

MINUTES OF PHILLIPS BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Monday, September 20, 2021

- I. The Phillips Board of Education regular Board meeting was called to order by President Pesko at 6:00 p.m. in the Phillips High School Auditorium.
- II. Present: Baxter, Fox, Halmstad, Houdek, Krog, Pesko, Rose, and Student Liaison Morrone. Absent: Willett. Administration present: Superintendent Morgan, Business Manager Lehman, Principals Hoogland and Scholz, Director of Pupil Services Lemke. Others: Staff, community members, and Price County Review. The meeting was available via Zoom for online attendance.
- 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. Jeff Heikkenen, Ashley Raskie, Britt Bilgrien, and Becky Denzine spoke in favor of optional masks for students.
 - B. Annie Knudson and Tom Kaster spoke in favor of more protective measures for our students.
- V. Administrative and Committee Reports
 - A. Dave Scholz - Elementary Principal Report
 1. The school year is off to a busy start with students helping to plant flowers around the new drainage ponds at the 6-12 campus, field trips to pick apples, a trip to Timms Hill, Homecoming activities, Logger Leaders underway, and a family engagement game night next week.
 2. First grade students have been quarantined due to a positive COVID-19 case in a classroom and in a split specialist group.
 3. The Veterans Day program will be done again this year in the form of a parade.
 - B. Colin Hoogland
 1. Very busy with the many Homecoming activities this week.
 2. Tammy Holman took selected 7th and 8th grade students to Grand Island National Recreational Area for a three-day trip through the Outdoor Sustainable Education Program.
 3. Marc Peterson took a group of students to Trees for Tomorrow.
 4. The Marawood Conference group met today to discuss the difficulty of maintaining band and choir numbers. Our middle school students have the option this year to attend both.
 - C. Vicki Lemke - Pupil Services Director Report
 1. Eleven students with special education needs transferred out this fall and eight students entered the district. Since mid-June there have been six new placements and we currently have three referrals. Current count in special education is 141.
 - D. Rick Morgan - Superintendent Report
 1. Terra Gastmann reported to the Board that there are many shortages in the industry due to producer issues, trucking shortages, and lack of employees. The federal government has waived nutrition guidelines so schools are able to purchase food that may not meet the whole grain components, etc. DPI is encouraging schools to purchase locally if possible and the district will be cooking more from scratch.
 2. A new 4K class was added and the 4K program is experiencing some challenges so some additional aides have been hired to help with the program.

3. Majority of the problematic construction issues have been addressed. Buses are using the new drop off and the parent drop off/pick up is going well.
4. The district office will begin moving into rooms #133 - #137 in the middle school with the superintendent moving this week and other office staff over the next few weeks.
- E. Business Manager Molly Lehman walked through the preliminary budget that will be used for the annual meeting on October 4, 2021.
- F. Student Liaison Morrone updated the Board on the fall participation numbers in sports and reported on Homecoming activities. Student reaction to the start of the year is that it is busy, chaotic, but good.
- G. The policy committee met on September 15 and discussed the Ethics Policy. Work on Series 200 was tabled to next month. The committee is collecting samples of policies on Naming of Buildings to discuss at next month's meeting, as well as a review of medication distribution to students.
- H. The revenue committee met on September 16 and discussed the auditorium update project. A group will be meeting with an auditorium expert to help determine a wish list and potential costs. Seating needs to be ordered by January for summer installation. A preliminary fundraising letter has been written. ESSER funds are being researched for use in the construction project. Other items included looking into air purifiers for classroom and website work.
- H. Facilities and transportation committee met on September 16 and discussed the purchase of a snowblower and pallet forks for the skid steer. Bussing is going well and bids are being prepared for a new bus for next year.
- F. Business services committee met on September 16 and discussed:
 1. Additional compensation meeting this week will be looking at other districts compensation models and a document has been created for using ESSER funds that are required to be used for student support.
 2. Construction is still on time and the budget is good.
 3. Reviewed staffing needs due to a challenging 4K class.
 4. Reviewed board vacancy procedure.
 5. Other items included adding pool updates at future meetings and additional needs for the bus garage revamp..
 6. The board agenda was reviewed and bills will be reviewed prior to the meeting.
- G. Curriculum committee held their first meeting on September 16. The committee would like to have community and staff members join the committee.
- H. CESA #12 Board of Control met on August 17th. Items included regular agenda items, superintendent meeting discussion on critical race theory and how to increase the number of substitute teachers.

