



Board of Directors Meeting February 15, 2023

Board Members Present: Jennifer Monies, Nathaniel Harding, Ellen Buettner, Gary Jones, and Cristina McQuiston

Staff Present: Patrick Duffy, Shelly Hickman, Lana Ingram, Vanessa Adams, and Laurel Payne

By Invitation: Bill Hickman

Minutes

1. **The Special Meeting was called to order at 12:11 p.m. by Board President Jennifer Monies.**

A quorum of voting members was present and it was comprised of Jennifer Monies, Nathaniel Harding, Ellen Buettner, Gary Jones, and Cristina McQuiston.

2. **The Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda.**

Gary Jones made the motion and Ellen Buettner seconded. All members of the Board in attendance at the meeting voted to approve.

3. **The Board voted to approve \$1,000 hazard duty stipends paid in January 2021 to full-time staff with federal ESSER funds for public schools for COVID 19 relief.**

Jennifer Monies asked why this was on the agenda. Shelly Hickman indicated that auditors had found in their recent audit of the district, and which was about to be presented, that while the Board was fully informed of the bonuses, the Board had not formally voted to approve the bonuses. Gary Jones indicated that he agreed the Board had been informed and wanted the bonuses to occur. Jones made the motion to approve the bonuses retroactively and Ellen Buettner seconded. All members of the Board in attendance at the meeting voted to approve.

4. **Treasurer Jay Jenkins presented a summary of the district's midterm financials and the January Financial Report.**

No vote was taken and the item was information only. Jenkins did indicate to the Board that the majority of the Red Bud funds anticipated for the current fiscal year for the district and all Oklahoma school districts were not anticipated to be allocated and paid until June.

5. **The Board voted to approve an increase in the current Fiscal Year appropriations by \$462,963.60 and file an amendment to the current year Estimate of Needs with the Oklahoma County Clerk's office.**

Treasurer Jay Jenkins explained to the Board that he had prepared the amendment and the increase in appropriations was a result of the district's Midterm Funding Adjustment by the Oklahoma Department of Education. Gary Jones made the motion to approve and Cristina McQuiston seconded. All members of the Board in attendance at the meeting voted to approve.



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- 6. The Board was presented its annual audit report by Eric M. Bledsoe of Bledsoe, Hewett & Gullekson, who had prepared the annual audit.**

Bledsoe walked the Board through the highlights of the audit and indicated that there had been no findings. He did note that the district had spent \$624,280 more in the previous year than it had been appropriated, which had cut into its fund balance. He also pointed out that a management letter with the audit did include two items. The first was that while the Board had seemed fully informed of hazard duty bonuses to staff, they had not formally voted on the encumbrance, which he also noted they did in the current meeting, which was a good action. The second item in the management letter was a large computer order made in June 2022 that was purchased with Fiscal Year 2023 funds. He indicated that staff had been very cooperative in the auditing process and he was confident they were going to be responsive in corrective action steps regarding the two items in the management letter.

- 7. The Board voted to approve a contract with Engage Learning for Middle School STEM activities.**

Patrick Duffy explained that every Wednesday beginning the following week that the middle school science would be engaging in hands-on STEM activities as coordinated by Engage Learning. Gary Jones made the motion to approve and Cristina McQuiston seconded. All members of the Board in attendance at the meeting voted to approve.

- 8. Finance Committee Chair Gary Jones gave a brief update to the Board and then introduced John Rex parent and Fundraising Committee member Cassandra Howard.**

Jones indicated staff were very aware of funding challenges and were doing much to explore how to make operations more efficient and more strategic with fundraising. He explained a group of parents experienced in fundraising and development were on the fundraising committee and were making significant contributions. He then presented Howard, who presented the committee's approach to fundraising using a PowerPoint provided in the public Board packet.

- 9. Jennifer Monies gave a brief Strategic Planning Committee update on behalf of its chair Teresa Truong, who was not able to make the Board meeting.**

Monies indicated that a second round of stakeholder perception surveys had been developed and conducted by the firm Schnake Turnbo Frank to assess progress since the first round of surveys were given last spring. Her overall takeaway from the results was progress and she said the firm would be presenting at a future meeting to be determined.

- 10. PTA President Pam Campbell gave an update from the PTA.**

Cambell indicated that bricks were being sold beginning the next day and through Spring Break and that the fundraising effort would be the end of Phase I fundraising for the McAlpine Center. She also indicated the PTA would be having one more spirit sale and that Amanda Harding would be serving as the chair of Fuel Up. She also was pleased to



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announce the PTA would be presenting the district with a \$30,000 check the next day.

11. Patrick Duffy gave a leadership update to the Board.

Duffy introduced Vanessa Adams, who was hired in December as school counselor. Adams gave a brief introduction of herself and indicated she was pleased to join the district. Duffy also shared that the lottery for the 2023-2024 had been conducted and there was a waiting list for enrollment; that grants had been submitted to OETT and Inasmuch; and that plans were being made for summer school in June 2023 to address learning loss.

12. The Board voted to convene into executive session.

Nathaniel Harding made the motion and Gary Jones seconded. All members of the Board in attendance at the meeting voted to approve. When the Board returned from executive session, Bill Hickman read a statement indicated that no votes were cast and no action was taken during the executive session. Jennifer Monies indicated she would entertain a motion regarding the superintendent position for the district. Gary Jones made the motion for Patrick Duffy to be named superintendent immediately and for the Board to delegate the negotiation of a contract to be effective July 1, 2023 to the Board Chairwoman, Jennifer Monies. The motion was seconded by Ellen Buettner. All members of the Board in attendance at the meeting voted to approve.

13. There was no New Business addressed but Jennifer Monies indicated in comments that a special Board meeting would need to be held.

Monies indicated the Board would be polled to identify a meeting date within the next two weeks to discuss modifying the Board's facility use policy in light of the PTA wanting to hold its annual Fuel Up fundraiser on the school campus on a weekend.

14. With no further action items or comments by board members, school staff or the public, the Board then unanimously voted to adjourn.