

## MINUTES OF PHILLIPS BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Monday, February 15, 2021

- I. The Phillips Board of Education regular meeting was called to order by President Pesko at 6:09 p.m. via Zoom Webinar. The meeting was held in the Phillips High School ITV room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II. Present: Baxter (virtual), Burkart (virtual), Fox (onsite), Houdek (virtual), Lind (virtual), Pesko (onsite), Rose (virtual), Willett (virtual) and Student Liaison Schluter (virtual). Absent: Halmstad. Administration present: Superintendent Morgan (onsite), Finance Manager Lehman (virtual), Principal Hoogland (virtual); Principal Scholz (virtual), Director of Pupil Services Lemke (virtual) . Others: Staff, students, and community members all virtual
- 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 - Sarah Pisca, the high school dance coach, expressed her concern about the process of music choice rejection.
- V. Administrative and Committee Reports
  - A. Dave Scholz - PES Principal
    1. Principal Scholz presented the mid-year achievement gap report. With the COVID restrictions in place this year all classrooms are using the 18:1 ratio. The performance goal for this year in grades K-3 is 80% of students at the expected benchmark for reading. The primary assessment tool is running records, however STAR results are included as well as PALS for lower grade levels. Mid-year results show kindergarten at 40%, Grade 1 at 55%, Grade 2 at 70% and Grade 3 at 72%. These percentages are based on late December/early January testing windows. Also included in the report was a description of how COVID-19 has affected the overall school experience. The overall effect on staff has been hard, but they are working together well as a team to overcome challenges.
  - B. Colin Hoogland - PhMS/PHS Principal
    1. During a recent COVID spike administrators helped out in classrooms to provide coverage for staff. We are back to very small numbers of staff and students affected by the virus and as of February 8th have invited all students to return to classes four days a week. Forty students have chosen to remain virtual or in-person two days a week).
    2. The 6-12 Campus is observing "Celebrate Success Week" February 15-19 with different contests and prizes.
    3. The Loggers United Booster Club is sponsoring Hudl Focus so people can watch the girls and boys basketball tournament games.
    4. The students attended Real Time virtual classes today due to extreme cold weather. There was good attendance from 6-12 students.
  - C. Vicki Lemke - Pupil Services Director
    1. Director Lemke reported that all the pupil services team members are seeing an increase in students seeking help. There has been a significant increase in the use of the Take Ten rooms at both the elementary and 6-12 campus to deal with a wide variety of issues. There is an increase in medically diagnosed anxiety among students. We are allowing students to come in on Wednesdays when there is less student contact for additional help. Lemke requested that the pupil service team present at the next meeting on how they are supporting students.

- D. Rick Morgan - Superintendent Report
  - 1. WIAA tournament structure is underway for the winter season. We only had a few students eligible for wrestling due to COVID contacts. Basketball is allowing four tickets per play, up to a roster of 18.
  - 2. The Price County Health Department reports that we are on schedule for early March for staff vaccines. We have 108 staff members that have indicated they will want the vaccine with some others waiting on more information. The staff will receive the two-step Moderna vaccine. The District has been approved as a vaccine site location, so the health department will come here. A Wednesday date is being targeted for least disruption. Each shot requires a 10 minute registration and 15 minute observation.
  - 3. The policy committee encourages all board members to complete the survey sent out last month so we can move forward with planning a board/administration retreat. Mid-year administrative reviews will be a part of the retreat setting.
- E. Student Liaison Schluter
  - 1. Students of the month at the middle school: Noelle Stade (grade 6), Ali Kalandar (grade 7), Lily Miller and Katy Zajechowski (grade 8). Students of the Quarter at the high school were Hanna Klchosky and Nick Mabie.
  - 2. Girls basketball are conference and regional champions. Sectional games start this week. Boys basketball will start region games this week. Wrestling has finished their season with Kaylie Upson finishing fourth at sectionals. Dance club has been performing and competing virtually. Swim club has been practicing but have not yet competed.
  - 3. Mock Trial had their final competition last week and FBLA has students moving on to State competition.
  - 4. The publications class is working on a school newspaper edition.
- F. Policy committee members completed wording for virtual settings for policies #173 Closed Session and #187 Public Participation at Board Meetings. These policies are presented for first reading at tonight's board meeting. The board survey tool was discussed and members are encouraged to complete the tool.
- G. Facilities/Transportation Committee
  - 1. Facilities - Minor heating issues were experienced due to the cold weather as well as pool heating issues. Warranty work on the air handler was needed. The new snow plowing owner is doing a good job.
  - 2. Looking at a combination bus garage/maintenance office remodel at the bus garage location.
  - 3. Transportation - A driver is resigning and our three van routes will be combined into two for the remainder of the school year to cover the loss of the driver. North End Heavy Duty will be able to do non-warranty work on propane buses. Recommends purchasing a 65 passenger bus from Wisconsin Bus Sales for \$99,700.00.
- H. Business services committee
  - 1. Board members met with Jon Tautman of CLA to discuss the 2019-2020 fiscal audit. No significant finding beside segregation of duties which always is listed for small schools. The district has a 30% fund balance which allows for lower bonding rates. The auditors were pleased with the audit stating, "Your district was one of the best prepared."
  - 2. Other items discussed included FFCRA extension which has been used by three employees. If the federal government extends the program, we will be reimbursed. The district received a \$500,000 additional grant for COVID relief measures. We have until September 2023 to expend the funds. A grant was received for LifeTools training and Forward Bank gave us \$1,679.00 from the charitable money market fund program. Forward Bank Insurance is now providing property insurance to municipalities. Molly will meet with them to see what they will provide. An increase

