

*October 13, 2022
Colona, IL*

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Julie Wittenauer, Bill Rossow, Lindsey Trickey, and Patricia Sedlock

Absent: Ray Kutzman, Julie Arnold, Dennis Teichman

Also Present: Mike Carlson, Michael Ruff, Todd Lohman, Melanie Hergert, Cory Cowan and Edith Glackin

The meeting began with the recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance

Good News Items included: Colona Grade School has been determined to meet requirements in implementing one or more of the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). This recognition was provided by the Illinois State Board of Educations. Colona Grade School was given a donation of \$2000 from The Guardian Angel Fund to be used toward helping students that may have financial or family hardship. Nurse Jill is coording this endeavor. Congratulations to Mrs. Julie Wittenauer for being recognized to reach the level of an Established Board Leader from IASB. Thank you to Mr. Carlson in recognition of Principal Appreciation Day. The Student Council hosted a food drive and collected four tables worth of non-perishable food for the Colona Food Pantry,

There were no visitors or individuals present to speak to any agenda item.

Julie Arnold arrived at 7:08 p.m.

The Principal reported Students of the Month were: Caden Jagers, Adalynn Gabel, Matthew Norin, Carter Ervin, Harper Moulton, Tori Starkweather, Aybriana Park, Abraham Ramos, Aniyah Mays, Emersyn Teichman and Jaiden Byorum. The book fair had a great turnout. The instruction leadership team is reviewing the IAR and MAP data. Student led conferences were held on September 29 and September 30. Approximately 163 conferences were held. We will host a Veteran's Day assembly on November 11 at 9:30a.m. Colona Grade School is working with NIU to get our students scheduled for their tutoring program.

The Athletic Director shared that volleyball has ended and Coach Dittmar did a great job coaching both teams. Colona hosted the conference cross country meet on October 4 at Scott Family Park. Boys' basketball sign ups are underway as is cheerleading. Wrestling sign ups will begin in November.

The Maintenance report listed general maintenance performed for the month.

The PTA minutes detailed the PTA will need volunteers for pie pickup. The fall craft fair had two food trucks and 30 vendors signed up. The PTA will provide breakfast during conferences. Jill Seys was approved for a Flocabulary subscription. PTA received a \$600 check for the Masonic Scholarship fund. Breakfast with Santa is planned for December 10.

A Motion was made by Bill Rossow, seconded, by Patricia Sedlock to approve Consent Agenda, which included the following:

- 5a. Approval of the minutes from the budget hearing from September 15, 2022*
- 5b. Approval of regular board meeting minutes from September 15, 2022*
- 5c. Approve the closed session board meeting minutes from September 15, 2022*
- 5d. Approval of bills for the month*
- 5e. Approval of the activity report for the month*
- 5f. Approve an extended leave for Taylor Siwek (approx 3/10/23-5/8/23)*
- 5g. Approve an extended leave for Mckenna Keith (approx 11/28/22-2/6/23)*
- 5h. Approve the donation in the amount of \$2000.00 from Guardian Angels Fund to be used for items needed by student(s) due to financial/family hardships*

Roll Call Vote: Rossow- aye; Sedlock - aye; Sedlock - aye; Arnold; Wittenauer - aye; Trickey- aye; 5 ayes; no nays; two absent, Motion carried.

Cory Cowan from Gorenz and Associates presented the FY22 audit reports. The district received a Financial Profile Score of 3.90 due to long term outstanding debt. Overall the school district is in good financial standing and has healthy balances with operating funds (\$5,147,323 EOY). Federal and flow through sources have seen a significant increase due to ESSR funds, and this is something to consider for future reference. Real estate tax revenue has been steady and evidence based funding has a slight increase. Expenditures for the district remained average with salaries and benefits being the most significant in the categories of salaries and benefits, purchased services, supplies and materials, capital outlay and tuition and other objects. A copy of the annual audit is available in the district office.

Todd Lohman from Lohman Companies was present to discuss the history, rate changes and current medical coverage options to the BOE. One key group (those who work less than 12 months) struggle to find value in the plan that has been offered to them. A different option for this group, single coverage, would help make Colona Grade School a competitive employer in the area. Colona School District has one of the lowest rates of 12 schools (large and small) in the area.

