

CHESTER COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 139 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting November 18, 2021

The Board of Education of Chester Community Unit School District No. 139 held their Regular Meeting on November 18, 2021, in High School FACS Classroom B217. President Vasquez called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present: Randi Belton, Nikki Malley, Charles Fricke, Matt Davitz, Lorin Mott, Debi Caraway, Trent Vasquez.

Motion was made by Malley and seconded by Mott to enter into executive session at 6:00 p.m. for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. Upon roll call Davitz voted aye, Mott voted aye, Fricke voted aye, Malley voted aye, Belton voted aye, Caraway voted aye, Vasquez voted aye. 7 aye, 0 nay; motion carried.

Motion was made by Davitz and seconded by Belton to return to open session at 7:30 p.m. Upon roll call Davitz voted aye, Mott voted aye, Fricke voted aye, Malley voted aye, Belton voted aye, Caraway voted aye Vasquez voted aye. 7 aye, 0 nay; motion carried.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

- Stephanie Kennedy addressed the board, not as a teacher, but as a parent with concerns regarding masks, stating the mandate is an overreach of the Governor. Kennedy commented that Perryville, Missouri, just 20 minutes away, has a mask optional policy in place for the current school year. Kennedy stated that mask violations are given to students yet members of the board are seen not wearing their masks at sporting events, questioning the difference between day verse evening. Kennedy also commented about the district's plan to host a vaccination clinic and feels this creates an impression the district is promoting these vaccines.
- Jarrold Peters, speaking as a parent, expressed concern about the emphasis being put on mask enforcement within the schools as opposed to student grades and education, pointing out how low the school's scores are. Peters also questioned the student mask violation procedures listed on the agenda for approval.
- Brad Coleman commented he had nothing more to add, but wanted to reiterate what had already been stated.
- Scott Conder addressed the board as a parent with concerns of discipline. Conder also stated that rainbow flags should not be displayed in classrooms.

Motion was made by Fricke and seconded by Davitz to approve the agenda and items as listed. Upon roll call all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Maintenance Report:

- Firing up the boilers at the high school to prepare for winter.
- Winterized the track shed.
- The 5 AC units in the 2005 addition of the high school have been having issues. Belts have been replaced. Trane was called regarding an air sensor issue in one of the units.
- Installing vape detectors at both buildings.
- May need to mow one more time at the grade school.

Grade School Athletic Report:

- Boys and girls basketball are in the middle of their seasons. The boys 7th grade team won the Prairie du Rocher tournament. Coach Kern and Coach Cartwright are doing a great job.
- Mrs. Furuholmen and the cheerleaders are doing a great job.
- Still looking for a track coach.

High School Athletic Report:

- The football team finished as conference champions, overall record of 7-3 and qualified for the playoffs. Freddy Alvarez, Shane Bickett, Jacob Cowell, Isaac Jany, Koby Jany, Dylan Kelkhoff and Jared Landeros made All-Conference.
- The volleyball team finished 16-13 and made it to the second round of Regionals. Paige Vasquez and Mabry Wingerter made All-Conference.
- Girls basketball practice started on November 1 and their first game will be at the Sparta Tournament on November 17.
- Boys basketball practice started November 8 and their first game will be on November 23 against Anna Jonesboro.
- The 1,000 point banner has arrived.

Curriculum Report:

- RTI for the second quarter is up and running for grades 6-11.
- Teachers participated in a Wellness Wednesday presentation on November 3 developed by Mrs. Barton called "Mindfulness in the Classroom".
- All ELL student data has been updated in SIS and Skyward.
- Star testing and DIBELS benchmark testing will be administered after the return of school in January for mid-year benchmark testing.
- Mrs. Stegmann will begin entering accommodations for IAR, PSAT and SAT state testing.

Grade School Principal's Report:

- Ag in the classroom will be in the school on Friday, December 3.
- Mrs. Handel, Mrs. Liefer and Mrs. Furuholmen hosted a Native American Day on November 3rd. Friends of Mrs. Handel, who participate in local reenactments, set up a teepee, brought in local arrow heads and native tools that would have been used.
- Parent-teacher conferences were held on October 21-22. Of the 649 conferences scheduled, 574 were held (88.4%).
- Several classes made and mailed out cards to area Veterans or were delivered to local homes.

High School Principal's Report:

- CHS held a successful event on Friday, October 29. Students enjoyed Kona Ice, games and music.
- The student council did a great job organizing the Halloween event. A big thank you to Emma Bryant.
- Will be sitting down with students to discuss the pros and cons of RTI.
- The yearly curricular meetings have begun.
- A final exam schedule has been prepared.
- Esports was discussed. Mrs. Meyer is hoping to have this up and running by Spring.

