George. She stated that she is sad that we are denying such skills to the students of this community. Ms. Boggess noted that there have been conflict of interests within the school district and that the Board should operate in good faith for the betterment of the community. She said that there is a grave need for a new culture here: a culture where people can disagree about what is happening at a building or within the district and still feed their families. One should not be afraid to voice opposition because of the fear of retribution, which sacrifices one's financial stability or the academic success of a student. Speaking up about demanding ethics, honor and integrity should not be something someone fears. Demanding that we avoid even the appearance of impropriety should not be controversial. Refusing to sit down while our youth are groomed for abuse should not be looked down upon.

President Benish replied to Ms. Boggess that the Board had received her complaint and that it was an action item on the agenda to be investigated.

3 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

None

4 REPORTS

4.1 STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS REPORT

None

4.2 BOARD REPORTS

4.2.1 Mr. Henke presented the minutes of the Transportation Committee meeting held on July 7, 2020. The committee reviewed the December 2019 minutes including the results of the stakeholder surveys regarding transportation. It was reiterated that the patrons of the district have clearly indicated their desire to continue bus routes and the Board has confirmed their commitment to provide that service to our families. The committee reaffirmed the Board's decision to limit bus stops on activity trips to the following locations: High School in Dalton, Café in Gurley, Hwy 385/92 Junction north of Dalton, and Geiger's on Hwy 30 north of Sidney. The committee further discussed the district's vehicle inventory, financial needs for depreciation, COVID-19 and its impact on drivers and routes, and the 2020-2021 bus routes. Mr. Henke noted that the coach bus has returned from its summer maintenance check-up.

4.2.2 Mr. Bartling reported that he attended a School Finance Meeting in Kearney last month with Mr. Geary. At the meeting, they learned that there will be a drop in property

valuations. Although it is not official from the county yet, the state estimates a decrease of seven percent. The county has until August 20th to release those valuations.

- 4.2.3 Mr. Borges presented the minutes from the American Civics and Curriculum Committee meetings held on June 18, 2020.
 - 4.2.3.1 At the American Civics meeting, the Committee reviewed and discussed their duties including holding two public meetings per year; keeping minutes of said meetings; reviewing the social studies curriculum to make sure it aligns with the social studies standards; ensure that any curriculum recommended or approved is made readily accessible to the public; and ensure that the curriculum incorporates the administration of the civics portion of the naturalization test at the completion of eighth grade and twelfth grade. It was also reported that Mr. Lipska will offer two new classes for 2020-2021: "History of Sports" and "History in Cinema".
 - 4.2.3.2 The Curriculum Committee reviewed the NDE Curriculum Standards Revision Timeline which shows the state's plan for each area of the curriculum. The committee recommended the purchase of curriculum for 7 Mindsets in grades 6-8; MS Office textbooks at the high school; and a "Virtual Training Table" program to be used in health classes. The committee decided to wait on the English curriculum to allow the new HS teacher time to review. The Year-at-a-Glance documents that Mrs. Morgan has been working on will be accessible on the school website for all classes before school starts in the fall.
 - 4.2.3.3 Mr. Geary presented a demonstration of the YAG documents on the school website. Mr. Benish made a request to Mr. Bartling that the Building and Grounds Committee look at the football goalposts at their next meeting.

4.3 STAFF MEMBERS REPORT

None

4.4 ELEMENTARY/JH PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mrs. Morgan attended many meetings and webinars including Leveraging Assessment for Individualized Instruction, Class C/D (Elementary) Superintendent/Principal COVID-19 Collaboration, Future Ready Nebraska Conference, PRT #14 Leadership and Planning, and a Digital Learning Profile and Plan. In addition, she attended/observed incoming Kindergarten students at preschool group several times in the HS library. She continued to review/edit Year-at-a-Glance documents and completed the social studies curriculum. Mrs. Morgan reported that she served as a 2019-2020 National Panelist for NAESP (National Association for Elementary School Principals) for 1st/2nd year principals.

4.5 SECONDARY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Brost attended many meetings and webinars including Launch Nebraska Summer Learning and Beyond, E-sports information, and an ESU Superintendent/Principal AD meeting. He completed extra duty assignments and presented those to the Board. He reported that an in-person graduation was held on June 20th with 126 ticketed guests, 8 staff members, 4 student ushers, and 9 graduates. Mr. Brost said that student numbers will be low at the junior high this school year which will allow 6th grade participation in JH boys' activities. He added that the NSAA has continued to update schools on summer activities and the anticipated start of fall activities. Mr. Brost asked the Board to consider a change to the school calendar by switching Fall Break from October 16th to October 9th due to fall contests being on a non-school day.

4.6 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

4.6.1 CONTRACT DAYS

Mr. Geary completed 235 contract days for the 2019-2020 school year which exceeded his contract obligations by one full week. He will include a monthly report going forward. He also noted that both principals exceeded their days considerably.

