

Proceedings of the
Leyton Public Schools
Cheyenne County School District #03
Board of Education Meeting
March 8, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
High School Multi-Purpose Room in Dalton, NE

CALL TO ORDER:

President Suzy Ernest called the regular school board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The public was informed of the Open Meetings Act posted on the wall of the multi-purpose room. Publicized notice of the meeting was posted in the Sidney Sun-Telegraph, Leyton High School, Leyton Elementary/JH, at various businesses in the community, and on the www.leytonwarriors.org website on or before Wednesday, March 3, 2021. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Ryan Borges, Lisa Carter, Suzy Ernest, Rol Rushman, Sam Schumacher, and Dave Wiedeman. Members absent: None. Also present were Interim Superintendent Chuck Bunner, Elementary/JH Principal Dana Morgan, HS Principal Nick Brost and Recording Secretary Janella Kruse. In addition, there were approximately forty-five visitors.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Moved by Borges, seconded by Rushman to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Yes: Carter, Ernest, Rushman, Schumacher, Wiedeman, and Borges. No: None. Motion carried 6-0.

Moved by Wiedeman, seconded by Schumacher to approve the minutes of the Board's regular meeting on February 8, 2021 and the Board Training on February 10, 2021. Roll call vote: Yes: Ernest, Rushman, Schumacher, Wiedeman, Borges, and Carter. No: None. Motion carried 6-0.

Moved by Borges, seconded by Carter to approve General Fund bills and financial reports as presented. Roll call vote: Yes: Rushman, Schumacher, Wiedeman, Borges, Carter, and Ernest. No: None. Motion carried 6-0.

Moved by Rushman, seconded by Borges to approve bills and financial reports from the remaining funds as presented. Roll call vote: Yes: Schumacher, Wiedeman, Borges, Carter, Ernest, and Rushman. No: None. Motion carried 6-0.

STUCO Vice-President Brenton Abbott presented his report to the Board. STUCO hosted the Corn Hole Tournament on February 20th with ten adult teams and three junior teams. He reported that the new water bottle filler station had been ordered and installed. STUCO is considering purchases for concession stand improvements and bucket hats for track.

Tara Houlden thanked Mr. Bunner and the School Board for holding a public comment period during this meeting; for allowing her to come and speak; and to the people in the Leyton School District for listening. She stated "that when you are in the role of public service, you are a trusted agent of all people for whom you work or whom you represent. You are obligated to act in a transparent manner fully, for any action you take can live in the light of public scrutiny. If you are a teacher or support staff, you must act equitably to provide a quality educational experience for all students in your charge. If you are an administrator, it is your charge to enable those teachers to act in that manner by providing them with the tools, resources, and support, but also to hold them accountable when they fall short. As a Board, it is your goal to support the administrators in that effort - despite personal relationships, personal histories - as you were all elected to represent all students and all families in the District." Ms. Houlden has followed the board minutes from the last year and was surprised and disappointed that details of the speakers during the public comment section were originally left out of the February minutes. She was thankful that they were later corrected. She stated that the decisions the Board makes affects real families and that she has been worried about those she cares about in the District.

Ashley Boman thanked the Board for allowing her to apply for the Board and interview. She was happy with the choices they made. However, she felt it was her obligation to let people know that she was

contacted by a board member prior to last month's meeting. Based on that conversation, she felt that she was being persuaded not to run, although it was stated several times that was not the case. She felt that this was morally wrong. Ms. Boman stated that the last two years has been nothing but negative in the press. Leyton used to be "top notch" and was the reason her family chose to move here. She is saddened that as a community we are not just failing ourselves, but also our teachers and students. The negative that is brought into our community is causing turmoil against us. She asked that we stop pointing fingers at one another and start helping each other.

Jennifer Eckhardt asked the Board when we can allow teachers and administrators to get back to actually educating our kids instead of responding to subpoenas and grievances.

Jim Ernest stated that the last two board election cycles, the voters have voted for change. He asked for people to stop pointing fingers at each other, to work together, to forgive each other, to pray for one another, and to pray for our school district.

Jed Benish expressed a personal concern on one of the complaints and how it affected his family. He also commented on the science room remodel bid from 2020.

Jesse Henderson had comments for the policy review section.

REPORTS:

In the Principal reports, both Mrs. Morgan and Mr. Brost gave several examples of our amazing staff going above and beyond for our school. These are noted in the Special Recognition section.

Mr. Bunner reported on Rule 10, HAL activities, a staff vacancy, COVID relief package, VAULTS, State Aid, Routine Directory Policy, a NASB workshop on April 7th, and bills before the state legislator. He discussed that the building and grounds committee has been working with the maintenance staff on a project to replace the current door knobs/handles in both buildings. He also recognized Krystal Borges for obtaining a \$3,000 grant for use in the food services department.

