

Ralls County R-II School District  
Regular Board Meeting  
November 14, 2019  
Library  
Mark Twain Junior-Senior High School

**PUBLIC SESSION**

No one signed up to speak during public session.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Ralls County R-II Board of Education was called to order on Thursday, November 14, 2019, by President Pete Hilgenbrinck at 7:00 p.m. Board members Ron Evans, Danny Clark, Ritchie Palmer, Lori Robinson, Jason Liter, Michael Boling, and Superintendent Tara Lewis were present.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

1. Student Recognition: The following students and staff were recognized by the board and administration.
  - a. Elementary Habit Heroes: Kindal Watkins, Zoe Schwanke, Allison Hawkins, Saige Anderson, Kimberly Hernandez, Grady Davis, Layla Pendzinski, Royce Seymour, Remington Johnston, Adelyn Conrad, Jackson Stewart, Allison Hernandez, Bryn Mayerhoffer, Aliceson Gooding, Alan Martinez, Hunter Cummings, Bristol Sharp, Leland Rule, and Christine Smith (staff member). Adelyn Conrad, Jackson Stewart, Allison Hernandez, and Kimberly Hernandez were in attendance.
  - b. Junior High October Students of the Month: 6th Grade-Sophie Hicks & Eli Snodgrass; 7th Grade-Nolan Epperson; 8th Grade-Jayson Tarpein. Sophie Hicks was in attendance.
  - c. Junior High October Photography Winner: Shelby Murry
  - d. High School All Conference Cross Country: Bradon Fullenwider & Will Owen, 2nd Team honors
  - e. High School All Conference Softball: Olivia Graves, 2nd Team honors
  - f. High School All Conference Football: Avery Epperson, 2nd Team Offensive Running Back, 1st Team Defensive Linebacker; Jace Barton, 2nd Team Defensive End; Landon Moss, 2nd Team Defensive Back; Phillip Marti, 2nd Team Special Teams Punter
  - g. High School All District Cross Country: Zoe Miller, state qualifier and 15th place finish
  - h. FFA National FFA Degree: Clayton Robinson, Corbn Eckler, Stetson Klise
2. Long Range Facility Plan Draft: Several members of the committee were present to share the process used to reduce the budget for a potential five year plan reducing the amount from the original \$12 million to \$8 million. The last time taxes were increased for the school was in 1994 when a state mandate required a minimum operating levy. This will return as a decision item at the December Board meeting.
3. Administrative Reports: (CSIP 1.1, 2.2, 1.10, 1.11)
  - a. Clark Howell: Ag day, service learning day activities, Ralls County field trip for staff.
  - b. Joni Crossgrove: On waiting list for Therapy dog, no timeline has been given but we do have a direct contact for updates. Transportation information was shared and documentation of what repairs have been done thus far.
  - c. Natalie Gibson: An update was given to reflect on the happenings during the month of November including parent participation in Parent Teacher Conferences and the 4th Grade Wax Museum. Members were invited to attend the Thanksgiving Feast on November 25th and the Kids' Leadership Conference on the 26th. There are nearly 50 area students and 10 teachers planning to attend the event representing 3 schools.
  - d. Delores Woodhurst: Nextera Music presented an assembly in early November at the high school, junior high, and elementary. Their message that you are an MVP (you matter, you have value, you have purpose) was very well received by our students. RCEC presented a Live Wire demonstration for Mark Twain Junior-Senior High students. The junior high turkey trot will be at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 26, 2019. The counselors prepared an excellent Veterans Day assembly that all district students attended on Monday. Elizabeth Trower, a junior, shared information about her volunteer work as a guardian for Honor Flight. Summer Journey is already asking for our summer school course selections, so very soon we will begin planning for Summer School 2020. There has been an increase in problems with spectators at sporting events. Several patrons have been banned from attending future extra curricular events in the district.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

1. Adoption of Agenda/Additions to Agenda
2. Minutes, Bills & Treasurer's Report

Danny Clark made a motion to approve the consent items as presented. Jason Liter seconded. Motion passed, 7-0.

## **SPECIAL REPORTS**

1. MSBA Delegate Report – The monthly video report was viewed. Danny Clark shared that vaping and student obesity continue to be concerns that are addressed by MSBA.

## **ITEMS FOR DECISION**

1. Bus Repair and Driver Special Pay (CSIP .12, 4.1): Bus 13-1, which had an engine rebuild in late July/early August, is now experiencing new issues, and an estimate for repairs in the amount of \$5,125 from Midwest Transit Equipment was shared and reviewed.

Danny Clark made a motion to proceed with the repair. Michael Boling seconded. Motion passed, 7-0.

At this time, there are nine bus drivers and one substitute bus driver on staff. The district operates ten routes each morning and afternoon. A recommendation was shared and reviewed to add a supplemental stipends that can be paid to drivers who are "doubling up" on their routes to ensure students are transported to and from school in a timely manner. The costs associated with the supplemental pay are offset by funds that are not being used right now to pay for the tenth route driver. Teacher and paraprofessional positions are paid a higher wage when filled by a long term substitute (ten or more days in the same position). The proposal that was shared and reviewed included a recommendation to offer a higher wage to bus drivers who fill in as a substitute for more than ten consecutive days.

