

## MINUTES OF PHILLIPS BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Monday, September 21, 2020

- I. The Phillips Board of Education regular meeting was called to order by President Pesko at 6:07 pm in the Phillips High School ITV Classroom. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II. Present: Baxter (Onsite), Burkart (Virtual), Fox (Onsite), Halmstad (Virtual), Houdek (Onsite), Lind (Virtual), Pesko (Onsite), Rose (Virtual), Willett (Onsite) and Student Liaison Schluter (Virtual). Administration present: Superintendent Morgan (Onsite), Finance Manager Lehman (Virtual), Principal Scholz (Onsite); Principal Hoogland (Onsite), Director of Pupil Services Lemke (Onsite). Others: Michelle Edwards, Price County Health Department, staff and community members (Virtual and Onsite).
- III. President Pesko stated that public notice of the meeting was properly posted according to Wisconsin Statute 19.84(4). Notice was posted at all school-owned buildings, the School District of Phillips' website, and the Price County Review.
- IV. Public Participation
  - A. Jodi Podmolik gave an update on the community baseball/softball fields and thanked the District for the help they have provided.
  - B. Kathy Langfoss, Lori Janak, and Rochelle Cummings, retired teachers addressed the Board regarding hurtful comments received from a board member
  - C. Mark Distin, former board member, encouraged the Board to compare the cost of cure and prevention in making decisions about educational formats
  - D. Katie Bryan offered educational materials to the elementary from her Ballet House that she is closing. She also commented on a board member's letter to the editor.
- V. Administrative and Committee Reports
  - A. Dave Scholz - PES Principal Report
    1. Principal Scholz reviewed the procedures for student drop off and pick up, recess formats, lunch procedures, sanitizing protocols, student use of water bottles, and real-time instruction for students on quarantine. A power-point presentation was used to show how things are working at PES.
    2. The staff is all working together to create a positive environment for everyone.
    3. Attendance and health are good so far.
  - B. Colin Hoogland - PhMS/PHS
    1. Megan Schluter will be the 2020-2021 student liaison to the Board with Alyssa Huffman serving as the alternate.
    2. Principal Hoogland reviewed the student schedule for middle school and high school, real-time learning for students being quarantined at PhMS, and high school students returning for two days of face-to-face instruction beginning today.
    3. High school sports include football, cross country, volleyball and girls tennis. Middle school sports include football, cross country, and volleyball. Attendance is limited at this time for all sports.
    4. Student Liaison Megan Schluter greeted the Board and complimented the high school staff on making sure students are safe..
  - C. Vicki Lemke - Pupil Services Director
    1. There are currently 141 special education students, slightly less than the start of other years. Different options are available to special education students that are doing virtual learning to give them the level of service they need. We hired one additional aide with grant funds to help keep contact time to a minimum at the elementary.

2. There are 36 students at PES using the virtual option. A full-time teacher was hired to help with these students and a part-time teacher at the middle school level. Printouts of materials are being provided to parents. We had an increase of about 15 students to the Phillips RVA (Medford-based) group.
- D. Rick Morgan - Superintendent Report
1. Student transportation is going well. The number needing to use district transportation is low enough to provide safe travel for students.
  2. Food service continues to make adjustments as more students return to the high school. Students may eat in teacher rooms if the social distancing becomes more of an issue.
  3. Superintendent Morgan thanked the administrative team and all staff for being motivated problem solvers.
  4. Summer school numbers are being calculated. There will be a lower FTE this year due to low course offerings. The August assessment times at the elementary will be included as instructional time.
  5. Building design committees will start meeting again in the next two weeks. The core team met this morning for the first time in a month to get back into the process.
- E. Molly Lehman - Finance Manager reviewed the 2020-2021 budget that will be published prior to the annual meeting. A final budget will be presented at the end of October once state aide and equalized values are released.
- F. Policy Committee continues to work on the Title IX policy. A draft is presented tonight for first reading..
- G. Facilities/Transportation Committee
1. Maintenance: Pump project is completed, touchless faucets have been installed with a few yet on backorder, snow plow bids are in process, and the engineer's report on the bleacher damage is expected soon.
  3. Transportation: Some buses and vans were in need of maintenance at the start of the school year, quotes are being collected on camera equipment, and discussion on maintenance costs of older vehicles.
- H. Business services committee met and heard a presentation from Jodi Podmolik on the baseball/softball project and discussed staffing updates, the additional compensation process, the 2020-2021 proposed budget, facilities/transportation notes, non-affiliated salaries, EMC claim updates, funding for COVID19 expenses, and possible refinancing of debt service. Bills were reviewed.
- I. CESA #12 Board of Control report - Paula reported that meetings are still being held virtually and most discussion focused on the Center of School Support Services and the CESA building maintenance and security.

