

LEYTON BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 17-0003
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
NOVEMBER 9, 2020 –6:30 PM

The Leyton Board of Education met on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 6:30 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 November 4, 2020. Said posting gave the 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 6:30 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, HS Principal Nick Brost, and Elementary/JH Principal Dana Morgan. Absent: None.

1.3 COMMUNICATIONS/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1.3.1 President Benish read a thank you from Cassandra Hopwood for the school's donation of the metal backboards and nets for her Girl Scout project at the park.

1.3.2 Everyone in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2 HEARINGS AND PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None

3 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

3.1 Amy Neumann addressed the board thanking them for the opportunity to complete her internship as a student teacher at Leyton Public Schools. She said she looks forward to being a Substitute teacher next semester and hopefully an employee at Leyton someday. Mr. Benish posed a question to Mrs. Neumann asking what happened to other student teachers that weren't able to complete a teaching assignment due to COVID? She stated that they were put on pause.

4 REPORTS

4.1 STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS REPORT

None.

4.2 BOARD REPORTS

4.2.1 Mrs. Rexroth reported that the negotiations committee meetings are going well and they have another meeting scheduled in a couple weeks.

4.2.2 Mr. Henke reported on the Security/Crisis meeting and reviewed key points from the minutes.

4.3 STAFF MEMBERS REPORT

None

4.4 ELEMENTARY/JH PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mrs. Morgan attended numerous meetings including the HAL and SEL NDE meetings. She completed three formal teacher observations/evaluations. Mrs. Morgan also held a shelter in place drill and two fire drills. She reported that Parent-Teacher conferences attendance was the highest it has ever been during her tenure, with the K-6 attendance at 100% and the JH attendance at 70% and a combined total of 92%. Mrs. Morgan provided seven tours to possible option students and reported that six of those students have enrolled. Mrs. Morgan also reported that she has investigated thirty-seven behavior incidents since 10-12-2020.

4.5 SECONDARY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Brost attended several meetings including the MAC AD meeting, one MDT Meeting and several admin team meetings. He reported that we will be hosting the MAC One Act competition on November 17th. Some changes have been made and teams will show up, perform and then return home. Mr. Brost reported that the 2019-2020 honors night is scheduled for Thursday the

12th and asked the Board's opinion on having it with the recent COVID-19 guidelines. He will ask parent's opinions and make a decision from that.

4.6 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

4.6.1 CONTRACT DAYS

Mr. Geary completed 20 days of his 2020-2021 contract in September, plus an additional 3 hours.

4.6.2 MEETINGS/TRAVEL

Mr. Geary attended the ESU Superintendent Advisory Council, met with both principals to review and complete the Rule 10 Assurances Statement. Mr. Geary also led the staff professional development day on October 16th. This was a planned day off but most of the staff requested to have it this day and have the day before Thanksgiving off. Mr. Geary let staff choose which day they wanted to attend the training. He will conduct the training for the remainder of the staff on November 25th.

4.6.3 ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Geary reviewed the action items including changes to policies #4043; #5001; and #5012. He stated that some of the changes to Policy #5001 were changes he requested and some were at the request of the County Attorney. The requested change to Policy #5012 is so that the information for our annual report is not available until November 1st and changing the month in the Policy to December will allow sufficient time to report current and relevant information to the Board. He also reported that there is a great need for a paraprofessional at the high school. He also thinks there is a need to review our reopening Resolution and Return to School Plan. He also reported that Mr. Haley has resigned as the Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach.

4.6.5 OTHER ITEMS

Mr. Geary noted that his evaluation will be an agenda item for the December meeting and that survey/evaluation forms for Board members were in the packet. He stated that after COVID began in March he cancelled our Linen Service with Ideal and provided an update to the board on the matter. Mr. Geary has been updating job descriptions, conducting evaluations for classified staff and training staff who supervise others to conduct their evaluations. Mr. Geary reported that our audit is complete and submitted to NDE. Julie asked if the Board would like her report in person or if she could present via ZOOM. The Board approved a report via ZOOM. Mr. Geary also reported on the Fall Maps Testing and provided the Board with a five year history of ACT scores. He pointed out that the average ACT scores for Leyton graduates are below the state average in almost every category for the past five years. He encouraged everyone that we need to do better; aligning curriculum, prioritizing attendance, instituting ACT prep, and improving instruction.