Danny Clark made a motion to approve the bus driver supplement as presented. Ron Evans seconded. Motion passed, 7-0.

2. Professional Development Program Report (CSIP 1.13, 2.3): Delores Woodhurst was present to answer questions related to the program evaluation for the professional development program.

Jason Liter made a motion to approve the professional development program evaluation as presented. Lori Robinson seconded. Motion passed, 7-0.

3. Investment of Funds Report (CSIP 2.3, 4.1) Tara shared a report of the district's surplus funds. There are currently six certificates of deposit and a surplus account that has been accumulating interest. Tara is seeking a decision from the board to reinvest the surplus or leave it available for immediate use. There was no motion made on this item.

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Facilities and Long Range Planning (CSIP 1.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5): The bus barn exterior has been constructed and the doors have been delivered. There has been some discussion about the insulation used in the building, so Tara requested additional information from the company, which was shared and discussed. The long range facility committee met October 29, 2019, to review the price quotes and components of the plan. The goal of the evening was to refine the plan into a list of projects the committee believes voters will support. The overall budget was reduced to just over \$8,000,000. A detailed breakdown of the project was shared. Stiffel returned the levy amount to complete \$0 tax increase for \$4.75 million in general obligation bond and \$3.25 million will be an estimated 20 cent levy for the lease purchase. Some windows will need to be replaced before the district proceeds with the window film project. At next month's meeting, Tara will provide information about the costs associated with the window replacement project.
2. Employee Medical Insurance (CSIP 1.12): Tara shared updated information about insurance changes that are happening in the self-funded consortium that the district currently participates in to provide health insurance to district employees and retirees. An assessment estimated to be near \$160,000 will be due in December. An additional consortium meeting is scheduled for November 15th.
3. Board Filing (CSIP 2.2, 2.7): Board positions currently held by Lori Robinson, Danny Clark, and Ron Evans will expire April 2020. A posting to advertise that the district is seeing candidates for these seats was shared and reviewed. Board filing will open December 17, 2019, and end January 21, 2020.

4. Administration Survey Questions (CSIP 2.4): Sample survey questions have been gathered for review. Tara would like to push these surveys to employees in December.
5. Launch Virtual Curriculum Program (CSIP 1.5, 3.1): All Missouri school districts are required to have virtual courses available to students. DESE has developed some courses, but the process is cumbersome and paperwork development is very challenging. LAUNCH was developed by Springfield, Missouri, public schools and is currently being used in over 200 school districts. Tara shared information about LAUNCH, and she will continue to explore options for virtual curriculum programs. With LAUNCH, the district anticipates a \$1,000 one time fee to enroll in the program. Future costs would only be incurred if a student from our district enrolls in the program. This will return as a decision item next month.

#### **COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Information related to the following components of the CSIP were shared and reviewed:

- Academic Achievement (CSIP Goal 1)
- Community & Communication (CSIP Goal 2)
- Graduation & Beyond (CSIP Goal 3)
- Facilities & Finances (CSIP Goal 4)

#### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

The following items were reviewed.

1. Academic Achievement Report (CSIP 1.5, 1.6)
2. Attendance Report (CSIP 1.3)
3. Food Service Report (CSIP 4.1)
4. Transportation Report (CSIP 4.1)

On a motion by Ron Evans and seconded by Ritchie Palmer, the regular meeting on December 12, 2019, will include an open session beginning at 6:00 p.m. and closed session was approved for the November Board meeting and any meetings held in the interim. Motion passed (7-0).

At 8:43 p.m., Jason Liter made a motion, seconded by Lori Robinson, to move into closed session to discuss personnel issues in accordance with Section 610.021 (3) RSMo.

Vote: Hilgenbrinck- Yes; Evans- Yes; Boling- Yes; Liter- Yes; Clark- Yes; Palmer- Yes; Robinson- Yes.

Jason Liter motioned to employ Molly Williams as paraprofessional seconded by Danny Clark. Vote: Hilgenbrinck- Yes; Evans- Yes; Boling- Yes; Clark- Yes; Liter- Yes; Palmer- Yes; Robinson- Yes.

Motion by Ron Evans to employ Patrice (Trice) Knopp as a bus route driver and Tiffany Willey and Katelyn Carrol as substitute bus drivers, seconded by Ritchie Palmer. Vote: Hilgenbrinck- Yes; Evans- Yes; Boling- Yes; Clark- Yes; Liter- Yes; Palmer- Yes; Robinson- Yes.

Motion by Danny Clark to accept the resignation of Michael Mountain as K-12 Music teacher effective November 21, 2019 midnight- end of day, seconded by Ron Evans. Vote: Hilgenbrinck- Yes; Evans- Yes; Boling- Yes; Clark- Yes; Liter- Yes; Palmer- Yes; Robinson- Yes.

Motion by Danny Clark to adjourn closed session at 9:09 p.m. Seconded by Jason Liter Motion passed (7-0). Vote: Robinson- Yes; Hilgenbrinck- Yes; Evans- Yes; Clark- Yes; Boling- Yes; Liter- Yes; Palmer- Yes.

Jason Liter exited the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Motion by Michael Boling to adjourn meeting at 9:14 p.m. Seconded by Danny Clark Motion passed (6-0).

---

---

*President*

---

---

*Secretary*