Dr. Ruff invited the BOE to look at the new addition at any time they are available. The addition project is on schedule up to this point. Upcoming concerns are supply issues and obtaining an occupancy permit. Goetz Concrete will be here this week to level the ground and grade for landscaping. The yellow equipment does not need to be moved, but it will be something to consider in the future. Other future considerations for that area would be a basketball court, blacktop, swings, etc. The current grades that use that area for recess have mentioned that there is no area for students when the ground is wet or covered with snow.

ISBE is offering a School Maintenance Grant this year that will match \$50,000 maximum. Dr. Ruff has been working with the architect for some project ideas to present to the BOE for their approval. Project ideas can include ten year health, life, safety issues, doors, window, parking lot, lighting, and restroom upgrades.

The BOE requested Dr. Ruff to follow up with the sign company regarding the new sign outside the gymnasium.

Other items discussed included tax levy considerations, SY24 Calendar, inviting Reatha Owen from IASB to have a workshop with the BOE.

A motion was made by Bill Rossow, seconded by Lindsey Trickey to enter closed session for Discussion of Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1); Discussion of Collective Negotiation with the Colona Education Association Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2

Roll Call Vote: Wittenauer – aye; Rossow- aye; Sedlock - aye; Arnold - aye; Trickey – aye; 5 ayes; no nays, two absent, Motion carried

The board entered closed session at 8:51 p.m.

A Motion was made by Patricia Sedlock, seconded by Bill Rossow to return to open session at 9:10 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Sedlock – aye; Rossow - aye; Wittenauer - aye; Trickey - aye; Arnold - aye; 5 ayes; no nays, two absent, Motion carried

A motion was made by Julie Arnold seconded by Patricia Sedlock to accept the 2022 Colona School District #190 Audit Report, Transfers and Adjustments as presented by Gorenz and Associates, Ltd.

Roll Call Vote: Arnold - aye; Rossow - aye; Wittenauer - aye; Trickey - aye; Sedlock - aye; 5 ayes, no nays, two absent, Motion carried

A motion was made by Patricia Sedlock, seconded by Lindsey Trickey to approve Pete Hill to share 50% of the Athletic Director duties.

Roll Call Vote: Wittenauer - aye; Sedlock - aye; Arnold - aye; Trickey - aye; Rossow - aye; 5 ayes, no nays, two absent, Motion carried.

A motion was made by Lindsey Trickey, seconded by Bill Rossow to approve the hiring of Jaycie Keith as a 6 hr/day Cook pending the successful completion of all employment requirements

Roll Call Vote: Trickey - aye; Rossow - aye; Sedlock - aye; Arnold - aye; Wittenauer - aye; 5 ayes, no nays, two absent, Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Lindsey Trickey seconded by Julie Arnold to approve the hiring of Brendan Keith 6 hr/day custodian pending the successful completion of all employment requirements.

Roll Call Vote: Wittenauer - aye; Rossow - aye; Arnold - aye; Sedlock - aye; Trickey - aye; 5 ayes, no nays, two absent, Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Patricia Sedlock and seconded by Bill Rossow to approve the hiring of Leah Stropes as a 6.5 hr/day paraprofessional pending the successful completion of all employment requirements.

Roll Call Vote: Sedlock - aye; Trickey - aye; Wittenauer - aye; Rossow - aye; Arnold - aye; 5 ayes, no nays, two absent, Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Julie Arnold and seconded by Bill Rossow to approve the hiring of Emily Ryerson as a 5.5 hr/day Temporary full time paraprofessional pending the successful completion of all employment requirements

Roll Call Vote: Wittenauer – aye; Rossow- aye; Sedlock - aye; Teichman - aye; Arnold - aye; Trickey – aye; 5 ayes; no nays, two absent, Motion carried

A motion was made by Julie Arnold and seconded by Lindsey Trickey to approve the 2022-2023 Student Handbook (updated)

Roll Call Vote: Rossow - aye; Trickey - aye; Wittenauer - aye; Sedlock - aye; Arnold - aye; 5 ayes, no nays, two absent, Motion carried

A motion was made by Bill Rossow and seconded by Patricia Sedlock to approve the the recommendation to enter a five year purchase agreement under \$10,000 with Hughes Telephone as presented

Roll Call Vote: Sedlock - aye; Arnold - aye; Trickey - aye; Rossow - aye; Arnold - aye; 5 ayes, no nays, two absent, Motion carried

A Motion was made by Bill Rossow, seconded by Patricia Sedlock to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote: 5 ayes; no nays, one absent, Motion carried

Having noted that all agenda items had been discussed, the meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

DATE