

THE GIST
BROOKFIELD R-III SCHOOL DISTRICT
OPEN SESSION --- REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2021

The Brookfield R-III Board of Education, Brookfield, Missouri met in open session on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in person in the HS Media Center. All board members were present in person: Jim McIntyre, Blake DeVoy, Jered Wallace, Galen Hicks, Burnie Hicks, Mandy Tarpene and Dave Shaw. President McIntyre called the meeting to order and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Collins asked to add two items under New Business: Patterson Family Foundation and Covid 19 Update. The board approved the Agenda as amended unanimously. There were no public comments. The board approved the Consent Agenda items as presented. The board reviewed the upcoming calendar dates.

Dr. Collins reviewed the finance reports for January 31, 2021 with the board.

The board reviewed the 2021/22 Calendar Option B (see attached), as this is the option that the Planning Committee reported to Dr. Collins that most of the staff voted on. This calendar has school starting on Monday, August 23, 2021, and ending Tuesday, May 24, 2022. The board unanimously approved Calendar Option B as the 2021/22 Official School Calendar.

Dr. Collins gave a construction update. Everything is moving along much more quickly now, and now they are waiting for the weather to improve to pour the slabs. Dr. Collins reported that he goes out to look at the progress being made quite frequently and will keep the board updated on how things are progressing.

Dr. Collins discussed the water meter and water usage at the Career Center with the board. As discussed in prior board meetings when discussing the district's utilities, it was discovered a few months ago that the district has never been billed for the meter that exists at the Career Center. Of course, this is millions of gallons of water over the course of time. The City has come up with a compromise to figure out how to get this matter resolved and it is suggesting that the District pay for the water meter that was never billed to the District, for a cost of \$909.00, and that the District pay one-half of the water consumption, which to comes to \$11,656.41. A discussion followed. The approved to pay the two charges for a total of \$12,565.41. Director B. Hicks abstained from voting. All other directors voted yea.

Dr. Collins reported that the District has received \$1,142,835 in additional one-time federal stimulus funds known as ESSER II funds. This amount was very unexpected. The funds must be used by September of 2023. Dr. Collins believes that a portion of these funds would be an excellent way to fund the HVAC control and energy related improvement projects coming up in the near future. Other than that, he would like to wait and see where the remaining funds can be used most effectively in the near future.

Dr. Collins and the board reviewed the RFP for HVAC controls and energy related improvement projects (see attached). The board approved the RFP as submitted unanimously.

Dr. Collins shared the following timeline for the HVAC controls and energy related improvement projects:

1. Advertise PUBLIC NOTICE on 02/24/21 and 03/03/21 in the Linn County Leader.
2. RFP's due to Central Office by 3 p.m. on 03/11/21.
3. Interview qualified bidders the week of 03/15/21.
4. Contract offered to successful bidder 03/19/21.

The board reviewed and renewed the 1-year renewal with OPAA as our food service contractor.

Dr. Collins presented certificates to each board member in honor of their hard work and dedication to the Brookfield R-III School District and for School Board Recognition Week. He thanked them for their many hours of service, especially during this past year of Covid-19.

Dr. Collins reviewed Senate Bill 55 with the board, as well as other proposed legislation. The board approved unanimously STUDENT PROTECTION RESOLUTION (see attached), in an effort to show support for public education and the right for all children to receive a quality K-12 education.

Dr. Collins reviewed Budget Amendment #3 with the board. Many items have changed since the last budget amendment on both the revenue and the expense side. The amendment has revenues coming in at a total positive change of \$408,494, and the expenses coming in a total negative change of \$230,199. This amendment would lead to a new projection of a positive \$117,157, and would also include a one-time stipend for employees for participation in additional Covid related professional development as assigned by the administration. The stipend would be paid from County Cares funds.

Director B. Hicks moved to approve Budget Amendment #3 as presented by Dr. Collins, which includes the following:

A stipend for full-time employees for participation in additional COVID-related professional development as assigned by the administration under the following parameters:

1. *To qualify for the stipend, employees must have been employed by the District since at least September 1, 2020.*
2. *The stipend for the full-time employees will be in the amount of \$500.00, to be paid via CARES Act funding provided by the County to the District for COVID-related expenditures. The stipend for part-time employees will be pro-rated in the amount of \$250.00.*
3. *The Superintendent will determine the details of the administration of the stipends and all decisions by the Superintendent will be final.*

Direction DeVoy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This stipend will be paid mostly likely in April.

Dr. Collins gave a Covid-19 updated, stating the following:

Total students testing positive since 08/24/20 = 51
Total faculty/staff testing positive since 08/24/20 = 23
Current students positive for Covid-19 as of 02/16/21 = 1
Current faculty/staff positive for Covid-19 as of 02/16/21 = 0

He also stated that the Linn Co. Health Department has transitioned to a 10-day quarantine for asymptomatic close contacts. They may return to work/school after 10 days from last contact if they remain asymptomatic, and they must wear a mask and self-monitor the entire 14 days.

Dr. Collins reported that the district has received a \$8800 grant from the Patterson Family Foundation. The purpose of the grant is to help address pandemic-related needs of students and staff, or to help off-set expenses incurred due to the pandemic. Dr. Collins stated that he will be dividing these funds between the four building levels to help them with their 20-21 expenses due to the pandemic.

Administrative reports were presented to the board.

There being no further business to discuss, the board moved into closed Session at 6:45 p.m. During closed session the following resignations and retirements were approved:

Monty Montgomery – resignation effective at the end of the 20-21 School Year
Cindy Blakely – retirement effective at the end of the 20-21 School Year
Kevin Helton – retirement effective at the end of the 20-21 School Year
Paula Fairchild – retirement effective at the end of the 20-21 School Year