

**North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200**  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Education  
**District Office**  
6248 North Boone School Road, Poplar Grove, IL 61065  
Tuesday, October 18, 2022  
6:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Ed Mulholland.

Present: President Ed Mulholland, Vice President Mary Maxey, Judy Hutchinson,  
Nan Schilling and Becky Self (arrived at 6:41).  
Absent: Secretary Brian Haselhorst and Joe Haverly.

In Mr. Haselhorst's absence, Mr. Mulholland appointed Mrs. Hutchinson as the Secretary Pro tem.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Mrs. Maxey and seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson to approve the Agenda as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

Breanna Walters, Senior at NBHS and the Student Council President, spoke about a concern on the parking pass fees at the high school. Miss Walters questioned why the fees for parking at the high school were so high and if they are necessary. Her concerns are that our fees are higher than those at NIU, and that parking at Rock Valley College and Rockford University are free. She feels that with the bus driver shortage, the district should be enticing students to drive to school. Also, she understands that if there were not enough parking spaces having to charge the students, however there are more than enough spaces. Even last year, when we did not have to pay for parking, we had plenty of spaces available to those that chose to drive. After meeting with Mr. Eckmann and Dr. Greenlee, there are still some questions that her fellow classmates have: Where does the money from the parking pass fees go? What does the school truly need this money for? What is the point in having to pay to park when there are enough spots available? How will North Boone supply more bussing if we do not have enough bus drivers? Why is our high school charging more than Rock Valley, Rockford University and NIU combined? If this money is actually needed by the school, is there a different way to come up with it, possibly by fund raising?

Shirley Benson is a resident of Poplar Grove since 2003 with three children that have graduated from North Boone. She is a concerned citizen that is putting her full support behind the members of NBESS in their contract negotiations for fair wages and benefits. She has been employed by the Belvidere School District as a paraprofessional for 23 years. She is fully aware of how it is to have no support and low wages, as she has had in the past. Recently, their contract was renegotiated to

\$16.50 an hour to start and are entitled to the benefits as they work 35 hours per week. Although she feels that this is still minimal to the jobs that they are required to do, it is a starting point. She pointed out what the job of a para entails; they love the kids that they work with, however, they can also be kicked, punched, spit at and have objects thrown at them, along with dealing with personal hygiene issues with all ages of students. That being said, all support staff deserve to receive a fair wage and benefits for all of their hard work.

Jayne Ries is a life-long resident of North Boone School District and became a paraprofessional at Capron during the pandemic and has since started a chess club at Manchester School. She is a huge supporter of North Boone having not only graduated from here, but also having 3 children graduate from here as well, two of which went on to become Special Education Teachers. This school year, she was offered two different positions with the Belvidere School District, but with her true loyalty to North Boone, she declined both of the offers. North Boone has already lost some excellent support staff members to neighboring school districts. The hiring of new staff members is dim considering the wages and benefits that are offered. Her only question to the board is how many support staff members are you willing to lose before considering a change?

Holly Houk, President of NBESS, thanked Mr. Haverly, Mrs. Hutchinson and Dr. Greenlee for offering up their personal time to work with the committee on the NBESS negotiations. She looks forward to making some positive changes for our support staff. As a member of the Business Committee and Facilities-Long Range Planning Committee, she was unable to attend last week's meetings but was able to watch them online over the weekend. She witnessed a lot of passion over the Athletic Fields and how they compared to neighboring districts during both meetings. She pointed out that unfortunately, we do not compare at all to these neighboring districts when it comes to attracting and retaining support staff. Other districts are reporting better pay, benefits and bonuses. Thankfully, our support staff are loyal to their core. Currently, we are 20 teacher assistants short and are about to lose more. To put this into perspective, in Belvidere they are only 8 teacher assistants short with an enrollment of 7500 students. Our enrollment is at 1500. In our newly adopted Strategic Plan, under Goal Three, it states: Attract, develop, and retain quality and diverse staff who are committed to creating a culture of learning that engages students in their journey towards career, college, and life readiness. We have these employees right now. They are loyal and work hard. Please keep this in mind when making the decision on the negotiations.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Dr. Zelek stated that the Treasurer's Report is still not completed due to issues with the software. The balances for July, August and September are still being completed. The hope is to have something for the November meeting.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Greenlee stated that on Friday, October 21, 2022 at 2:00 p.m., there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony in the Capron Parking Lot. If you are able, please join us at this celebration.