ACTION ITEMS:

Moved by Borges, seconded by Schumacher to grant Special Recognition to the February Good Citizens (K-Judah Kepler, 1st-Susen Serrato, 2nd-Brooks Frerichs, 3rd-Nora Jenson, 4th-Connor Rieken, 5th-Aubri Borges, 6th-Dominic Gallegos, 7th-Macey Roelle, 8th-Zaili Benish); to the JH MAC Champion girls' basketball winners and Coach Gamble and Coach Benish; to the JH MAC Runner-Up boys' basketball winners and Coach Newkirk; to Aubri Borges, Ann-Marie Gallegos, Josiah Kepler, Carter Lipska, Jayla Serrato and Colt Van Anne for creating a "Welcome to Leyton" committee after reading a book in their small group (they have already welcomed a new 2nd grade student and were featured in the spotlight of the NSAA Newsletter); to Mrs. Murray and the 3rd grade for an outstanding play performance; to Mrs. Jones for organizing/running the book fair during parent-teacher conferences; to Mrs. Bartling for continuing the Mardi Gras parade tradition; to Ms. Primm for taking HS attendance incentive students (Ella Draper, Ethan Eckhardt, Scout Gamble, Cortney Holt, Dominic Russ, Holden Syverson, and Hannah Vath) to Gurley to sponsor our 3rd graders; to Trenton Rushman for being a State Wrestling Qualifier; to the speech team of Hannah Vath, Cortney Holt, Katy Jones, Logan Bartling, and Holden Syverson on their excellent placings at MAC and Districts with every member going to state in at least one event; to the speech coaches, Ms. Allie Primm and Mrs. Megan Rathman; to the cheer team of Cortney Holt, Katy Jones, and Hannah Vath for their loyal support cheering on the teams at nearly all events since August and giving two wonderful dance performances; to Jerred Berner for allowing us the use of his facility to wash our activity buses; to Chris Morgan for doing some touch-up painting in the locker rooms; to Mr. Oakes, the LHS band, Hannah Vath, and Holden Syverson for the beautiful national anthem performances during basketball season; to congratulate the Basic Nursing Assistant students, Ella Draper, Kylie Scott, and Katy Jones, for passing the skills portion of the BNA exams; to Mr. Matt Haley for volunteering to be the eSports coach this year; and to Jed Benish, Rob Higgins, and Krystal Borges for coaching youth basketball teams. Roll call vote: Yes: Wiedeman, Borges, Carter, Ernest, Rushman, and Schumacher. No: None. Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion was held on the science room bid including suggestions on how to finance and promote the project. Moved by Borges, seconded by Schumacher to approve the science room remodel project for the bid provided last month of \$364, 077.57. Roll call vote: Yes: Borges, Carter, Ernest, Schumacher, and Wiedeman. No: Rushman. Motion carried 5-1. The Board noted that they will need to contract somebody for the asbestos removal.

Moved by Wiedeman, seconded by Carter to approve a Teacher Wellness Day for March 11, 2021. Roll call vote: Yes: Carter, Ernest, Rushman, Schumacher, Wiedeman, and Borges. No: None. Motion carried 6-0.

Moved by Rushman, seconded by Wiedeman to approve the 2021-2022 school year calendar as presented. Roll call vote: Yes: Ernest, Rushman, Schumacher, Wiedeman, Borges, and Carter. No: None. Motion carried 6-0.

Moved by Borges, seconded by Rushman to approve, with regret, the resignation of Nick Brost (HS Principal & AD), effective at the end of his 2020-2021 contract, and wish him the best of luck. Roll call vote: Yes: Rushman, Schumacher, Wiedeman, Borges, Carter, and Ernest. No: None. Motion carried 6-0.

Moved by Borges, seconded by Schumacher to amend Mrs. Faith Jones' contract and job description titles to Library Paraprofessional. Roll call vote: Yes: Schumacher, Wiedeman, Borges, Carter, Ernest, and Rushman. No: None. Motion carried 6-0.

Review discussion was held on Policies #2001-2017. Moved by Rushman, seconded by Schumacher to table the revision of Policies #2006 (Complaint Procedure) and #2008 (Meetings) until the next meeting. Roll call vote: Yes: Wiedeman, Borges, Carter, Ernest, Rushman, and Schumacher. No: None. Motion carried 6-0.

Moved by Wiedeman, seconded by Rushman to approve contracts with JJ Pratt Enterprises to refinish gym floors at both sites. Roll call vote: Yes: Borges, Carter, Ernest, Rushman, Schumacher, and Wiedeman. No: None. Motion carried 6-0.

Moved by Borges, seconded by Carter to approve an overnight stay for State Speech. Roll call vote: Yes: Carter, Ernest, Rushman, Schumacher, Wiedeman, and Borges. No: None. Motion carried 6-0.

Moved by Wiedeman, seconded by Carter to approve a principal's contract for Dana Morgan for the 2021-2022 school year with salary and fringe benefits to be negotiated. Roll call vote: Yes: Ernest, Rushman, Schumacher, Wiedeman, Borges, and Carter. No: None. Motion carried 6-0.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Leyton Board of Education will be Monday, April 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the multi-purpose room at Leyton High School in Dalton.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Rushman, seconded by Borges to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. Roll call vote: Yes: Rushman, Schumacher, Wiedeman, Borges, Carter, and Ernest. No: None. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by,

Janella Kruse
Recording Secretary

Rol Rushman, Secretary
Leyton Board of Education