4.6.2 MEETINGS/TRAVEL

Mr. Geary attended the Virtual Future Ready Conference and NRCSA Executive Committee meeting (virtually) along with weekly ESU/NDE Zoom meetings regarding COVID. He watched a FEMA briefing to learn if our District was eligible for federal relief

money for COVID and we are not eligible due to our expenses being “regular and planned”. Mr. Geary attended the NASB conference on school budgets and reported that the advice was to plan, save, and make sure to use all of the allotted budget authority. He also worked with the committee on handbook revisions which will be provided to the Board by the end of the week for review for the August meeting.

4.6.3 CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Mr. Geary reported that Hewgley and Associates have indicated that the hairline cracks in the jump runways are normal and should be addressed at a later date when the structural spray surface is installed. They are investigating the disintegration of the track surface. Mr. Geary informed the Board that the application with the Department of Roads for the marquee has been approved and thanked Chris Morgan for spearheading this project.

4.6.4 ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Geary reported on the action items on the agenda including a “Leyton Schools” Facebook account, a proposed school calendar change, loan payment, account transfers, audit agreement, disposal of equipment, and bids for the fume hoods in both kitchens,. He stated that Holly Benish has resigned as library para and thanked her for serving Leyton students with enthusiasm and excellence. Mr. Geary noted that there were many policy reviews and revisions and that each one would need to be discussed.

4.6.5 OTHER ITEMS

Mr. Geary reported that we have received notice from NDE that our accreditation has been approved for the 2020-2021 school year. He stated he has been unable to secure any additional bids for the gym bathrooms in Dalton and asked the Board how to proceed. Mr. Geary has selected a “Return to School” Committee to contribute suggestions and help develop our plan for returning to school next month. They will meet on July 15th at 7:30 a.m. in the multipurpose room. Everyone is invited and welcome to provide input. Mr. Geary discussed the Multicultural Education Report.

5 REGULAR AGENDA

5.1 EXCUSING A BOARD MEMBER

None

5.2 SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Motion by Henke, seconded by Cruise to recognize Kathy Surber, Mark Carley, Bruce Ernest, Jourdan Schumacher, Liz Twarling, Alison Haley and Jill Bartling for helping Mrs. Morgan with Mr. Coffey and Mrs. Lecher’s classrooms; to Lianne Higgins for donating office supplies to the elementary/junior high building; to Alyson Holt for placing 1st at the Panhandle Regional Science Fair in the Senior Division and receiving special recognition at the Nebraska Junior Academy of Sciences State Science Fair for Outstanding Research; and to Coach Lipska, Coach Gamble, Coach DeBlois and Coach Benish for their work with our student-athletes this summer at weights and open gym. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES –Bartling, Benish, Borges, Cruise, Henke and Rexroth. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.3 APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion by Borges, seconded by Rexroth to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on June 8, 2020. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Benish, Borges, Cruise, Henke, Rexroth and Bartling. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.4 APPROVAL OF REPORTS

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

5.5 APPROVAL OF CLAIMS, WARRANTS, AND TRANSFERS

5.5.1 Motion by Rexroth, seconded by Bartling to approve General Fund bills and Financial Reports as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Cruise, Henke, Rexroth, Bartling, Benish and Borges. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