Sam's Club donated a makeover for the Middle School Faculty Lounge. They painted, put down new floor, donated new furniture and some small appliances. Pictures were shown of the before and after. We are very grateful for their kind offer.

The student tutoring programs have begun across the District. These are teacher hosted programs and as the teachers apply for after school time, we are approving it to assist with student learning loss and skill acquisition. This is being funded through ESSER and the learning loss fund. We are also partnering with NIU tutoring to get that program up and running, however, NIU is having a difficult time recruiting tutors for this program.

For the Board Conference in November, we do have housing confirmation for all that have signed up. Several members are signed up for the River Cruise. There are still a few more days left to sign up if you are interested. We also have received an invite from PMA for their gathering. We do have to RSVP very shortly. It is very nice event being held at the House of Blues which is right by the River Cruise. Please let Andrea know if you would like to attend.

Next week is Red Ribbon Week. The High School will be staging a crashed car out in the front to deter our students from driving impaired.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Policy Committee**

The next Policy Committee meeting date is to be determined. There has been nothing received from PRESS but it does appear that something will be forthcoming.

### **Business Services Committee**

Mrs. Maxey stated the Business Services Committee met on October 11, 2022. Items discussed were the Levy/CPI, athletic fields, phones and the bus lot fencing. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

### **Facility/Long Range Planning Committee**

The Facilities Committee meeting was held on October 11, 2022. Mrs. Schilling noted that the athletic fields were a main topic of discussion at the meeting. Community input was requested at the meeting in regards to the athletic fields construction/renovations. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

### **Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee**

Mrs. Hutchinson stated the Curriculum Committee met on September 21, 2022. Computer literacy state requirements were discussed as well as the district technology plan. The next Committee meeting will be on November 2, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Mrs. Maxey and seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson to approve the consent agenda as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting September 20, 2022
- B. Personnel

Site	Person	Position	Salary	Effective/ End Date
<b>1. Certified - Hire</b>				
NBHS	Michael Miller	Permanent Teacher Sub	\$30,000 plus TRS	10/3/2022
<b>2. Certified - Resignation</b>				
PGE	Jamie Dornink	Special Education Teacher	N/A	12/21/2022
<b>3. Non-Certified - Hire</b>				
CES	Amanda Richardson	Special Education Teacher Assistant	TA30, Step 1	10/11/2022
NBHS	Karly Hall	Special Education Teacher Assistant	TA90, Step 1	TBD
MS	Frank Burke	Assistant Custodian	Assistant Cust, Step 7	10/11/2022
HS	Bruce Walters	Assistant Custodian	Assistant Cust, Step 5	TBD
PGE	Christina Hollingsworth	Special Education Teacher Assistant	TA60, Step 2	10/11/2022
PGE	Isabelle Seipts	Special Education Teacher Assistant, 1:1	TA30, Step 1	10/3/2022
<b>4. Non-Certified - Resignation</b>				
PGE	Lauren Purvis	Special Education Teacher Assistant, 1:1	N/A	09/30/2022
DO	Christina Hollingsworth	Bus Driver	N/A	10/7/2022
PGE	Isabelle Seipts	Special Education Teacher Assistant	N/A	09/30/2022
<b>5. Non-Certified – FMLA/Medical Leave</b>				
NBMS	Craig Johnson	Head Custodian	N/A	8/23/22 – 12/1/22 FMLA 12/2/22 – 2/23/23 Medical Leave

- C. Minutes of the C.I.A. Committee Meeting – September 21, 2022
- D. Approval of Overnight Field Trip Request to U of I Champaign/Urbana
- E. Approval of Overnight Field Trip Request to Jacksonville, IL

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. July 2022 Bills & Payroll**

Per Dr. Zelek, we have worked with Decision Systems, and the report that is included shows all of the expenditures, including payroll.