VI. Items for Discussion and Possible Action

- A. Lisa Voisin, Baird representative, informed the Board of the opportunity to refinance our Fund 38 debt service loans with a projected savings of approximately \$60,000.00 over the course of the loans. Motion (Willett/Burkart) to begin the process with a Resolution coming to the Board in November. Motion carried 9-0 with roll call vote.
- B. Return to Learn Plan Options
1. Michelle Edwards from the Price County Health Department explained the department's role in contact tracing and how it would work in the school and the importance of social distancing. Discussion was held with board members.
  2. Motion (Fox) to return students to five days a week of face-to-face instruction. Motion failed for lack of a second.
- C. No DPI waivers due to COVID-19 changes are needed at this time. The State requires a public hearing for each waiver and recommends that the superintendent be given the authority to enter into the waivers as needed. Motion (Willett/Lind) to schedule a public

meeting for this purpose prior to the start of the October board meeting. Motion carried 9-0 with roll call vote.

- D. The Additional Compensation Plan committee will meet in October.
  - E. Discussion was held on the process of approving bids within the referendum project and consensus was to allow the Core Team which includes the superintendent and board president to approve lowest bids. If the core team determines that a higher bid should be accepted, the Board will be involved in approving of the bid. Large-scale bids will be approved by the full Board.
  - F. A decision on 2020-2021 non-affiliated salaries will be determined in October when final levy and certification aid amounts are known. Retro pay will be issued from July 1, 2020.
  - G. Information regarding pandemic workplace protocols were covered earlier in the meeting.
  - H. A board/administration retreat will be scheduled for early November.
  - I. The board annual meeting agenda was reviewed.
- VII. Consent Items - Motion (Willett/Burkart) to approve all consent items. Motion carried 9-0 with roll call vote.
- A. Approved minutes from August 17, 2020 Board meeting.
  - B. Approve personnel report: Accepted resignation of Josie Weber, part-time cook (4 years) and Zachary Lehman, pool custodian (1 year). Approved hiring of Kayla Meyer, part-time cook; Julie Olsen, paraprofessional; Lynnae Helgeson, paraprofessional; Ellie Lochner, MS cross country assistant coach; Tristan Holden, MS football assistant coach; Sam Lehman, PES virtual teacher; and Kathie Langfoss, PhMS virtual teacher. Approved renewal of contract for academic extra/co-curricular advisors.
  - C. Approved bills from August 2020 (#347600-347641 and wires) for a total of \$362,573.24.
- VIII. The next regular board meeting will be held on October 19, 2020. Items to consider for the agenda include regular October items and update on learning plan
- IX. Motion (Willett/Houdek) at 8:45 p.m. to convene into executive session at the conclusion of the open session pursuant to WI Stat. Sec. 19.85(1)(g) for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. Motion carried 9-0 with roll call vote.
- X. Motion (Houdek/Burkart) to reconvene into open session pursuant to WI Stat. Sec. 19.85(1), if necessary, to act on motions made during the executive session. Motion carried 9-0.
- XII. Motion (Willett/Burkart) to adjourn at 10:21 p.m. Motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracie Burkart, Clerk  
Board of Education

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILLIPS

Price County Review  
P.O. Box 170  
Phillips, Wisconsin 54555

APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION

Minutes of School Board Meeting  
September 21, 2020  
6:00 PM

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Tracie Burkart, Clerk  
Board of Education