CHESTER COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.139
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting
November 21, 2024

The Board of Education of Chester Community Unit School District No. 139 held a Regular Meeting on November 21, 2024, in the High School Juergens Gym. President Debi Caraway called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Davitz motioned, Coffey seconded to enter into the executive meeting at 6:01 p.m for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Malley seconded to come out of executive session at 7:19 p.m. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Coffey motioned, Malley seconded to enter into regular session at 7:30 p.m. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Public Comment

- Stephanie Sabo - Concerns with the Department of Education

Board Correspondence

- None

Presentation by Curtis Stoll, CPAI from Fick, Eggemeyer, & Williamson, CPA's discussed Audit

Presentation by Rachel Marshall on the Prevention Initiative 0-3 Early Childhood grant

Fricke motioned, Malley seconded to approve the consent agenda and items as listed. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Fricke, Malley, Wolff, Davitz, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

- Agenda and items as listed:
- October 16, 2024 regular and executive meeting minutes and November 14, 2024 special meeting minutes;
- Bills in the amount of $2,078,790.67 and payroll in the amount of $638,267.06;
- Financial reports

Athletic Director Report

<u>CHS</u>

- Volleyball player Elaina Lutman was selected to the All-conference Team
- Jackets won their first round of playoff vs. Westville
- Jackets lost the second round vs. Maroa-Forsyth ending the season 9-2
- All-conference team selections for Football were Zain Al-Jassim, Devante Palacio, Kolton Jany, Alex Williamson, Brendan Malley, and Trayton Peters for the Offensive team. Kolton Jany, Devante Palacio, Cayden Brunkhourst, Alex Williamson, Nate Maes, Tino Rafael, and Ethan Colvis for the Defensive team. MVP Offense is Zain Al-Jassim, MVP Defense is Kolton Jany, All State is Zain Al-Jassim, and Honorable Mention All State is Kolton Jany
- Awards Night will be Sunday, December 15th
- Competition season for Dance began October 28th, first competition is December 7th at Herrin
- Competition season for Cheer began October 28th, first competition is December 7th at Highland
- Sparta Tournament for girls Basketball on December 18th versus Redbud
- Varsity boys Basketball at Anna on November 26th

<u>CGS</u>

- 7th grade boys Basketball team won the PDR tournament
- 8th grade boys Basketball team placed 3rd in the Marissa Tournament
- Girls Basketball A team participated in the Steeleville tournament and placed 8th

<u>Other</u>

- Scholar Bowl placed 2nd at the Marion Tournament
- Nico DeGuzman made the Scholar Bowl All-Tournament team
- Fall Awards night for Volleyball, Golf, and Cross Country is November 21st
- IHSA Basketball is planning to use shot clocks for the 2026-2027 season for Varsity boys and girls. Use of the shot clock for lower levels will be determined by the conference

Maintenance

- Updating the elevators at the High school
- Installed window stickers at the High school to notate the room number on the outside for safety reasons
- Windbreaker wrap installed all the way around the fence of the pickleball court
- Extended the fencing at the Grade school gate
- The transformer board to the traffic lights at the Grade school had been replaced and the controller is now receiving power
- Emergency light batteries at the Grade school had been replaced
- Two new chemical dispensers at both schools designed to supply pre measured amounts of cleaner to water ratios

Curriculum

- Winter Benchmark testing will begin on December 2nd
- Currently have 93 ELL students in our district
- Our SEL lessons will begin on November 25th
- Second Step online curriculum is used by the Grade school teachers
- Character Strong online curriculum is used by High school teachers
- Accommodations for ELL students will be added for the Spring 2025 IAR and ISA testing
- Accommodation for IEP will be added for the Spring 2025 IAR and ISA as well
- Access for ELLs: Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State to State for English Language Learners – Jan 15-March 4 for Grades K-12
- IAR: Illinois Assessment for Readiness – March 3-April 18 for Grades 3-8
- ISA: Illinois Science Assessment –March 3-April 30 for Grades 5,8,11
- ACT with Writing: March 25, 2025 for Grade 11
- PreACT Secure: March 25, 2025 for Grade 9, 10
- DLM-AA: Dynamic Learning Map Alternate Assessment – March 12-May 7