Superintendent's Report:

- FOIA requests were received by SmartProcure.
- With Covid-19 numbers continuing to be significantly lower than when we started the school year, Pasero understands having several requests to reconsider the mask mandate. The board is considering all of its options at this time moving forward. However, with this in mind, we are asking for approval of violation procedures for students chronically in violation of this mandate. Please note those would not end up on permanent records, but would be used in Skyward to track and send parents notices.
- Regular board meeting dates for 2022. Pasero noted some Wednesday dates to avoid P/T conferences and 8th grade graduation.
- Pasero informed the board of a school calendar adjustment for December 17 to reflect an early dismissal. High school finals will be finished early that day and there is typically an early dismissal prior to holiday breaks.
- Digital Equity grant approved for computer purchases towards 1:1.
- Met with a committee to look at the CARES III funding opportunities and will begin working on that application.
- Pasero prepared a preliminary levy request for 2021. With 2020 being the final collection for the expiring TIF district, about \$2.5 million in "new" property will be added to the EAV for 2021. This will be a nice benefit to the district as well as other taxing bodies. Pasero is estimating the benefit to be an additional \$50,000+ in extension.
- The newest sinkhole on the west side of the high school building is believed to be a storm drainage issue. Sewer lines appear to be in good condition coming off that end of Juergens Gym. The plan is to reroute the storm drains north, tying in the existing parking lot drain and sending it all north past the workshop shed. The cost of the proposal is \$49,750.
- We have identified a bubble above the 2005 addition and believe it has been taking on water. We are reaching out to Giesler to cut it out and repair.
- Recommending the Heartland Seating proposal of \$15, 215 to repair and replace parts of the grade school bleachers.
- Requesting approval of the base bid from Midwest Track Builders of Wauconda in the amount of \$96,897 for the resurfacing of the high school track, with the option of alternate bid #1 for an additional \$38,700 that provides Seal-Flex to provide a red track in place of black per the base bid. Pasero noted \$50,000 will be used from the maintenance grant for this project.
- Recognition of Principal Appreciation Day was October 29.
- Looking at coming up with a plan to move to 1:1 with devices for grades 7-12. Pasero met with some teachers but will need to put a planning committee in place to work out many of the details in making this type of transition. This would be in the fall of 2022.
- We continue to have positions available for paraprofessionals, custodians and bus drivers. Pasero is looking at the possibility of posting a Social Worker position.
- Recommending a 6-month technology contract with QNS to put the district on a regular fiscal year. A 36-month contract would include a dedicated tech, needed if we are to move forward with 1:1 instruction; this could wait until spring to approve.
- In the process of setting up a vaccine clinic at the grade school. This would be provided by IDPH. Pasero is waiting to hear back from them, if they will be given an allotment of the children's dose (5yr-12yr). Tentatively, we are considering the first date at the end of December but IDPH has not given their mobile clinics the go ahead for the child doses. From the survey, Pasero anticipates between 50-100 doses from such a clinic.

At a previous meeting Fricke inquired about the policy of a mask infraction asking whether it was recorded in a student's permanent record. Fricke commented there was some miscommunication and wanted to apologize to Pasero, he was not asking for a mask violation policy be drawn up and felt the superintendent was receiving backlash due to this. Fricke stated he does not support the governor and feels discretion should be applied in the use of masks.

Motion was made by Fricke and seconded by Davitz to approve the consent agenda and items as listed. Upon roll call Fricke voted aye, Davitz voted aye, Mott voted aye, Malley voted aye, Belton voted aye, Caraway voted aye, Vasquez voted aye. 7 aye, 0 nay; motion carried.

- Minutes of the October 21, 2021 regular meeting and executive session;
- Bills in the amount of \$909,782.95 and payroll in the amount of \$488,349.55;
- Financial reports.

Adoption of the student mask violation procedures failed due to lack of motion.

Motion was made by Caraway and seconded by Belton to approve the proposal and quote from Red Dot for \$49,750.00 to repair storm and sewer lines on the west side of the high school and the above parking and drive through lane. Upon roll call Fricke voted aye, Davitz voted aye, Mott voted aye, Malley voted aye, Belton voted aye, Caraway voted aye, Vasquez voted aye. 7 aye, 0 nay; motion carried.

Motion was made by Mott and seconded by Malley to accept the base bid for the resurfacing of the high school track from Midwest Track Builders in the amount of \$96,897 as submitted. Upon roll call Fricke voted aye, Davitz voted aye, Mott voted aye, Caraway voted aye, Malley voted aye, Belton voted aye, Vasquez voted aye. 7 aye, 0 nay; motion carried.

Motion was made by Mott and seconded by Davitz to accept the proposal from Heartland Seating to service and repair the grade school bleachers in the amount of \$15,215 as submitted. Upon roll call Caraway voted aye, Belton voted aye, Malley voted aye, Mott voted aye, Davitz voted aye, Fricke voted aye, Vasquez voted aye. 7 aye, 0 nay; motion carried.

