

**LAINGSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
APPROVED MINUTES**

Regular Board Meeting

April 28, 2020

Virtual via Zoom

The Special meeting was called to order by President Angst at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Angst, Natalie Elkins, Patrick Dolan, Andy Hagerty, Jason Michels,

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Maggie Sayles

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Matt Shastal, Krissy Pratt, Kelly Zemla

Motion by Michels to approve the March 2020 Treasurer's Report.

Seconded by Elkins. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Dolan to approve the March 2020 Warrants:

March Accounts Payable – \$214,220.84

March EFT/ACH Transfer(s) - \$13,538.05

March Payroll - \$607,999.55

March Building & Site - \$15,508.78

March Capital Projects - \$78,506.00

Seconded by Elkins. Motion carried unanimously.

From Delegations or Visitors: None

From Non-Staff Communications and Reports: None

From Superintendent and Staff:

Superintendent Shastal gave an update on the Continuity of Learning Plan – Superintendent Shastal acknowledged that we have the best employees! Our staff has done some amazing things since we were forced to suspend face to face instruction. Today our food service handed out over 1,000 meals to children in our community and nearly 7,400 meals in the last five weeks. This week our “new learning” was rolled out after weeks of preparation by our teaching staff. We have deployed nearly 300 devices (Chromebooks / iPads) and we have expanded our Wi-Fi in all of our parking lots. Our plan was approved yesterday by the ISD and sent to the MDE for review, he will notify the Board when hears back from MDE.

2019-20 Budget Update –Superintendent Shastal reminded the Board that this past February we amended the budget to an operating deficit of \$206,450. He stated that we lost nearly \$40,000 in revenue when our school closed from day care fees, preschool fees and a little from athletics. We've taken a number of steps to save money the remainder of the year: reduced our electricity usage, turned down the heat in all buildings and stopped nearly all expenditures. Shastal believes we can revise our operating deficit down to \$185,000, we are going to work very hard to get this number down to zero by June 30th. The CARES Act money, through a Title I formula, aimed at helping local school districts still has not been released and no guidance has been provided. Mr. Shastal states he doesn't know how much we are eligible for and that it is for non-reoccurring expenses incurred during this Pandemic. His biggest concern is the May 15th revenue estimating conference, with the shortfall

of income tax and sales tax revenues forecasted for this fiscal year will automatically trigger an executive order to scale back our state aid for 2019-2020 and that will be detrimental to us.

2020-21 Budget Update – Superintendent Shastal stated next year’s budget is going to be challenging. He has 60 days to present a balanced budget for board approval and that he has been working with the building principals and department managers on how we can bring forth a balanced budget. We’ve been advised to budget for a loss of \$300 in per pupil funding for the 2020-21 school year and for us that is about \$346,000. Shastal also stated we have a major employee contract for negotiations that has been pushed back into May to see what the state comes forward with. Additionally, it will be very difficult to project our student count due to these unusual circumstances. He is very thankful for the Board’s leadership on building up our fund equity over the last couple of years. We are going into this financial crisis in relatively good financial shape and a “blue print” from 2008 – 2012 on how to survive the coming year. His goal is to have a budget to the Board sometime in May.

Legislative Update – Shastal stated that there is not much to report other than the budget process that will begin after the May 15th Revenue Estimating Conference. He has heard some talk about pension reform and refunding out some of the unfunded liabilities.

District Staffing Update – Superintendent Shastal stated he has informed the principals to extend an offer for the two teaching positions but they are to be contingent on the Boards approval in May after the budget is reviewed. We are postponing the technology and the custodial position and basically will be in a hiring freeze going forward.

Bond Construction Update – Superintendent Shastal gave a recap on bid package 2A, they closed out just over budget. Construction is set to start in June depending on supply chain. Also some of the work will go to local companies. Bid package 2B is all the interior finishing and drawings will be done next Tuesday and will go out for bid in the next few weeks. Any alternate’s will be discussed after bid package 2B.

August 2020 Sinking Fund – Shastal reminded the Board that we withdrew the question from the May 2020 election. He stated the sinking fund’s importance to repair or replace outdated equipment, update some of the classrooms in the elementary building and improve the parking lots.

From Board Members:

They congratulated Ava Brewer, Anne Claus, Kindi Dietz, and Anna Ludlow for earning the Margaret Scoutten & Raymond O Nash Memorial Scholarship Awards.

Jason Michels will handle the SRES D May 4th budget presentation at 7pm

The Board discussed the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy Recycling & Organics Infrastructure Grant, and Andy Hagerty is concerned about who will be responsible for maintaining the upkeep on the grounds. Mr. Dolan stated that it was going to be a drive through building so everything would be contained and not out in the open and that the previous recycling location has always been kept neat and clean. He also stated that the Laingsburg Recyclers are looking at solar energy to offset the additional utility costs for the building.

The Board had a Discussion of board vacancy candidates.

Board Committee Reports: Briefly discussed the Wall of Fame committee and starting back up after we are able to meet in person again.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business

Proposal #68

Motion by Michels to approve the reduction of Sheila Jones' employment status from full time to 3/5 time with a related change in compensation and benefits at the start of the 2020/21 school year.

Seconded by Elkins. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposal #69

Motion by Dolan to hire Kelley Ludlum, MS Teacher. Seconded by Elkins. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposal #70

Motion by Michels for Administration and Central Office 2020-21 contract extensions

1. Ron Underhill, Director of Maintenance
2. Kelly Zemla, Business Manager
3. Brandon Woodworth, High School Principal
4. Sheila Freeman, Elementary School Principal
5. Pam Kasik, Payroll Specialist
6. Julie Nosek, Middle School Principal
7. Krissy Pratt, Accounting Officer, Administrative Support.

Seconded by Elkins. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposal #71

Motion by Michels to grant Emergency Powers to the Superintendent. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposal #72

Motion by Elkins for calling for a special election on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 for Sinking Fund Millage Renewal Proposal. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposal #73

Motion by Elkins appoint Renee Gutzman to the Board of Education filling the vacancy with an unexpired term ending on December 31, 2020. Seconded by Michels. Motion carried 4-1; Elkins, Angst, Dolan, Michels voted aye and Hagerty nay.

Future Business

Meeting Dates –

- SRESB General Fund Presentation Meeting – May 4, 2020 @ 7pm
- Special Board Meeting – May 20, 2020 – MS Media Center 6:45pm-SRESB Budget Presentation
- Regular Board Meeting – May 20, 2020 – MS Media Center 7pm
- High School Graduation – August 9, 2020

Preview of Topics for Future Agendas -

2020/21 Proposed Budget

Board By-Laws/Policy Update

General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations

Executive Session – for the purpose of Employee Negotiations

Motion by Dolan to adjourn at 7:43 pm. Seconded by Elkins. Motion carried unanimously.

Patrick Dolan, Board Secretary