

**Board of Education Regular Meeting**

September 15, 2020 6:00 PM

Wallace Central Office Building

**Attendance Taken at 6:01 PM:**

Present Board Members:

Mrs. Rebecca Burgett

Mr. Hargis Davis

Mrs. Sonya Giles

Mr. Chuck Toler

Absent Board Members:

Mrs. Amanda Dunavent

**I. WELCOME and ROLL CALL**

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Order #2020-1894 - Motion Passed:** Motion made to approve Agenda with the addition of IV.B. Discussion of concerns/status of re-opening plan passed with a motion by Mrs. Sonya Giles and a second by Mr. Chuck Toler.

**4 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Mrs. Rebecca Burgett	Yes
Mr. Hargis Davis	Yes
Mrs. Amanda Dunavent	Absent
Mrs. Sonya Giles	Yes
Mr. Chuck Toler	Yes

**III. STUDENT RECOGNITION and PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS - Mrs. Amanda Carroll, Upper Elementary and Mrs. Holli Hunt, Middle School**

Discussion:

Upper Elementary Principal, Mrs. Carroll addressed the Board giving a report/handout explaining exactly how returning to school will look.

Superintendent Hammond also spoke about the Health Dept. They will be monitoring very closely. He also mentioned that the admin staff met today, as a Reopening Committee. We have asked all parents to complete four main questions in OLR. This information is crucial. After getting, will work with Transportation Dept, then work on East/West and the assignment of non-transport. This will take until latter part of next week to get this information together. This is the reason we are needing to wait until Oct. 12th start date. Member Becky Burgett asked about the plan on students eating in their classroom.

Mrs. Carroll explained the plan. Superintendent Hammond advised we are going to check temperatures of students before they get on the bus and those that are dropped off at the schools. We will use current staff to keep costs down and are looking for volunteers. Custodians may have their schedule adjusted to help with riding on the buses. Parents will no longer drop off student at bus stop in case the temperature of child is high. They cannot get on the bus and risk passing on to others. This is not a simple task to accomplish and make it work well.

Middle School Interim Principal, Mrs. Hunt addressed the Board with information on what the tentative plan is for the Middle School. She explained how the Middle School was operating at current time. The plan will depend on how many students choose GC @ Home. The schedule will be planned around the information received through OLR. Meal plan is same as Upper Elementary.

Superintendent Hammond advised the High School will flow better than other schools and every school will be different.

High School Principal, Jon Jones will use the flipped Math Classroom. Science will set up Google Classroom for A/B and Online Learning. There is a different format for every group.

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Discussion:

Lisa Ferguson (grandmother)- Mrs. Ferguson advised that she had two questions. First, is it your typical rule to open school with the pledge to the flag? Chairman Davis, replied no. Second question is, have any of you as board members taken the time to go to the home of any student to see what virtual learning looks like? Some of the audience as well as Board Member, Rebecca Burgett replied that yes, they do. They are actually helping their children or grandchildren with lessons.

Charlie Ferguson (grandfather)- Mr. Ferguson advised the Board that Madison, IN schools are going full time with no masks. He feels like students are getting only 40% of their education. He advised that we need to get rid of our fear.

Board Member, Rebecca Burgett addressed the public stating how we are trying to make the best of this situation. We are trying to be there for our staff so that we can get ready to return. She stated that she understood the frustration and the pain but we are all trying to do the best we can.

Elizabeth Brinker (parent of three students) - Mrs. Brinker advised the Board that Gallatin County Schools are below the benchmark. She watches her son's senior classes with him. His first lab class was six minutes long, that's all! His second class was seven minutes. After that, he went to co-op; Her son is not even getting 40% of his education at this point. Her other child emailed his teacher asking for help with no reply. He emailed again on Monday. The teacher replied and asked him to call her back on Wednesday. Mrs. Brinker told the Board that her son was proactive and confirmed the time, again, the teacher did not reply. His twin brother's teacher never signed in and didn't post any lessons. She complained that the teachers were not showing up for these students. She advised that there were ESL students on her husband's soccer team, who are Hispanic and need to be check on. Teachers are not showing up for their students!

