

STEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 220 STEWARD, ILLINOIS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting

July 21st, 2021

6:00 pm –In person meeting, publicized and posted for participation.

Minutes taken by Matt Hayes.

The regularly scheduled meeting of July 21st, 2021 was called to order by President Chris Cardott.

On roll call at 6:03pm, the following members were present:

Board members present: Chris Cardott, Nate Ramsey, Dean Svela, Marcy DeLille
Julie Lovett, Chele Wells and Superintendent Steve Simpson

Board members late:

Board members absent:

Visitors:

Public comment:

Presentations and reports:

On a motion by Dean Svela and a second by Julie Lovett, and a roll call of all aye, consent was given for the minutes of the June 16th, 2021 board meeting.

On a motion by Julie Lovett and a second by Nate Ramsey, and a roll call of all aye, consent was given for the bills and the Insurance bill from Prairie State Insurance.

1. Good news communication and report from Superintendent Simpson
 - a. Superintendent Simpson commented that everyone that he has met here at the school has been very kind so far.
 - b. Thank you to Galen Cardott for helping with the fire pump issue.
 - c. Superintendent Simpson has had some good candidates for the custodian position.
 - d. Interviewed a good candidate for 5th grade and is waiting on her interview with Stillman Valley to find out if she would accept this position.
 - e. In need of a PE teacher. He has one applicant so far.
 - f. Mrs. Stroh is endorsed in P.E. and is an option if we can find an upstairs teacher easier.
2. Board communications for the Good of Steward
 - a. Thank you for all the work Nate Ramsey did to organize the playground work.

- b. Normally volleyball practice starts before school, concerns about whether there will be a volleyball season.
 - c. There will be a Zoom meeting on Monday, July 26th with the Meridian conference schools to discuss the Fall sports.
- 3. Recognition and comments from employees and the public
 - a. Good news on teachers who have been coming to school preparing their classrooms already.
 - b. Good news on the people who have been working on the library.
- 4. Update on playground project
 - a. Start with five or six loads of pea gravel at \$275 per load.
 - b. Nate Ramsey will contact Rogers Ready Mix to see if they are willing to donate some gravel.
 - c. Marcy Delille will check with another supplier to see if she can get a lower bid.
 - d. If we do have a donation we need to take pictures and put it in the paper.
- 5. Window A/C unit update/approval
 - a. Nate shared a picture of the air conditioner unit.
 - b. We would need 7 units.
 - c. The rental bid was higher than expected.
 - d. There are people willing to donate money to purchase new ones. Maybe we could ask for more donations.
 - e. Will look into purchasing our own AC units. Marcy Delille will look at Lowe's for a 10,000-15,000btu unit.
 - f. Julie Lovett will ask the Palmer's if Walmart would be willing to help out.
 - g. Dean Svela will check with Rockford for AC units.
- 6. Bookkeeping transition update
 - a. The current bank balance is \$972,852.65.
 - b. \$580,000 was transferred from Bloom Township and \$269,840.05 was received from Lee County property tax.
 - c. Bloom Township will transfer the remaining money in our account by the end of July.
 - d. Processed the first payroll on July 15th and all went well. It was one payroll check for Superintendent Simpson.
 - e. Matt Hayes needs to be bonded.
- 7. Staff handbook update
 - a. Superintendent Simpson will meet with the faculty to go through and edit the staff handbook.
- 8. Staff contract update
 - a. Change the language from a union to an agreement.
 - b. Will share the contract with the lawyer to clean up the agreement.
 - c. Marcy Delille to look for a teacher contract from the past in the old minutes.
- 9. Health Insurance options
 - a. Jim Baxter is the Egyptian Insurance contact.
 - b. Because of the size of the school we qualify for age-based premiums.
 - c. We can offer up to 5 plans from the options.

- d. Suggested to take off the platinum plans from the options.
- e. Suggested to have an annual enrollment for teachers to sign up for each year.
- f. Employees need to choose a payment by September 1st.

On a motion by Chele Wells and a second Julie Lovett, and a roll call of all aye, the meeting moved into executive session at 7:32pm.

On a motion by Dean Svela and a second by Nate Ramsey, and on a roll call of all aye, the meeting moved out of executive session at 8:32pm.

On a motion by Julie Lovett and a second by Chele Wells, and on a roll call of all aye, consent was given to Superintendent Simpson to pick five plans from Egyptian Health to offer employees.

10. Updated school guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health
 - a. Superintendent Simpson shared some information about COVID guidelines for the Fall.
 - b. He is looking into a saliva-based testing kit that can be done twice a week. The state will pay for the kits. Results are in 24 hours.
 - c. This is a proactive screening.
 - d. It would be given to students whose parents have given parental consent.
 - e. The school would be responsible for setting up the room and keeping a list of kids who can participate.
 - f. The screening would cut down on the number of kids who get quarantined.
 - g. Lee County just hit a 47% vaccination rate, which is the highest county in the area.
 - h. The board gave Superintendent Simpson permission to follow the State's advice on COVID procedures.
 - i. The kids will continue to have their temperatures checked as they come to school.
 - j. Masks are always to be worn on the bus and it would be nice if the bus windows were opened.
 - k. Quarantined students will be treated as any student who is out for an extended period.
11. Plan for ice cream social
 - a. Julie Lovett thought it would be a good idea for everyone to meet Superintendent Simpson as well as the new staff.
 - b. Because of COVID it might be a good idea to do the event in October.
 - c. Board to provide lunch for the TI day on August 13th.
12. Plans/ Options for Open House
 - a. Provide 15-minute time slots for parents and students to come in and drop off supplies on Thursday, August 12th.
 - b. Stipend for teachers to work on those days. (Sub pay would be the rate)
13. Building security/ locks

- a. Changing the locks on the exterior doors and office doors will be added to the budget.
 - b. Superintendent Simpson will look at some other vendors for bids.
14. Bus report
- a. Cappel's bus repair report was shared with the board.
 - b. Nate Ramsey suggested we take it somewhere else for a second opinion.
 - c. Bockman's Truck and Fleet in Dekalb was suggested.
15. Employment of personnel from executive session.
- a. Mike Smith sent in his resignation letter.

On a motion by Dean Svela and a second by Julie Lovett and a roll call of all aye, the resignation of Mike Smith was accepted.

16. Meeting dates for 2021/2022 to be set during next month's meeting.
- a. It was decided to keep the meeting on the third Wednesday at 6:00pm.
 - b. The Conor O'Rourke tournament to be added to next month's agenda.

On a motion by Julie Lovett and a second by Chele Wells, and a roll call of all aye, the Board adjourned at 9:42pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by the Board of Education:

Marcy DeLille, Secretary
Board of Education
August 18th, 2021

Chris Cardott, President
Board of Education