of grade three students resulted in another classroom needed and a long-term substitute being hired to finish the year. Our occupational therapist resigned and the district will contract with DotCom Therapy for services at a rate slightly less than the previous contract. Equipment stored and destroyed under the bleachers will be turned into the insurance company. COVID vaccines will be available for staff in March at the school. Bills were reviewed prior to the board meeting.

- I. CESA #12 Board of Control met on January 19 and discussed upcoming retirements and resignations and state superintendent candidates. Next meeting is February 16.

VI. Items for Discussion and Possible Action

- A. Superintendent Morgan and Board member Houdek reported on attending the virtual state education convention.
- B. Return to Learn Plan Options - the administrative recommendation is to continue in Option B with plans to move to Option A for the fourth quarter. Discussion was held on the date to return to Option A. Motion (Fox/Willett) to return to five day instruction immediately. Motion failed 2-6 with roll call vote (Y-Fox/Willett). Motion (Fox/Willett) to return 4K through grade five to five day instruction immediately. Motion failed 2-6 with roll call vote (Y-Fox/Willett). Motion (Lind/Rose) to approve administrative recommendation to remain in Option B and work toward a return to Option A at fourth quarter. Motion carried 7-1 with roll call vote (N-Fox).
- B. Motion (Willett/Houdek) to request a waiver from DPI to begin school prior to September 1 for construction purposes. Motion carried 8-0 with roll call vote.
- C. Motion (Willett/Fox) to approve the 2021-2022 calendar as presented. Motion carried 8-0 with roll call vote.
- D. Discussion was held regarding the construction bid process and process for accepting bids. Miron/HSR recommendation is to accept the lowest bid. If there is consideration not to accept the low bid, that item would go to full Board. Board members were interested in reviewing all bids, particularly those submitted by local vendors. Motion (Houdek/Fox) to have a special meeting to review all bids one week after the bid opening. Motion carried 8-0 with roll call vote.
- E. Motion (Fox/Burkart) to approve annual Educational Options notice as presented. Motion carried 8-0 with roll call vote. The notice includes the Return to Learn Options for 2020-2021 school year.
- F. Motion (Fox/Burkart) to approve hiring an occupational therapist through DotCom Therapy for the remainder of the school year. The district will continue to look for an in-person therapist for next year. Motion carried 8-0 with roll call vote. .
- G. The maintenance office will be converted to classroom space this summer. The recommendation is to renovate the current bus garage office space. There would be two offices, upgraded restrooms, upgraded meeting room for drivers, storage for maintenance and work space. Board member Houdek expressed concern over the cost and timeline for this project. Motion (Baxter/Burkart) to obtain bids for a bus garage/maintenance shop remodel project to review at next month's meeting. Motion carried 7-1 with roll call vote (N-Houdek).

VII. Consent Items - Motion (Willett/Fox) to approve all consent items. Motion carried 8-0 with roll call vote.

- A. Approved minutes from January 18 and February 1, 2021 Board meetings.
- B. Approve personnel report - Hiring of Andra Nelson, LTE IMC aide; Dani Schmidt, PT special ed aide; and Joseph Chucka, LTE elementary teacher. Approved contract renewals for spring season coaches. Accepted resignation from Scott Grundwaldt, bus driver (1.5 years)
- C. Approved bills from January 2021 (#348117-348240 and wires) for a total of \$654,180.68.

- VIII. A special meeting was set for Monday, February 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. The next regular board meeting will be held on March 15, 2021. Items to consider for the agenda include support staff salaries.
- XII. Motion (Willett/Rose) to adjourn at 9:00 pm. Motion carried 8-0 with roll call vote.

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  
February 15, 2021  
6:00 PM

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Tracie Burkart, Clerk  
Board of Education