High School Principal

- Parent/Teacher conferences took place on October 15th and 17th, with 17 parents and guardians participating in this years survey
- The PBIS theme for October was Responsibility
- Students recognized for the month are: Grace Kirkpatrick, Karim Landeros, Cayden Cavaness, Bailey Hartman, Brenden Malley, Evan Dunning, Manuela Lopez, Madison Stauffer, and Whitney Sulser
- The staff of the month includes: Mr.Colonel, Mrs.Bert, and Ms.Stegmann
- Winter sports pictures were taken November 16th
- Mr.Wiegand and Ms.Diercks accompanied a group of students to a career expo held at the Belleville Fairgrounds
- On November 2nd, Mrs. Kern and the football team collaborated with the National Guard and school administration to successfully organize a Military Appreciation football game
- SADD organized various events and themed dress-up days in recognition of Red Ribbon Week, which took place from October 28th to November 1st. The themed days included PJ Day, Hat Day, and Red Out Day
- The National Honor Society held a Red Cross blood drive on October 23rd, a total of 40 donations were collected
- On November 6th, the National Honor Society held its 2023 Induction Ceremony
- Implementing an RTI Academic Intervention Homeroom alongside after school tutoring
- Fall Sports awards banquet is November 21st excluding football
- STEP Food pantry is November 27th
- Senior Composition to SIUC with Mrs. Hodge is December 2nd
- FAFSA night is December 4th from 5-7:30 pm
- Jr.High Christmas concert is December 5th
- High School Christmas concert is December 9th
- Grade School 1st-4th Christmas concert is December 12th
- Final Exams are December 18th-20th

Grade School Principal

- Parent Teacher conferences were held on October 15th and 17th, there were a total of 481 conferences scheduled incurred 487 total with incurred walk in appointments
- Hosted a Veterans Day assembly and breakfast was provided for the veterans that attended
- Danielle Conway has been recognized as our Staff Member of the Month of November
- The concert for our fifth grade band took place November 20th
- The junior high band is scheduled for December 5th and the 1st-4th grade Christmas concert is scheduled for December 12th
- Celebrated Red Ribbon week with different dress up days
- Family Fun night was held on November 13th and was a huge success
- Kindness week took place November 12th-15th and students raised $970 with their coin collection battle between classes. The money was donated to an environmental charity that the winning class chooses. Students also brought in about 750 non-perishable items that will get donated to the local food pantry

Special Education

- The district recently purchased a Med Sled system for the High school, this will be used to safely transport students in wheelchairs down the stairs in case of an emergency, or if the elevators are not functioning. The Physical Therapist from Perandoe will be providing training on the Med Sled system to teachers and staff
- The PBIS rewards points system has been implemented with all students. Students get the opportunity to earn points based on their positive behavior and then spend their points on different items such as colored pens, candy, soda, and more
- The Kindergarten and first grade special education combined classroom has been split into two grade level classrooms and the students are making progress in their new environment
- Our early childhood special education teacher and the special education coordinator recently visited an early childhood special education program with strong play-based learning to get new ideas to implement in the grade school's early childhood special education program

Student Council

- A total of 11 tables were set up for Halloween some of which were from the Grade school and St. Marys
- All of our Student Council member dressed up
- Each group decorated their table and let kids vote on which was best decorated and the Grade school won with their Moana themed table
- Student Council would like to eventually host a movie night on the football field using the new scoreboard screen

Superintendent

<u>Governance</u>

- Attended the Teacher fair at Murray State University on October 21st with Mr.Lochhead and Mrs.Mueller
- Participated in the SIUE Education Career Fair on November 4th alongside Mr.Blair
- Chester CUSD 139 hosted the Prevention Committee meeting with ComWell in October
- Contacted the city regarding crosswalk sign visibility, resulting in the addition of a flashing light. Exploring quotes for a more visible light system

<u>Budget/Finance</u>

- The district did not receive the SRO grant this year
- Audit complete
- Health Life Safety Amendment approved

