

LEYTON BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 17-0003  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
December 14, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

The Leyton Board of Education met on Monday, December 14, 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](http://www.leytonwarriors.org) website on or before December 9, 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 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 Administrator was present: Superintendent Chris Geary. HS Principal Nick Brost and Elementary/JH Principal Dana Morgan attended the elementary concert and arrived late. Absent: None.

1.3 COMMUNICATIONS/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Communication was received from Mrs. Jill Bartling. Everyone in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2 HEARINGS AND PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

After the presentation by Julie Peetz, President Benish recognized Patron Dennis Peters to address the Board. Mr. Peters said that he had reviewed the District payables the past few months and asked the Board why the attorney bills have been so high. Mrs. Rexroth responded that a person in the audience has created turmoil for our district which has caused excess attorney bills. Mr. Peters said that he saw in the Board packet that \$125,000 was estimated for this year's attorney fees and wanted to know if that was part of the budget. Mr. Bartling responded that yes it was part of the budget and that he was the one who had suggested the amount due to unknown costs from this ongoing conflict.

3 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

Julie Peetz, representing Rauner & Associates, presented the 2019-2020 audit, via Zoom, to the Board and reported that ours is a clean audit. She noted that deficits and segregation of duties were explained in the Management Points letter provided by Mr. Geary. Ms. Peetz reviewed the District's financial statements. There were no further questions.

4 REPORTS

4.1 STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS REPORT

STUCO President Zac Henke addressed the Board on student activities. He reported that STUCO held four official meetings since his last report. He provided the balances of their savings and CD accounts and stated that they are researching the original intended purpose of the CD account so they can use it to benefit the student body. STUCO has been promoting the JH STUCO's "12 Days Before Christmas Break" activities. They are finalizing the design of their STUCO Hoodies which was created by Hannah Vath and will be printed by Tiffany Sage. Zac reported that STUCO is conducting student surveys for Warrior beanie designs; that they have a shoe drive in progress with collection totes at the Gurley and Dalton Post Offices and school buildings; and that they are in the process of planning a community corn hole tournament scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup>.

4.2 BOARD REPORTS

4.2.1 Mrs. Rexroth reported that the Negotiations Committee had reached a two year agreement with the LEA. She highlighted that the base salary will go up by \$200.00 to \$35,750.00 for the 2021-2022 school year and another \$250.00 to \$36,000.00 for the 2022-2023 school year. She added that other changes to the Negotiated Agreement included an increase in tuition credit reimbursements from \$350.00 to \$700.00 for each three credit hour class, an increase in teacher sub pay during their planning hour (\$40.00) and pay for game related duties such as ticket-takers,

scorekeeper, line judges, etc. (\$20.00 per day/\$40.00 for all day tournaments). Mrs. Rexroth noted that mileage terms had been clarified to include payment to teachers if they exceed one round trip from their home in fulfillment of their teaching duties.

4.2.2 Mr. Bartling provided the minutes of the Building and Grounds Committee Meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The committee discussed the installation of the marquee, which is now complete, and the concrete and drain repairs. The committee reviewed the long range facilities plan. Current needs include signage at both sites and interior locking for elementary/JH doors. Priorities identified for the summer of 2021 include renovation of the gym bathrooms in Dalton, renovations of the high school science room and carpet installation in the kindergarten and one junior high classrooms. Mr. Bartling suggested an improvement for safety and traffic control in Gurley by renovating the entrance and moving the main office. Further long range considerations from the committee include the addition of an Ag Lab and Greenhouse at the high school; and concessions and bathroom facilities at the track.

4.2.3 Mr. Henke reported that the Transportation Committee met on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The committee discussed transmission repairs on a bus and using vans instead of buses because of the small number of kids on the rural routes. Mrs. Morgan requested that bus routes be revised to have students arrive ten minutes later in the morning. This will be discussed with the drivers and adjustments will be made after Christmas. Mr. Henke reported that Student Driving Forms will need to be completed for students driving themselves to basketball practice. Mr. Peters asked if the Board had considered paying mileage to parents rather than doing bus routes. The response from the Board was that surveys to bus route parents were done last year and they wanted the bus routes to continue. The Board further stated that if bus routes were discontinued, we would lose several students to other districts.