- 5.5.2 Motion by Bartling, seconded by Cruise to approve bills and financial reports from the remaining funds as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Henke, Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, Borges and Cruise. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.
- 5.6 APPROVAL OF LEYTON SCHOOLS FACEBOOK PAGE
Motion by Borges, seconded by Rexroth to approve the creation of a Leyton Schools Facebook page. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, Borges, Cruise and Henke. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0. Discussion was held to review security options as the “no comments” option would be preferred.
- 5.7 APPROVAL OF RETAINING ATTORNEY SERVICES
Motion by Bartling, seconded by Rexroth to retain Tim Thompson and Kelley, Scritsmier and Byrne to investigate and report on the complaint filed against a school employee. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Bartling, Benish, Borges, Cruise, Henke and Rexroth. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.
- 5.8 APPROVAL OF MASTER CALENDAR AMENDMENT
Motion by Henke, seconded by Cruise to change the date of Fall Break from October 16 to October 9, and make October 16 the final day for the first quarter.
President Benish asked Mrs. Morgan for clarification on the proposed change and she stated that the curriculum for elementary students is set up on a Monday-Friday schedule. She said that changing the school calendar to the proposed dates would create back-to-back weeks with only 4 days of instruction since parent-teacher conferences are on October 12th. Mrs. Morgan added that by keeping the school calendar the same would allow for unit review during the three day school week.
ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – None. VOTING NO – Benish, Borges, Cruise, Henke, Rexroth and Bartling. MOTION FAILED: 0-6.
- 5.9 APPROVAL OF KITCHEN FUME HOOD REPLACEMENT
5.9.1 Motion by Henke, seconded by Bartling to approve the bid from Gering Valley Plumbing and Heating to replace the Fume Hoods in both buildings in the amount of \$17,597.00 for the High school and \$15,200.00 for the Elementary/Junior High with funds from the Depreciation Fund. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Borges, Cruise, Henke, Rexroth, Bartling and Benish. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.
5.9.2 Motion by Cruise, seconded by Rexroth to approve the bids from Nebraska Safety and Fire Equipment to replace the fire suppression systems in the new fume hoods at both sites in the amount of \$3,347.00 for the High School and \$2,669.00 for the Elementary/Junior High with funds from the Depreciation Fund. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Cruise, Henke, Rexroth, Bartling, Benish and Borges. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.
- 5.10 APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS
5.10.1 Motion by Bartling, seconded by Rexroth to approve the transfer of \$10,000.00 from the General Fund to the Lunch Fund. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Henke, Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, Borges and Cruise. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.
5.10.2 Motion by Henke, seconded by Cruise to approve the transfer of \$275,000.00 from the Depreciation Fund to the General Fund. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, Borges, Cruise and Henke. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.
- 5.11 APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF POINTS WEST BANK DEPRECIATION LOAN
Motion by Rexroth, seconded by Cruise to approve the payment of the Points West Bank Depreciation Loan with proceeds from the General Fund. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Bartling, Benish, Borges, Cruise, Henke and Rexroth. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.
- 5.12 APPROVAL OF COVID-19 REOPENING RESOLUTION
Discussion was held on the proposed resolution with Mr. Bartling stating his recommendations on the options presented. Mr. Borges had a concern on the resolution wording and wanted to seek advice from the school attorney.
Motion by Cruise, seconded by Bartling to recess the meeting at 8:18 a.m. to call the school attorney. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Benish, Borges, Cruise, Henke, Rexroth, and Bartling. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

Motion by Borges, seconded by Rexroth to return to general session at 8:24 a.m. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Borges, Cruise, Henke, Rexroth, Bartling and Benish. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

President Benish read the recommendation of the options presented and the attorney's recommended additional wording of the resolution.

Motion by Henke, seconded by Bartling to approve the School Reopening Resolution as presented and amended. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Cruise, Henke, Rexroth, Bartling, Benish and Borges. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.13 APPROVAL OF STAFF RESIGNATION

Motion by Rexroth, seconded by Henke to approve the resignation of Holly Benish as a library paraprofessional. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Henke, Rexroth, Bartling, Borges and Cruise. VOTING NO – None. ABSTAIN – Benish. MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

5.14 APPROVAL OF RAUNER AND ASSOCIATES AUDIT AGREEMENT

Motion by Bartling, seconded by Rexroth to approve the agreement from Rauner and Associates to provide the district audit for the 2019-2020 school year. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, Borges, Cruise and Henke. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.15 APPROVAL OF DISPOSAL OF EXCESS EQUIPMENT

Motion by Borges, seconded by Cruise to approve the disposal of electronics equipment via recycling as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Bartling, Benish, Borges, Cruise, Henke, and Rexroth. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.16 APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REQUIRED HEARINGS AND POLICY

Motion by Rexroth, seconded by Cruise to approve the following Annual Hearings and Policy Reviews as presented: #2007 Reimbursements and Miscellaneous Expenditures, #2008 Meetings, #3047 Data Breach Response, #5001 Compulsory Attendance and Excessive Absenteeism, #5018 Parent Involvement Policy, #5045 Student Fees, #5052 School Wellness, and #5057 District Title 1 Parent and Family Engagement Policy. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Benish, Borges, Cruise, Henke, Rexroth and Bartling. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.17 APPROVAL OF POLICY UPDATES

5.17.1 Motion by Bartling, seconded by Rexroth to approve the following Annual Policy Revisions as presented and amended: #2002 Organization of the Board, #3005 School Activities, #3034 Disbursements (to be Deleted), #3039 Threat Assessment, #3046 Animals at School, #3055 School Resource Officers (not adopting-don't have any), #4003 Drug Testing of Drivers, #5016 Student Records, #5035 Student Discipline, #5054 Student Bullying, #6020 Multicultural Education, #6021 District Criteria for Selecting Evaluators to be Used for Special Education Evaluation, #6033 Restraint and Seclusion, and the Collaborative Plan Addressing Barriers to Attendance Form. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Borges, Cruise, Henke, Rexroth, Bartling and Benish. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.17.2 No motion was made to adopt Policy #3056 – Guest Speakers and to accept the Guest Speaker Request Form. MOTION FAILED.

5.17.3 No motion was made to adopt Policy #4062 – Locker Room Supervision. MOTION FAILED.

6 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6.1 Next Regular Board Meeting: August 10, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

7 MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Rexroth, seconded by Borges to adjourn the regular school board meeting at 9:48 a.m. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Cruise, Henke, Rexroth, Bartling, Benish and Borges. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.