5 REGULAR AGENDA

5.1 EXCUSING A BOARD MEMBER

None

5.2 SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Motion by Henke, seconded by Bartling to recognize Janet Waite for donating hats and gloves to the elementary/junior high; to the October Good Citizens (Kindergarten-Honor Syverson, 1st-Brennan Rieken, 2nd-Madilyn Mitchell, 3rd-Nora Jenson, 4th-Jonathon Reimers, 5th-Elizabeth Higgins, 6th-Brody Turman, 7th-Carlyn Thomas, and 8th-Jaiden Schilreff); to the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students for being eligible the entire first quarter; to Tiffany Sage for making and donating Warrior t-shirts to kindergarten and new students at the elementary; to Ms. Primm for organizing Red Ribbon Week; to the L Club members for working at the Junior High football and volleyball games; to the high school Volleyball team for 3rd place finish at MAC; to the HS Football team for making the state playoffs; to all fall sports teams on successful completions of their seasons; to Bill Murray

for allowing the use of his digger and Chris Morgan for his organization and help with the new Marquee; and to Vonnie Brown for all her help in Janella's absence. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Cruise, Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, Henke and Borges. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.3 APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion by Rexroth, seconded by Cruise to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on October 12, 2020. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Borges, Henke, Benish, Bartling, Rexroth and Cruise. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.4 APPROVAL OF REPORTS

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

5.5 APPROVAL OF CLAIMS, WARRANTS, AND TRANSFERS

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

5.5.2 Motion by Rexroth, seconded by Cruise to approve bills and financial reports from the remaining funds as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES - Cruise, Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, Henke and Borges. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.6 APPROVAL OF POLICY UPDATES

5.6.1 Motion by Henke, seconded by Rexroth to approve Policy #4043 as amended. Discussion was held and Mr. Brost expressed his opinions as to what should be in the policy. The board agreed and also added the language "other apps as approved". ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES - Borges, Henke, Benish, Bartling, Rexroth and Cruise. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.6.2 Motion by Bartling, seconded by Rexroth to approve Policies #5001 and #5001B as amended. Lengthy discussion was held regarding the wording of Policy #5001. Borges expressed his opinion that the COVID attendance portion was a great addition but the remaining changes were not needed. Mr. Geary reminded the board that the proposed changes regarding attendance incentives, one on one contact to parents from the school, and student accountability were recommendations from a meeting he had with the County Attorneys, and clarified that the Nebraska Department of Education does not consider "excused" and "unexcused" absences. The board went through all of the recommended changes and revised some of them. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES -Cruise, Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, and Henke. VOTING NO – Borges. MOTION CARRIED: 5-1.

5.6.3 Motion by Bartling, Seconded by Rexroth to approve Policy #5012 as amended. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Borges, Henke, Benish, Bartling, Rexroth and Cruise. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.7 APPROVAL OF HIRING A 1.0 FTE PARAPROFESSIONAL AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

Motion by Rexroth, seconded by Cruise to approve the hiring of a 1.0 FTE Paraprofessional at the High School. Borges asked if this Paraprofessional was going to be a SPED Para as requested by Mrs. Rios at the last meeting. Mr. Geary stated that this Para will be primarily a SPED para but will help in other areas as well. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Cruise, Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, Henke and Borges. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.8 REVIEW OF REOPENING RESOLUTION

Discussion was held on the Resolution and re-opening plan. Some changes were suggested to the plan. Borges suggested using the same standards in "Orange" and "Red" risk levels in light of the current direction from Panhandle Public Health. The Board and Admin team were all in support of that recommendation. The Admin team will make the necessary changes.

5.9 CONSIDERATION OF COACHING RESIGNATION

Motion by Benish, seconded by Rexroth to accept the resignation of Mr. Matt Haley as Boys' Varsity Assistant Basketball Coach with regret and thanks for all he does for all of our students. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Borges, Henke, Benish, Bartling, Rexroth and Cruise. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.10 APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT

Motion by Benish, seconded by Rexroth to table the approval of the annual report until the December meeting.

5.11 APPROVAL OF REIMBURSEMENT

Mr. Borges stated that he didn't believe this was needed as we approved the payment of a bill for the same amount earlier in the meeting. Mr. Benish stated that he had contacted the school attorney and he said this was needed to be consistent. Motion by Cruise, seconded by Bartling to indemnify Chris Geary for attorney fees in the amount of \$1,756.00 pursuant to Section 79-516 and Mr. Geary's employment contract as Mr. Geary was made a party to a threatened, pending, or completed administrative or investigative proceeding, he incurred the fees in connection with the proceeding, and he acted in good faith and in a manner which he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the district. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Cruise, Rexroth, Bartling, and Benish Henke. VOTING NO – Borges. MOTION CARRIED: 5-1.

6 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6.1 Next Regular Board Meeting: December 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Please note the winter time for this meeting and subsequent meetings through March 2021.

7 MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Rexroth, seconded by Cruise to adjourn the regular school board meeting at 9:13 p.m. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Borges, Henke, Benish, Bartling, Rexroth and Cruise. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

Ryan Borges, Board Secretary

Janella Kruse, Recording Secretary