**B. August 2022 Bills & Payroll**

Per Dr. Zelek, we have worked with Decision Systems, and the report that is included shows all of the expenditures, including payroll.

**C. September 2022 Bills & Payroll**

Per Dr. Zelek, we have worked with Decision Systems, and the report that is included shows all of the expenditures, including payroll.

**D. Strategic Plan Update**

Each month, Dr. Greenlee, Kari Neri and Ashley Doetch will be elaborating on at least one of the goals of the Strategic Plan and highlighting on the key strategies that are being implemented.

This month, Dr. Greenlee focused on a few goals. The first is Goal 1: Student Achievement, Strategy 1 in regards to PowerSchool Suite and adding Performance Matters, which is an assessment warehouse. This will be included in the November 2<sup>nd</sup> C.I.A. Committee Meeting.

The next goal is Goal 3: Workforce, Strategy 7 – Training and Professional Development, this upcoming Institute Day, on October 28<sup>th</sup> we will be focusing on IEP writing, SEL, Data usage and goal writing. Regarding Strategy 9 – Building/Meeting Collaboration Schedules, there are weekly meetings/late start days being held to address SIP goals and analyze student data as well as the MTSS/SEL Programming.

Lastly, Goal 4: Partnerships, Strategy 11 – Increase District Marketing, we are working with Chartwell to communicate the Strategic Plan, develop District Branding, and Communicate District Business. We really want to get the “Viking Vision” out into the public.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. October 2022 Bills**

A motion was made by Mrs. Maxey to pay the October bills as presented and was seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

**B. Levy**

The CPI Trend was included in the meeting packet. This is the highest, at 6.19%, that it has been in many years. Our ceiling for the levy is 5%.

There are four extension worksheets for the Levy included in the meeting packet. One is with the abatement. The second sheet is without abatement #2. The third worksheet

includes the figures with a half abatement. The final scenario shows the numbers with no abatement at all.

The Outstanding Debt worksheet was also included. If we do not abate the \$200,000, we could start paying down the debt for the alternative revenue source. This will most likely be the Administrative recommendation for the Levy. This worksheet will be brought back to the Business Services Committee for review. A Committee meeting will be scheduled in the very near future so that the recommendation can come to the Board at the November Board Meeting.

**C. Poplar Grove Elementary Boiler Replacement**

Dr. Greenlee noted that in the older boiler at Poplar Grove Elementary, the heat exchanger did go out. Bids were received to repair the heat exchanger as well as to replace the entire boiler unit. To replace the entire unit, it was less expensive than repairing the broken part, and also gave us a new warranty on the entire unit. We received three different bids and Ceroni Plumbing's bid came in not only as the lowest bid, but they have a unit in stock, and it does "sister" up to the current unit. Ceroni has also already done work at Poplar Grove Elementary School and knows the systems.

Mrs. Self inquired as to why we did not go through the Co-op for this bid. Dr. Greenlee stated that our standard practice has been to find three quotes. We can start using the Co-op as one of these bids if the Board agrees. Knowing that Ceroni is very familiar with our building and had the boiler, in stock, was a positive in this particular bidding process. Getting a Co-op quote will now become a standard practice.

This will be paid for through ESSER funds.

A motion was made by Mrs. Maxey to accept the bid from Ceroni Plumbing to replace the boiler at Poplar Grove Elementary School in the amount of \$44,775 and was seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson.

The motion was carried by a unanimous roll call.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made at 7:10 p.m. by Mrs. Maxey and seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson to recess to Executive Session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2).

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*(none)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION**

- A. FOIA Log
- B. Enrollment
- C. Student Activity Fund Reports

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mrs. Maxey and seconded by Mrs. Self to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.  
The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

**PRESIDENT** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECRETARY** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED:**