Amy Combs (parent) - Ms. Combs advised the Board that she has a child that has an IEP that hasn't been addressed yet. Why so long if we've been doing this for three weeks?

Mrs. Carroll addressed this saying some IEP students are coming into the building. Mrs. Hunt explained that they are based on a yearly process. Case load teacher needs to reach out to you, if she hasn't, contact her and she will do her best to accommodate.

Stephanie Frazier- (parent) - Mrs. Frazier informed the Board that her son has ADHD, he has reached out to the teacher twice with no contact. Mr. Hammond asked Mr. Jones to address this issue tomorrow, with his staff. Her second son was in virtual class until 3:00pm, however, every other word you couldn't hear, then was kicked offline. She feels he missed a lot of information, due to this glitch and tomorrow he has to try and learn what he missed. Superintendent Hammond advised that we do have a terrible internet in this area.

Dave Jones - He thanked the Board for allowing the students to begin sporting activities. He stated that his kids are still struggling without any learning disabilities. He thanked Board Member Becky Burgett for her support in his area. He knows it's a hard job for the Board to make these decisions and must be really hard for the teachers, as well. However, this isn't working well for anyone. Dave asked if there was any way to make this work better? Can we ask if anyone wants to send their kid to school, let them come? They have to get fed and educated. Also, get back to the interaction of all the "clubs". He reminded the Board that some of these kids have nothing at home and he can't imagine what goes on during the day. Our minority kids, we are failing as citizens of the US. We have to figure out a way to make this work better.

Sheryl Jones (parent of a freshman and a senior) Mrs. Jones advised the Board that her senior was finished 5 minutes in. He co-ops at my office and learns more in my office than he does online. My freshman is still doing homework until 9:00pm at night. That teacher had it together the entire class time. English teacher, talked w/ them, laughed with them and was there for them.

#### **V. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Discussion:

Board Chairman, Hargis Davis thanked all the Staff. He asked the public to please be patient and we would get the school re-opened in good time. He talked about guidelines and rules. He asked the public to please not criticize our staff as they are working hard. He thanked all the public for their comments and asked them to please bear with us during this trying time.

#### **VI. CONSTRUCTION REPORT - Brad Beatty**

Discussion:

Brad gave update on construction. We are having weekly meetings with plans. Gave notice at meeting today, that the work has not been accomplished, we will start to use bond money. The substantial completion date was the second week of February. Obviously, that date was missed. Board Attorney, Jake Crawford asked for the bonding company's information and he will notify them Wednesday morning.

Brad advised they were behind due to the sub-contractor for keys/locks installation, had fallen behind. COVID-19 began and everyone shut down. Currently, the work they reported as complete, was not acceptable. At the final punch in April, things were noticed that weren't being done that they said were done. He stated it's their building/their product until they turn it over to us. We will give them until next week, with formal notice. The biggest concern is the local company is not at fault, but they hold the bond. Their subcontractor, which is "Shiller" is not performing. We try hard to avoid when it's a small local company. They had a worker reporting work was done that wasn't in the ceiling area, which no one would see. The new guy has backtracked for two months. Just not getting to the point where his head is above water. Board Attorney Crawford will notify the insurance company for them to put

pressure on the construction company. He is concerned, stating poor workmanship is something else. It will have to be checked and then rechecked. They will send their adjuster.

Brad will send Board Attorney Crawford a copy of the bond tomorrow. It is a two part bond. The High School locks will be finished by Oct. 12th. He advised usually when they get the threat from the insurance company, they will do their best because it is so hard to get bonds for school projects, if past performance is noted as not great.

#### **VII. STAFF/SCHOOL REPORTS**

Discussion:

Due to the lengthy session of "Public Comments", Board Chair, Hargis Davis advised he was skipping Section VII. He thanked Administrators for their attached reports.

**VII.A. Enrollment/Attendance Report - Mr. Jeremy Booher**

**VII.B. CIA Report - Mr. Tony Jury**

**VII.C. Technology Report - Ms. Michelle Lawrence**

**VII.D. \*Superintendent's Report - Mr. Larry Hammond**

**VII.E. SBDM Agenda/Minutes**

**VII.F. \*Human Resource Actions**

#### **VIII. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Order #2020-1895 - Motion Passed:** Motion made to approve the Consent Agenda passed with a motion by Mr. Hargis Davis and a second by Mrs. Rebecca Burgett.