VI.. Items for Discussion and Possible Action

- A. Motion (Krog/Rose) to continue with Return to Learn Plan A as recommended. Motion was amended by Krog to include the return to school for all asymptomatic students K-12 on Tuesday, September 21st. Motion carried 5-2 (Baxter/Houdek).
- B. Motion (Houdek/Baxter) to have students mask on buses as required by federal regulations Motion failed 2-5 (Fox, Halmstad, Krog, Pesko, Rose).
- C. President Pesko reviewed the Miron Owner report for this month. We are still positive in the contingency fund. Some of this month's many projects included completion of west parking lot and line striping, exterior brick and cast stone, roof insulation, and light pole installation in the west lot.
- D. There is a candidate for the board vacancy. There will be an agenda item in October to interview and vote.
- E. Motion (Krog/Baxter) to appoint Paula Houdek as the Board's Legislative Liaison. Motion carried 7-0.

- F. Following extensive discussion on the Ethics Policy section of the Employee Handbook, the approval was tabled to next month.
- G. There were no recommendations for this month regarding Dean of Students and Public Relations position.
- H. The additional compensation committee met and discussed the issue of compression of teaching staff salaries and support staff not included in the salary schedule increases. The committee is looking at statewide comparisons. Another meeting is scheduled for October and a recommendation is expected to be made at the October meeting.
- I. The annual meeting agenda was reviewed. No changes were made.
- J. Dan Virnig, President of the Loggers United Booster Club updated the Board on the history of the booster club and it's unique role in supporting both athletic and academic groups within the school. They have recently reached \$100,000 in assistance to students in the past four and a half years and Dan listed many of the things the committee has accomplished through volunteer work and monetary gifts. Community members and school staff are encouraged to attend meetings held the fourth Monday of each month in the Forward Bank community room. Updates to the Board were suggested every quarter.
- K. Motion (Krob/Baxter) to approve purchase of materials for Logger Camp shed not to exceed \$25,000.00. Motion carried 7-0.
- L. An additional bleacher project cost due to a mistake in the original estimate of manufacturing handrails and half-steps was identified. The bleacher company will pay the manufacturing cost and the school the materials cost to make up the difference.
- M. Motion (Houdek/Rose) to approve the purchase of a new van for \$29,095.00 for the after-school program paid from 21st Century Grant. Motion carried 7-0.
- N. Motion (Pesko/Rose) to approve purchase of snow blower for skid steer for \$8,162.00. Motion carried 7-0.
- O. Motion (Krog/Fox) to approve the preliminary budget for 2021-2022 as presented for the budget hearing/annual meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

VII. Consent Items.

- A. Motion (Houdek/Rose) to approve minutes from August 16, 2021 Board meeting. Motion carried 7-0.
- B. Motion (Krog/Fox) to approve personnel report as presented. Motion carried 7-0.
 - 1. Approved hiring Kelly Bamke, LTE early childhood teacher; Katie Reinke, LTE paraprofessional; Ann Grzywnowicz, 4K teacher; Christine McMillan, cook; Ellie Lochner, middle school assistant cross country coach; Lance Heizler, middle school assistant football coach; Lynn Olson, Title I teacher; Erika Smith, LTE paraprofessional; Caitlyn Dittel, Middle school yearbook advisor.
 - 2. Approved renewal of faculty/staff extracurricular contracts.
 - 3. Approved resignation of Jacob Olson, junior varsity boys basketball coach and Tristin Holden, middle school assistant football coach.
- C. Motion (Fox/Krog) to approve bills from August 2021 (#348897-348980 and wires) for a total of \$547,604.46.

IX. The next regular board meeting will be held on October 18, 2021.

- X. Motion (Fox/Krog) to convene into executive session at the conclusion of the open session pursuant to: WI Stat. Sec. 19.85(1)(c) for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, retirement, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Motion carried 7-0 with roll call vote at 8:32 p.m.
 - Personnel Report Process
 - Board Member Committee Roles and REsponsibilities
 - Review of Personnel Issue

- XI. The Board may reconvene into open session pursuant to WI Stat. Sec. 19.85(1), if necessary, to act on motions made during the executive session.
- XII. Motion to reconvene into open session. Motion carried 7-0 with roll call vote.
- XIII. Motion to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Baxter, 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 20, 2021
6:00 PM

Anne Baxter, Clerk
Board of Education