

Lexington Community Unit #7 School District  
Lexington, Illinois  
Regular Board Meeting  
October 15, 2020

President Jason Thomas opened the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. Roll was called with the following members present: Karin Atkins, Mike Beard, Jamie Farrell, Andy Killian, Andrea McBurney, and Jason Thomas. Also present were Paul Deters; Superintendent, Jennifer McCoy; Junior High/High School Principal, Julie Strating; Elementary Principal, Patti Thomas recording secretary. There were two visitors present.

President Jason Thomas led the board with The Pledge of Allegiance.

Julie Hesse, Social Worker for Tri-County Special Education, who is working in our district on Mondays and Fridays presented to the board “Casey the Therapy Dog”. She talked about all the training that Casey has gone through to be certified as a therapy dog and how much she can help comfort students in times of need.

Robin Yockey, from Mose, Yockey, Brown and Kull LLC, presented the annual audit for fiscal year 2020 to the Board, explaining the various sections of the report. The district received a 3.9 financial recognition rating again this year.

Karin Atkins moved to approve the Consent Agenda:

- A.) Minutes from the September 17, 2020 Regular and Special Board Meeting.
- B.) Minutes from the October 5, 2020 Special Board Meeting.
- C.) Lexington October 2020, regular bills, the payroll liabilities and necessary additional payments made in September, 2020, and ratify Tri-County Special Education Association’s bills for September, 2020.
- D.) District Finances: September 30, 2020, Treasurer’s Report.
- E.) Approve the renewal of 20-21 Membership to the Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools.
- F.) Approve the renewal of the District Crisis Management Plan.

Seconded by Jamie Farrell. Roll call vote:

Atkins	- yes	McBurney	- yes
Beard	- yes	Thomas	- yes
Farrell	- yes		
Killian	- yes		

Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent, Paul Deters, reported on the following:

- The district exceeded having \$5 million available in funds earlier this month. Of those funds, \$710,000 is invested in the districts bond that it purchased. With an additional \$650,000 invested in FDIC cash earlier this month, the district has over \$3 million invested in FDIC cash. Total, the district currently has \$3.768 million invested at this time.
- We had a need to replace both sump pumps in the art room as last week as one of them was no longer working. Due to their location, we installed an alarm on them as well to notify someone if they are not working in the future.

- The Ag classroom is in the process of having the old carpet and glue removed from the concrete floors this week. We will look to buff and polish the floors in hopes of having a natural look and simple floor to clean once the process is complete.
- We have been working through the process of purchasing technology for our certified staff to be able to improve instruction both in-person and in the event of remote and to be used for meetings and professional development. We are exploring tablets as they meet our objective and the cost is more manageable than laptops.
- Mr. Steidinger will be posting for a freshman auxiliary volleyball coach as soon as possible based on my recommendation. Our HS volleyball numbers include 29 girls and 9 freshmen. An additional coach is warranted based on our philosophy and these numbers.
- The Illinois State Board of Education and the US Department of Agriculture have announced the extension of waivers on payment for school meals through June 30, 2021. The previous extension was only granted through December or until funding ran out. All Lexington #7 students may eat a school breakfast and lunch free of charge as part of this program.
- Return to Learn plan:
  - We will be looking to update the following procedures and protocols to adjust to ever-changing effects of COVID-19
    - With the colder weather upon us the outside doors to for the elementary will be unlocked during arrival times so the students can enter the breezeways between the building and the outside to have their temperatures checked.
    - The junior high and high school students will be allowed to use their lockers first thing in the morning and at the end of the day to store their coats along with personal belongings. The lockers will not be able to be accessed during the school day.
    - We will be offering an opportunity for Virtual Academy students to return to in-person before the semester ends.
    - We will be making the small gym more usable space for elementary PE, athletics.
    - There are new IDPH requirements—Antigen/Rapid test no longer sufficient for re-entry for symptomatic individuals.

Junior High/ High School Principal Jennifer McCoy reported on the following:

Enrollment as of 10/15/20 for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades: 270

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: 34
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: 38
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: 44
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: 34
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: 41
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: 31
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: 35
- Virtual Academy: 13

- We held our first faculty Funday-Friday last week. We had our first culture/ team building activity since having students in the building. We had a fall “Battleship” game and modeled some Google technology that can be used in the classroom.
- We have “Spirit Week” coming up October 26-30<sup>th</sup>. The theme to the week will be “Haunted Homecoming” ending with Spirit Night on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> and a football scrimmage at Ridgeview on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Junior high will be holding spirit week activities as well; however, they will be different from the high school.
- We currently have 74 Chromebooks checked out by high school students with no Chromebooks being turned in for damage in the past month.
- Parent- Teacher conferences went well with 139 contacts made from JH teachers and 216 contacts from HS teachers. They held a total of 32 virtual meeting over the course of both evenings.
- SAT testing has been completed on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> for all seniors and Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> for students with IEP’s who needed to finish it. Special thank you to the Lexington Community Church for allowing us to test at their facilities.

Elementary Principal Julie Strating reported on the following:

- Pre-K- 5<sup>th</sup> Enrollment 223
  - Preschool: 12
  - Kindergarten: 37
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: 27
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: 29
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: 39
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: 31
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: 35
  - Virtual Academy: 13
- Our teachers conducted virtual conferences last week. We had successful attendance from 98.5% of our in-person students’ families. Our Virtual Academy teacher continually communicate with parents over zoom so they are conferencing at a 100% success rate.
- Our district teachers, administrative assistants, administrators, and some bus drivers participated in CPR recertification during last Friday’s in-service. A special thank you to the Lexington fire/ Ambulance organization for providing the training on site. We will provide another training for additional staff members during our remote learning planning day on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Our elementary staff participated in a training session on using the MAP Fluency program we purchased this year to assess student’s reading skills. We are starting to implement this in our lower elementary classrooms, but it is a slower process this year due to COVID restrictions.

- Today we recognized Breast Cancer Awareness by inviting the staff and students to wear pink to show our support of those who have fought, are fighting or will fight this form of cancer. We also used the occasion to celebrate the anniversary of our own Mrs. Tara McGraw for becoming a breast cancer survivor one year ago.
- Tomorrow we will be creating a fall “Funday” activity to replace the typical Fall Festival held this time of year. Our PTO is providing the financial support, along with a generous family donating a mini-pumpkin per student. We are thankful for this support to help make the event a success for our students while adhering to COVID guidelines.
- The last week of October will be Red Ribbon Week in the elementary school. Mrs. Christianson and Nurse Pam, along with the members of the student council, have created some fun activities and dress-up days to celebrate being Drug Free.
- Our annual Veterans Day celebration will look a little different this year as we are unable to gather with the American Legion members for our ceremony. Instead, we are working on plans to find creative ways to recognize those who have served our country while also tying in some of the traditional parts of the ceremony using the intercom or pre-recorded videos to share in each homeroom.

Andy Killian made the motion to approve the FY20 audit as presented. Seconded by Andrea McBurney. Roll call vote:

Beard	- yes	Thomas	- yes
Farrell	- yes	Atkins	- yes
Killian	- yes		
McBurney	- yes		

Motion carried unanimously.

Jamie Farrell made the motion to approve the New Board Policy 7:345; Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security. Seconded by Karin Atkins.

Motion carried.

Andrea McBurney made the motion to approve the New Board Policy 2:265; Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedures. Seconded by Mike Beard.

Motion carried.

Karin Atkins made the motion to approve the consideration and action to allow for therapy dogs to be used within district schools. Seconded by Andrea McBurney

Motion carried

Andy Killian moved to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. Seconded by Mike Beard.

Motion carried.