

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – February 14, 2022

The Board of Trustees of Joliet School District No. 7 held a regular meeting on February 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Joliet School Library. Board Members present were Dawn Blain, Justin Oswald, Melvin Stene, Kathy Grewell, Sharon Songstad, Doug Whitehead and Karin Williams. Also present were Allison Evertz, Superintendent, Clark Begger, Elementary/MS Principal, and Felicia Smith, District Clerk/Business Manager. Visitors in attendance were: Mandi Hernandez, Brandy Feller, Riley Killion, Samuel Smith, Stacie Nardinger, Emelia Wood, Terra Stene, Mike McKay, and Sarrah Walstad.

Dawn Blain called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Blain welcomed guests, explained procedure and asked for public comment.

Justin Oswald made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Melvin Stene seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

IV. Reports

- a. Student Council – Emilia Wood updated the Board on the student council's semi-formal winter dance that was held January 15, 2022 at the Joliet Community Center. The council raised \$790 from that event. The Fun Day activities are set for March 9, 2022. There will be send-offs for wrestling and basketball tournament teams. The student council would like some guidance from the Board on decorating caps for graduation. The Board encouraged the student council to meeting with administration to start that discussion.
- b. Athletic Director – Ms. Hernandez notified the Board on basketball tournaments set for this week in Columbus. For wrestling, we had one athlete go to state. The 5/6 grade boys' basketball team will have their first game on February 15th. We currently have 17 athletes in the 5/6 grade. The first day of track practice for high school will be March 14, 2022.
- c. Transportation – Sam Smith informed the Board that all busses passed inspection. Repairs and maintenance is progressing on the fleet, which includes servicing the air brake intake systems on the buses. The bus barn clean up continues, which the Board was able to see first-hand during a walk through prior to this meeting. All bus drivers have been cross trained on the routes, with the last training being completed this morning.
- d. Building Report – The building report was provided in the Board packet for review. Mike McKay updated the Board on the status of the boilers. He recommends that two of the older boilers be replaced. He can get information on prices. Roofers were on campus and patched 11 spots on the new gym roof. Plumbers worked on a clog that was 130 feet out from the building, which has been remedied. The tractor is being worked on, and the trade is complete on the Toolcat.

V. Correspondence – Correspondence was provided to the Board.

VI. Unfinished Business

- a. Digital Reader Board – A representative from Sign Pro of Billings came on January 4th to do a site assessment. The Board was provided mock ups of the potential new reader board. Sign Pro attended the Joliet Town Council meeting on January 18th. We are waiting on the power company to do a site visit.

VII. New Business

- a. Potential Bus Purchase – There has been community discussion regarding the purchase of a coach bus for activity travel. Per the Office of Public Instruction, general funds must be used to purchase an activity bus. If an activity bus must be replaced, bus depreciation funds may be used. Shane Warehime provided information about the bus Red Lodge is selling, and the Board was able to look at the bus prior to the meeting. There was a lot of discussion regarding price, mileage, engines, storage and driving.
- b. Exercise Equipment Purchase – The weight room was built with the new addition in 2004, and the original equipment is still in use. Because of the length of time and daily usage, the equipment is beginning to break down. Many benches have rips in them, making it impossible to sanitize for student health. The need for exercise to promote mental and emotional health, makes the purchase of the equipment an allowable expense under the ESSER funding guidance. There are two bids provided in the Board packet. Superintendent Evertz is recommending that the Board approve the purchase of new exercise equipment through BSN.

Sharon Songstad made a motion to approve the purchase of new weight room equipment through BSN. Kathy Grewell seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

- c. Attendance – Prior to the adoption of the 1900 emergency series policy, high school attendance policy was stringent, stating that every absence over 10 absences would result in a 2% deduction of the semester grade. Policy 1906 states “Students shall not lose credit or incur a grade reduction for reasons related to attendance without good reason as determined by the Board of Trustees.” Currently there are 47 students who have more than 10 absences. The Board discussed the issue. Brandy Feller offered public comment. The Board may revisit Policy 1906 at a future board meeting.
- d. New Superintendent Evaluation Form – The Board was presented with a revised evaluation form that will make the evaluation process more uniform and allow better input from Board Members.