Motion was made by Caraway and seconded by Fricke to approve a 6-month Technology Support Service Agreement with QNS from January 1 to June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$29,940.50. Upon roll call Fricke voted aye, Davitz voted aye, Mott voted aye, Malley voted aye, Belton voted aye, Caraway voted aye, Vasquez voted aye. 7 aye, 0 nay; motion carried.

Motion was made by Fricke and seconded by Davitz to approve the regular Board of Education meeting dates for calendar year 2022 as listed. Upon roll call all members voted aye.

Regular Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2022

All meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month unless otherwise specified

- January 20, 2022
- February 16, 2022 (3rd Wednesday due to P/T Conferences)
- March 17, 2022
- April 21, 2022
- May 18, 2022 (3rd Wednesday due to 8th Grade Graduation)
- June 16, 2022
- July 21, 2022
- August 18, 2022
- September 15, 2022
- October 19, 2022 (3rd Wednesday due to P/T Conferences)
- November 17, 2022
- December 15, 2022

Motion was made by Davitz and seconded by Mott to accept the resignation of Carolyn Kish as high school art club sponsor. Upon roll call all members voted aye.

Motion was made by Caraway and seconded Malley to approve Dawnye Appel as high school art club sponsor for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon roll call Fricke voted aye, Davitz voted aye, Mott voted aye, Belton voted aye, Malley voted aye, Caraway voted aye, Vasquez voted aye. 7 aye, 0 nay; motion carried.

Motion was made by Fricke and seconded by Mott to approve Mike Liefer as 5/6th grade boys' basketball volunteer for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon roll call all members voted aye.

Motion was made by Fricke and seconded by Mott to approve Mike Heffernan as high school baseball volunteer for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon roll call all members voted aye.

Motion was made by Fricke and seconded by Belton to approve Boyd Miles as high school baseball volunteer for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon roll call all members voted aye.

Motion was made by Fricke and seconded by Belton to approve Ty Malley as high school baseball volunteer for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon roll call Fricke voted aye, Davitz voted aye, Mott voted aye, Malley abstained, Belton voted aye, Caraway voted aye, Vasquez voted aye. 7 aye, 0 nay, 1 abstain; motion carried.

Motion was made by Caraway and seconded by Belton to approve Crystal Tindall as high school softball volunteer for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon roll call all members voted aye.

Motion was made by Fricke and seconded by Davitz to employ Troy Masterson as 5/6th grade boys' basketball coach for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon roll call Fricke voted aye, Davitz voted aye, Mott voted aye, Malley voted aye, Belton voted aye, Caraway voted aye, Vasquez voted aye. 7 aye, 0 nay; motion carried.

Motion was made by Davitz and seconded by Mott to employ Chris Kern as 7th grade boys basketball coach for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon roll call Belton voted aye, Malley voted aye, Caraway voted aye, Mott voted aye, Davitz voted aye, Fricke voted aye, Vasquez voted aye. 7 aye, 0 nay; motion carried.

Motion was made by Fricke and seconded by Belton to employ Trevor Kelkhoff as high school head baseball coach for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon roll call Belton voted aye, Malley voted aye, Caraway voted aye, Mott voted aye, Davitz voted aye, Fricke voted aye, Vasquez voted aye. 7 aye, 0 nay; motion carried.

Motion was made by Caraway and seconded by Belton to employ Brett Klindworth as high school assistant baseball coach for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon roll call Fricke voted aye, Davitz voted aye, Mott voted aye, Caraway voted aye, Malley voted aye, Belton voted aye, Vasquez voted aye. 7 aye, 0 nay; motion carried.

Motion was made by Caraway and seconded by Fricke to employ Ryan Petrowske as high school head softball coach for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon roll call Fricke voted aye, Davitz voted aye, Mott voted aye, Caraway voted aye, Malley voted aye, Belton voted aye, Vasquez voted aye. 7 aye, 0 nay; motion carried.

Motion was made by Fricke and seconded by Mott to employ Justin Frazer as high school assistant softball coach for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon roll call Belton voted aye, Malley voted aye, Caraway voted aye, Mott voted aye, Davitz voted aye, Fricke voted aye, Vasquez voted aye. 7 aye, 0 nay; motion carried.

Motion was made by Fricke and seconded by Davitz to employ Chris Kern as high school head boys' track coach for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon roll call Fricke voted aye, Davitz voted aye, Mott voted aye, Caraway voted aye, Malley voted aye, Belton voted aye, Vasquez voted aye. 7 aye, 0 nay; motion carried.

Motion was made by Davitz and seconded by Malley to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Upon roll call all members voted aye.

The next REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Education will be held **Thursday, December 16, 2021**, at 7:30 p.m. (Executive Session at 6:30 p.m.) in the Chester High School FACS Classroom B217, 1901 Swanwick Street, Chester, IL 62233.