<u>Building and Grounds</u>

- Purchased the Chester Clinic and accepted the BID
- A groundbreaking ceremony is being planned, with construction expected to begin soon. The project is projected to be completed by August 1, 2024
- Working with Ameren to provide an assessment through the Ameren Public School Carbon Free Assessment (PSCFA) Program
- Utilizing the Maintenance Grant for Phase 3 of the Professor Sharp Media Center

<u>Classroom</u>

- Collaborating with a presenter to provide professional development focused on PBIS and Restorative Practices

Wolff motioned, Davitz seconded to conduct a 2nd reading and approval of the Employee Handbook. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Wolff motioned, Krieg seconded to approve the resolution expressing official intent regarding certain capital expenditures to be reimbursed from proceeds of an obligation to be issued by the District. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Malley seconded to approve the resolution providing for the issue of approximately $1,720,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2024, for the purpose of altering and reconstructing school buildings and purchasing and installing equipment therein for fire prevention and safety, energy conservation, and school security purposes, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Krieg motioned, Wolff seconded to approve the resolution providing for the issue of approximately $6,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2024B, for the purpose of altering, repairing, and equipping school buildings and facilities of the District and improving the sites thereof, providing for the pledge of certain revenues to the payment of principal and interest on said bonds and the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay such principal and interest if the pledged revenues are insufficient to make such payment and authorizing the sale of said bonds to Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Malley motioned, Coffey seconded to conduct a 1st reading of Press Policy Issue 117. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Coffey seconded to approve the Board of Education regular meeting dates for the calendar year 2025. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Malley motioned, Wolff seconded to consider first reading and/or discussing Tax Levy. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Malley seconded to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established with Chester Education Association to consider ELL endorsement for Marissa Talbert. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Malley motioned, Davitz seconded to approve the purchase of staff gift cards for Christmas. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Malley motioned, Coffey seconded to approve the updated service agreement with TK Elevator Corporation effective November 1, 2024. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Krieg seconded to approve the FY24 Annual Audit as presented. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Malley motioned, Davitz seconded to approve the project of Professor Sharp Media Center Phrase 3 at High School for the School Maintenance Project Grant match of 50,000. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Wolff motioned, Malley seconded to approve the Certificates for Payment for Samron Midwest Contracting, Inc's Pay Application #3 in the amount of $125,226.81. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Coffey seconded to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established with Stingers Youth Program and Chester CUSD 139 Board of Education. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Malley seconded to approve to employ Bailey Hartmann as Jacketcare Worker at $15.10/hr pending background check. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Malley seconded to approve to employ Ashley Govero as Jacketcare Worker at $15.10/hr pending background check. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Malley seconded to approve to reemploy Souther LaChance as Jacketcare Worker at $15.10/hr. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Malley seconded to approve Shawnell Madison as Grade School Administrative Assistant at $17.10/hr pending EHR and background check. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Malley seconded to approve Shaina Obryan as Grade School Paraprofessional at $17.10/hr pending certification, EHR, and background check. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davitz motioned, Malley seconded to approve Amanda Easton as High School Paraprofessional at $17.10/hr pending certification, EHR, and background check. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Malley motioned, Krieg seconded to approve Nicole Wolff as Grade School Volunteer Volleyball Assistant coach pending background check. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Malley motioned, Krieg seconded to approve the resignation of Evelyn Sue Inman, High School Cafeteria Aide, effective October 16, 2024. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Malley motioned, Krieg seconded to approve the resignation of Candis Choate, High School Paraprofessional, effective October 30, 2024. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Malley motioned, Krieg seconded to approve the resignation of Chandra Adams, Grade School Cafeteria Aide, effective November 21, 2024. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Malley motioned, Krieg seconded to approve the resignation of Wesley Carpenter, High School Paraprofessional, effective immediately. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Malley motioned, Krieg seconded to approve the resignation of Avery Carpenter, Grade School Paraprofessional, effective immediately. Roll call vote. Ayes: Caraway, Coffey, Wolff, Davitz, Malley, Krieg, Nays: none. Motion carried.

Davtiz motioned, Wolff seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

The next REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Education will be held **Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.** (Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.) in the Chester High School Juergens Gym. 1901 Swanwick Street, Chester, IL 62233.