#### 4.3 STAFF MEMBERS REPORT

None

#### 4.4 ELEMENTARY/JH PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mrs. Morgan attended numerous meetings including the Elementary Principals' MTSS/PBIS Leader meeting, a KSB Law Seminar on personnel, and a SPED Director meeting. She completed K-6 Acadience (DIBELS) testing; MTSS for Kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>; and lockdown, fire, and classroom safety drills. Mrs. Morgan filed the backpack meal report with the food bank for 132 meals September through November. She met with the JH STUCO to plan the 12 days till Christmas break activities and had lunch with the November good citizens.

#### 4.5 SECONDARY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Brost attended several meetings including NSAA District VI meeting, KSB Personnel Webinar, MAC AD meeting, and NDE DAC Virtual Conference. He reported that the High School students attended the NCA Sportsmanship Summit on November 10<sup>th</sup>; hosted the MAC One Acts competition on November 17<sup>th</sup>; and inducted six new NHS members on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### 4.6 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Geary discussed the most current COVID directives from the Governor, NSAA, and PPHD and the frustration with the lack of consistency between those offices.

##### 4.6.1 CONTRACT DAYS

Mr. Geary completed 17.5 days in November plus an additional 12 hours. He did not count the two days (11/23 & 11/24) that all other staff had off for COVID.

##### 4.6.2 MEETINGS/TRAVEL

Mr. Geary attended the transportation, building/grounds, and negotiations committee meetings to support their planning. He served on the Cognia Accreditation Team for Lincoln Christian School and met with Scott Stemper, NDE School Safety, to discuss the Emergency Operation Plan and upcoming NDE training. Mrs. Morgan and Mr. Geary attended a meeting with the SPED Director to discuss current needs and future planning and development of a SPED Handbook to address policy requirements of NDE. He attended the National Honor Society Induction program where six deserving students were inducted. Thank you, Mrs. Hansen, for a great program and Chris Lind for making the cakes.

#### 4.6.3 ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Geary reviewed the action items including the audit, a teacher resignation, staff Christmas gifts, the Annual Report, a KSB Board workshop and the Negotiated Agreement. He stated that he had discussed his evaluation with Mr. Benish and made plans for his continued professional growth. Mr. Geary has reviewed policy #1002 which requires all policy to be reviewed every three years and provided a suggested policy review schedule.

#### 4.6.5 OTHER ITEMS

Mr. Geary noted that he continues to research “excused” vs. “unexcused” absences and will update the Board as he gathers more information. He added that the Building and Grounds committee recommendations will become an action item for the January meeting.

### 5 REGULAR AGENDA

#### 5.1 EXCUSING A BOARD MEMBER

None

#### 5.2 SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Motion by Rexroth, seconded by Bartling to recognize all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, their teachers, and Mrs. Morgan for being eligible through sixteen weeks of school; to Matt Haley and the shop students for their accomplishments in the classroom and taking pride in their work; to Colleen, Kevin and Jed for their years of service to the Board; to the November Good Citizens (Kindergarten-Hemi Woods, 1<sup>st</sup>-Regan Moore, 2<sup>nd</sup>-Breckyr Cranmore, 3<sup>rd</sup>-Skylar Draper, 4<sup>th</sup>-Hadlee Guggenmos, 5<sup>th</sup>-Ann Marie Gallegos, 6<sup>th</sup>-Austin Beutler, 7<sup>th</sup>-Macey Roelle, and 8<sup>th</sup>-Zaili Benish); to Megan Rathman for helping with Acadience testing and data entry; to Jadie Beam, Kristin Kasten, and Michelle Keszler for Acadience testing 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students; to all staff members who donated to help a community family in need; to L-Club members for working at Junior High basketball games; to Mrs. Jones and the Leyton One Acts Team (MAC 2<sup>nd</sup> place; Districts 3<sup>rd</sup> place; MAC Outstanding Performance Awards-Ethan Eckhardt & KJ Bush; District Superior Acting Awards-Ethan Eckhardt, Cort Rummel, Katy Jones, Dawson Wiggins, Hannah Vath, & KJ Bush); to FFA District LDE Conference participants (Parliamentary Procedure-8<sup>th</sup> place; Creed Speaking: Jaxson Benish-3<sup>rd</sup> place, Trenton Rushman-9<sup>th</sup> place); to the Junior High wrestling team on the successful completion of their season; to Hannah Vath and Holden Syverson for being selected to the High Plains Music Festival in Chadron on February 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>; to Hannah Vath, Ethan Eckhardt, Cortney Holt, and Katy Jones for being selected for the Oregon Trail Honor Band on January 11<sup>th</sup>; to Hannah Vath and Katy Jones for being selected as Academic All-State for Play Production; and to Zac Henke, Dominick Russ, and Brayden Haley for receiving All-District/MAC football awards and to Scout Gamble and Mason Reimers for receiving Honorable Mention football awards. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Cruise, Henke, Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, and Borges. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

