

**LADD COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL
DISTRICT #94
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2021**

President Giordano called the regular meeting of the Board of Education District #94 to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll

Present: Fiocchi, Galetti, Kirkman, Piccatto, Giordano

Absent: Coutts, Quinn

Attendance.

Michelle Zeko, Dana Dawson, Deb Pinter, Holly Flanagan, Amanda Bickett

Pledge of Allegiance

Correspondence

None

Consent Agenda Approval

A motion was made by Piccatto and seconded by Fiocchi to approve the consent agenda in its entirety. Roll: Aye: Piccatto, Fiocchi, Galetti, Kirkman, and Giordano. Nay: none. The motion carried unanimously.

Invitation To Address The Board

None

Principal's Report

IPA John Ourth Award. Congratulations to Ryan Bosi and Tyler Jordan who are this year's recipients of the Principal's award. This award is given to a boy and a girl in the exiting class who show exemplary character traits.

BVEC Speech Contest. We hosted the Speech Contest on February 22. Mrs. Ribas did an excellent job organizing the event including proper social distancing for participants and spectators. Representing Ladd School were Kaitlyn Sears, Payton Miller, Maddy Fabish, Emma Slingsby, Kaitlyn Coutts, and Mia Wenzel. After performing, the team stayed to help with the event. Maddy, Payton and Kaitlyn received a first for their trio script performance; Emma received a first for her solo script performance; Kaitlyn and Mia received a first for their duet script performance; and Maddy, Payton, Kaitlyn, and Emma performed a Team Improve. Congratulations!

Winter Transition. Most of our students are back in the building five days per week. We are working to streamline our pick-up procedures. Drop off is smoother with less staff as we have implemented the new IDPH guidance that no longer requires us to take temperatures upon arrival. We are allowing remote only students to transition back to in-person learning.

What's Next. To increase instructional minutes will require allowing lunches to be eaten in the building. With current staff, facilities, and enrollments, three lunch periods are necessary to provide the required 6 feet of social distancing. We could provide proper student supervision with current staff for three lunch periods, but the cleaning of the surface areas between periods require additional staff. Presently our younger students especially are already struggling to endure the length of the 8:20-12:20 day wearing masks and maintaining social distance. It is also a long time for them to sit without moving around. Ms. Dawson did not recommend going to a full day at this time. Extending the day until 2:15 would add one hour and 55 minutes to

the day with only one hour of those minutes for instruction. It would eliminate the need for students to attend Zoom classes at home, but adds no additional instructional time to what we currently have and would decrease the instructional support the paraprofessionals provide. Summer School. The number of students at-risk has increased this year. We would like to offer summer school for five weeks, June 7-July 9. We would need to hire three or four teachers for the program.

IAR Testing. Our testing window is April 19-April 30.

Kindergarten Round-Up. Registration for Kindergarten was held on March 5. We currently have 14 students registered for the 2021-22 class.

Preschool Screenings. We held preschool screenings for three and four year olds on March 11. There are currently 14 potential preschool students for the 2021-22 school year as well as three to four additional students waiting to be screened. An additional screening will be scheduled.

Boys Basketball. The season was to begin Monday, but the game was cancelled due to weather. Our first home game will be Thursday, March 18 against Ohio. The games will be streamed on our Facebook and YouTube pages as we cannot have spectators attend the games.

Reading Interventionist/Special Education Teacher. Ms. Dawson presented information in the packet on RTI (Response to Intervention) along with an analysis of our current RTI and Special Education programs. She outlined the additional RTI and special education needs for the 2021-22 school year requesting the addition of a Reading Interventionist/Special Education Teacher. After discussion, the Board directed her to search for a candidate.

Superintendent's Report

COVID-19 Update. Mrs. Zeko reported we have completed 4 phases of our transition plan. Vaccines have been provided to all interested staff members. The ISBE and the IDPH released revised guidance, which eliminates the need for temperature checks at doors. This will help to move the children into the building faster in the morning and free up staff. Self-certification will still be required. The previous recommended six feet between students has been eased to three to six feet. Any meals eaten at school still requires six feet of social distancing. We are able to accommodate current classroom numbers at six feet. Should more of the students in larger classes return to in-person we would be able to accommodate them with the new spacing recommendations. After discussion, the consensus was to leave the decision to extend the school day to Ms. Dawson and Mrs. Zeko.