**4 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Mrs. Rebecca Burgett	Yes
Mr. Hargis Davis	Yes
Mrs. Amanda Dunavent	Absent
Mrs. Sonya Giles	Yes
Mr. Chuck Toler	Yes

**VIII.A. Approve Minutes from the August 18th Board of Education Regular Board Meeting and the Sept 1st & 3rd Special Board Meetings**

**VIII.B. Approve Monthly Financial Reports**

**VIII.C. Approve Activity Fund Report and Bills**

**VIII.D. Approve Monthly Bills**

**VIII.E. Approve Out-Of-District Acceptance Criteria**

Discussion:

Board Chairman, Hargis Davis asked Mr. Booher what had changed on the Out of District Acceptance Criteria. Mr. Booher advised the last paragraph that states the DPP & Principal make a decision recommendation based on the composite evaluation rating. In the end, each final decision is influenced by a number of factors, each carefully weighed and considered to make the best possible decision for the student and the school district.

**VIII.F. Approve Non-Resident Applications for 2020-2021 School Year**

**VIII.G. Approve Nonresident Contract for Owen County with Gallatin County for 2021-2022 School Year**

**VIII.H. Approve Nonresident Contract for Barren County with Gallatin County for 2021-2022 School Year**

**VIII.I. Approve Nonresident Contract for Erlanger-Elsmere Independent School District for 2021-2022 School Year**

**VIII.J. Approve Nonresident Contract for Gallatin County with Williamstown Independent for 2021-2022 School Year**

**IX. RECOMMENDED ACTION - NEW BUSINESS**

**IX.A. Review/Approve Working Budget for 2020-2021 School Year**

Discussion:

Finance Director, Kelley Gamble presented the budget to the Board. He advised, we need to remember to put chromebooks on the FEMA application. This was talked about previously, taking out of CARES or Title I. We will try and use the FEMA application choice. Salaries less than last year, mental health school grant will help; transportation salaries should go down.

Workers Comp costs went up. We had a \$230,000.00 insurance settlement in last year's budget. The Safe School Security Grant of \$44,000.00 should offset the costs of installing the security project. CARES money was budgeted for Chromebooks, but if we get them covered under FEMA, that will help. Total increase is 1.8% funding balance of \$810,000.00, which is a 6% contingency. We are heading the same direction as previous years. Nucor should double in 2022, which will help stay level going into 2021-22; Utility taxes could go either way.

Food Service - if we get back to school soon, it should level out and we could use CARES money in case that situation worsens. We had a reduction last year of \$43,637.00, with another projected \$240,000.00 this year. Kelley added with another year of hoping and maybe with the utility taxes, we'll get there.

Superintendent Hammond asked about the time frame on applying for the FEMA grant of \$350,000.00. Kelley added, currently the Food Service contingency is projected to decrease from \$59,000.00 to \$56,000.00. This is a 5.28% contingency. Kelley added we need to free up the CARES money because we may need it for Food Services.

**Order #2020-1896 - Motion Passed:** Motion to approve Working Budget for 2020-2021 School Year passed with a motion by Mrs. Rebecca Burgett and a second by Mrs. Sonya Giles.

**4 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Mrs. Rebecca Burgett	Yes
Mr. Hargis Davis	Yes
Mrs. Amanda Dunavent	Absent
Mrs. Sonya Giles	Yes
Mr. Chuck Toler	Yes

**IX.B. Discussion of concerns/status of re-opening plan**

Discussion:

This discussion took place during the IV. Public Comments Section.

**X. ADJOURN**

**Order #2020-1897 - Motion Passed:** Motion made to adjourn passed with a motion by Mr. Hargis Davis and a second by Mr. Chuck Toler.

**4 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Mrs. Rebecca Burgett	Yes
Mr. Hargis Davis	Yes
Mrs. Amanda Dunavent	Absent
Mrs. Sonya Giles	Yes
Mr. Chuck Toler	Yes

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Chairperson

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Superintendent