#### 5.3 APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion by Benish, seconded by Rexroth to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on November 9, 2020. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Henke, Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, Borges, and Cruise. 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. Mr. Borges noted that the Superintendent’s report should reflect that one of the newly elected Board members has 12 years of experience, rather than the two or less that was stated. Mr. Benish read an email from Jack Moles, Executive Director of NRCSA, recognizing Mr. Geary for serving on the Strategies For Helping Parents Committee and thanked him for his insight and input. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, Borges, Cruise, and Henke. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

#### 5.5 APPROVAL OF CLAIMS, WARRANTS, AND TRANSFERS

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

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

5.6 2019-2020 AUDIT

Motion by Henke, seconded by Cruise to receive the audit as presented by Rauner and Associates. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Borges, Cruise, Henke, Rexroth, Bartling, and Benish. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.7 SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

Motion by Rexroth, seconded by Cruise to receive the Superintendent Evaluation. Patron Russ Rushman asked if the evaluation is available to the public and the Board responded no. Mr. Benish encouraged the newly elected board members to go in and visit with Mr. Geary when they have questions or concerns. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Cruise, Henke, Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, and Borges. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.8 ANNUAL REPORT

Motion by Henke, seconded by Bartling to receive the Annual Report as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Henke, Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, Borges, and Cruise. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.9 TEACHER RESIGNATION

Motion by Bartling, seconded by Rexroth to accept the resignation of Mrs. Christy Lecher as elementary teacher, effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year, and thank her for her service. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, Borges, Cruise, and Henke. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.10 STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT

Motion by Rexroth, seconded by Borges to approve Gift Certificates to local businesses as the staff Christmas gift for 2020 and to include the community coaches as part of staff. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Bartling, Benish, Borges, Cruise, Henke, and Rexroth. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.11 POLICY REVISION SCHEDULE

Motion by Rexroth, seconded by Bartling to adopt the Policy Revision Schedule as presented. Mr. Borges verified that they could still review and revise policies when they needed to and the response was yes. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Benish, Borges, Cruise, Henke, Rexroth, and Bartling. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.12 KSB SCHOOL LAW BOARD WORKSHOP

Motion by Borges, seconded by Rexroth to table the approval of a KSB School Law training in January 2021. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Borges, Cruise, Henke, Rexroth, Bartling, and Benish. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

5.13 Motion by Rexroth, seconded by Cruise to approve the 2021-2023 Negotiated Agreement as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Cruise, Henke, Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, and Borges. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

6 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6.1 Next Regular Board Meeting: January 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

7 MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Benish, seconded by Cruise to adjourn the regular school board meeting at 7:50 p.m. Mr. Benish stated that this was his 144<sup>th</sup> meeting and he appreciates what they've accomplished and the programs that our school offers for a small district. ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING YES – Henke, Rexroth, Bartling, Benish, Borges, and Cruise. VOTING NO – None. MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.