Financial Update. At this point, the state has paid all their obligations to the district. The financial report including the payment of bills shows we had received 75% of our expected revenues and expensed 69% of our proposed budget in the Education Fund. In the Operations, Building and Maintenance Fund, we had received 53% of our expected revenues and expensed 59% of our proposed budget. In the Debt Service Fund, we had received 106% of our expected revenues and expensed 98% of our proposed budget. In the Transportation Fund, we had received 83% of our expected revenues and expensed 32% of our proposed budget. In the IMRF/Social Security Fund, we had received 108% of our expected revenues and expensed 64% of our proposed budget. In the Working Cash Fund, we had received 108% of our expected revenues and expensed 0% of our proposed budget. In the Tort Immunity and Judgment Fund, we had received 110% of our expected revenues and expensed 94% of our proposed budget. In the Capital Improvement or Life Safety Fund, we had received 108% of our expected revenues and expensed 0% of our proposed budget. Funding is available for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II. Our portion is \$203,635. Costs associated with the pandemic since March of 2020 can be expensed along with costs determined of what is needed for next year and expense them.

FOIA Request. We received a request from Smart Procure for our purchasing records from 10/31/2020 through the current date. Mrs. Zeko responded to the request.

Maintenance Report. The report was in the packet.

Ladd PTO. The March meeting minutes were in the packet. The Perfect Pastries fundraiser ended March 15. The gift card sale is an ongoing fundraiser throughout the year. Remember gift cards for birthdays, holidays, and graduations.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business

Annexation and Rezoning Request. We have been given notice that Lyle Eiten with the consent of property owners Steve V. Michelini and Laura L. Michelini have filed a petition of annexation and rezoning with the City of Peru. This property is not in our school district and the Board did not feel it was necessary for Mrs. Zeko to attend the hearing.

Streaming Events. Hugo Heredia has been contracted to stream our home volleyball and basketball games this year since spectators cannot attend. After discussion, the Board would like to continue the streaming for next year. Mr. Heredia presented a proposal for teaching our students to use the equipment. We could use the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II money to purchase equipment and training.

Graduation Date. We typically set graduation at the March Board meeting when the risk of emergency days has greatly diminished. Traditionally the eighth grade graduation would be the evening before the last day of school, which is June 2 this year. Mrs. Zeko recommends setting Eighth Grade Graduation on Tuesday, June 1.

First Readings of Board Policies. First readings were held on Policies 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure, 3:40 Superintendent, 7:300 Extracurricular Athletics, and 7:325 Student fundraising Activities.

Action Items

Rehire Certified Staff. A motion was made by Fiocchi and seconded by Piccatto to adopt the resolution to rehire certified staff Amanda Bickett, Amy Bosi, Taylor Buck, Dana Dawson, Anna Dempsey, Katryna DeRubeis, Holly Flanagan, Molly Harmon, Jacqueline Jacober, Ariella Lawler, Kim Michels, Jackie Ribas, Chris Volk, and Christine Wright for the 2021-22 school year. Roll: Aye: Fiocchi, Piccatto, Galetti, Kirkman, and Giordano. Nay: none. The motion carried unanimously.

Rehire Educational Support Staff. A motion was made by Piccatto and seconded by Galetti to adopt the resolution to rehire educational support staff Rhonda Bezely, Paula Burkman, Dave Ebener, Jeff Janusick, Lisa Kasperski, Geri Miller, Linda Petersen, Deb Pinter, Mary Beth Ponsetti, Becky Raineri, and MaryCate Smith for the 2021-22 school year. Roll: Aye: Piccatto, Galetti, Fiocchi, Kirkman, and Giordano. Nay: none. The motion carried unanimously.

Speech Therapy Contract. A motion was made by Fiocchi and seconded by Piccatto to approve the speech therapy contract with Julee Nawa at a rate of \$70 per hour for the 2021-22 school year. Roll: Aye: Fiocchi, Piccatto, Galetti, Kirkman, and Giordano. Nay: none. The motion carried unanimously.

Three-Year Transportation Contract. A motion was made by Fiocchi and seconded by Galetti to approve the Three-Year Transportation Contract with Johannes Bus Service, Inc. through June 30, 2024. Roll: Aye: Fiocchi, Galetti, Kirkman, Piccatto, and Giordano. Nay: none. The motion carried unanimously.

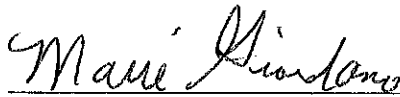
Board Policy Approval. A motion was made by Coutts and seconded by Fiocchi to approve the adoption of Board Policies 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities, 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited, 7:40 Nonpublic School Students, Including

Parochial and Home-School Students, 7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations, Immunizations, and Exclusion of Students, 7:140 Search and Seizure, 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment, and 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited. The motion carried unanimously by voice.

Adjournment.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Piccatto and seconded by Galetti at 7:03 p.m. The motion carried unanimously by voice.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on April 20, 2021.



Marie Giordano
President



Dennis Galetti
Secretary