Kathy Grewell made a motion to accept the new superintendent evaluation form with the addition of an examples column. Melvin Stene seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Terra Stene and Brandy Feller offered public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

- e. Five Year Technology Plan – At the January 10, 2022 meeting, the Board discussed continuing the tech levy that will expire this year and called for an election for the levies. The previous 2017 tech levy was set at \$30,000 for the elementary district, and \$20,000 for the high school district. The district has made great strides, but needs to sustain the upgrades moving into the next five years to provide the best educational opportunity for our students. The IT contractor and administration updated the 5-year technology plan, which was included in the board packet.
- f. Potential Soccer Co-op – There have been multiple discussions regarding a potential soccer co-op with another school district. Billings Catholic Central has stepped forward to offer this opportunity to our student athletes. While Laurel could only offer a boys’ soccer program, BCC is offering the soccer program to both boys and girls with minimal, if any, financial investment

from the Joliet School District. The athletic director will work with BCC on paperwork and a vote will need to be done by the Board in the future.

- g. Retirement Incentive – The Board was presented with language for a retirement incentive to be offered to teachers who have 25 years of credible service with TRS, and have taught in Joliet for 20 years. Two packages will be offered on a first come, first serve basis and essentially cover insurance benefits for one year, post retirement.

Melvin Stene made a motion to approve two retirement incentive packages for the 2021-22 academic year. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

- h. Roberts District Bus Entry – One in-district family has opted to attend Roberts School. This family is being picked up and dropped off in Boyd, which is within the Joliet School District boundaries. Roberts has requested permission to enter Joliet School District to pick up these students.

Justin Oswald made a motion to allow Roberts' bus to enter the Joliet School District for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year. Melvin Stene seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

- i. February ANB Count – The student count as of February 7, 2022 is as follows:

K-5 = 174
6-8 = 97
9-12 = 128

VIII. Personnel

- a. Resignations
Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board accept the resignation of Judy Smith effective May 26, 2022.

Justin Oswald made a motion to accept the resignation of Judy Smith. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

- b. Hiring
Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Ty Olson as the 5/6 grade boys' assistant basketball coach for the 2021-22 school year.

Karin Williams made a motion to hire Ty Olson as the 5/6 grade boys' assistant basketball coach for the 2021-22 school year. Melvin Stene seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

IX. Principal/Business Manager Reports

High School Principal – Ms. Evertz advised the Board on: high school academics, a panel discussion that will be held on grading procedures, the VFW Auxiliary presentation of awards on 02/10/22, and the ASPIRE program.

Principal – Mr. Begger provided the Board with an update on: K-8 instruction; the JMG fundraiser and Showalter music festival.

Superintendent – Ms. Evertz updated the Board on the negotiations with the JTA, and the strategic planning session.

Business Manager – Ms. Smith provided the Board with reports of all claims paid, payroll disbursements, and a financial statement.

- X. **Executive Session** – Dawn Blain determined that the discussion relates to a matter of individual privacy that clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure and closed the public meeting and went into Executive Session. Mr. Begger was excused from the meeting.

Executive Session began at 8:13 p.m. The trustees returned to regular session at 8:49 p.m.

XI. **Items for Next Agenda**

Academic calendar for 2022-23
Reader Board
Sound System
HVAC Bids
Negotiations Update
SB 307 Notice

XII. **Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan**

No changes to the Plan were necessary.

XIII. **Next Board Meeting Date**

The next regular Board meeting will be held March 14, 2022 in the Joliet School Library.

XIV. **Adjournment**

Melvin Stene made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Doug Whitehead seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

Approved

03/19/2022

Board Chair



Clerk

