

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

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

Dr. Collins asked that the review of the 20-21 audit be deleted from the agenda, that an item regarding the purchase of two new buses for 22-23 school year be added to the agenda under New Business, and that discussion regarding the date for the December board meeting be added to the agenda under New Business. The Agenda was approved as amended. The Consent Agenda items were approved as presented.

Under program evaluation Mrs. Wilbeck reviewed the Safety, Emergency Response, & Intervention programs the district has in place. Also under program evaluation, Mrs. Wilbeck and Mrs. Croy reported on each of their school climates and the different ways they communicate with their staff, parents and students.

The board reviewed upcoming calendar dates, as well as finance reports for 10/31/21. Dr. Collins specifically pointed out the declining enrollments numbers, a trend happening all over north Missouri in small rural areas. This decline most certainly will affect the district's finances in years to come.

The board voted unanimously to approve the update of the district's Safe Return to School Plan, as presented.

Dr. Collins gave a Proposition 2 Construction Project (baseball/softball field) update and an HVAC upgrade update. The Prop 2 project is almost complete and a punch list has been created to finish out the project. The final payment to the construction company will not be paid until the project is completed. Regarding the HVAC upgrades, that final payment is also being held until everything is completed also, which will hopefully be in the very near future also.

Dr. Collins reported that our ESSER III plan has been approved by the State and we are now waiting for the funds to be distributed, which is approximately \$2.5M. These funds must be spent by 2024. These funds will be used on summer school, tutoring, our credit recovery/online learning program, remodel and upgrades to all bathrooms, update to our playground, and HVAC work in the ES/MS gym.

Dr. Collins and the board discussed once again the impact the Franklin court case and the expiration of the temporary tax levy will have on the district's finances. Both these factors will lead to a significant decrease in our tax collections. The board discussed placing a no tax increase issue on the April 2022 ballot. It would need to pass by 4/7's margin. L.J. Hart will be at the December board meeting to explain what our options are regarding ballot language and district financing over the next several years.

Dr. Collins updated the board on the Trails Project, which the district has already pledged \$35,000 toward. The total cost of the project is \$401,195 and the grant has been approved. However, the local match didn't come in as well as expected so now the County Commission and Dr. Collins are discussing how the County and Brookfield R-III may be able to cover the shortage so this project can

move forward and succeed. The board was agreeable to Dr. Collins working with the County Commission on this matter because this project will enhance and help Brookfield significantly.

Dr. Collins reported that the district received \$2600 for the 2003 Freightliner FS65 Thomas Built School Bus that we bid out through Purple Wave. Hopefully the new owner will come soon to pick up the bus.

Dr. Collins stated that the first day candidates can file for the board openings is Tuesday, December 7, 2021, beginning at 8 a.m. The last day they can file is Tuesday, December 28, 2021, ending at 5 p.m. This year Jim McIntyre's and Galen Hicks' terms end so they will need to file if they wish to run again. The election is April 5, 2022.

Dr. Collins reminded the board that the district will need to bid out our Agent of Records needs for both our health insurance and our property and liability insurance in 2022. Health must be bid out every three years, while property and liability must be bid out every six years.

The board voted unanimously to approve giving each staff member \$30 in Brookfield Bucks as a holiday gift. These will be given out on December 21st.

Dr. Collins reported that the DNR grant for help with purchasing new buses was approved. This grant will pay for approximately a fourth of each new bus. The board voted unanimously to approve Dr. Collins sending out bids for two new buses for the 2022-23 school year.

The board voted unanimously to move the December regular board meeting to Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

Administrative reports were sent to the board in their packets.

There being no further business to discuss, the board adjourned at 6:38 p.m. and moved into closed session.