

The Brimfield Board of Education held its Regular meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 7 p.m. in the High School Library. Board President Updyke called the meeting to order with the following members present: Bell, Meyer, Snyder, Kappes, and Johnson.

The Board welcomed all visitors.

Updyke welcomed comments from the community members.

- Dr. Erich Weiger introduced himself as the Brimfield Educators' Association (BEA) President. Dr. Weiger mentioned and provided details on meet the [Board Member] candidates night. When searching for a Superintendent, the BEA encourages the continuance of the current culture; the BEA stands behind the Administration. Dr. Weiger then shared the BEA goals and its mission.
- Kelly Elwell personally shared a brief background. Kelly has concerns about the co-op. She mentioned how she believes Elmwood's recruitment process is handled and believes the coaches meet regularly with the athletes, individually, with the parents. She hopes the vote, either for or against the co-op, will be best for the kids.
- Lori Johnson feels really strongly about the co-op. She is in favor of cooperatives. She does not believe that baseball needs to be part of the co-op; she believes it should be a part of the co-op if it serves the District well. She does not understand why it has to be all or nothing.
- Jason Strahm echoed Lori's comments. He believes that if the kids want to play, to let them play. He believes Elmwood is threatening the District and expressed his frustration.
- Dave Hicke does not believe the co-ops to be a year-to-year decision; numbers do fluctuate. He urged the Board to look at the bigger picture and long-term. The co-op is beneficial.
- Jessica Higgs sees both sides and agrees with Dave; she believes things change. Being a part of the co-op allows for a variety of sports opportunities.
- Tara Binder believes we need definitive answers to the hearsay. She is not in favor of ending the co-op but shared her reasons why baseball does not need to be a part of it. She urged the Board to vote based on facts.
- Dave Hicke hopes that the vote is not based on division ranking.
- Mike Dutton introduced himself. He believes the co-op has always had good numbers. He explained the recruitment process.
- Brandon Porter briefed the Board on his history with the co-op program. He believes that the Baseball team consists of mostly Brimfield athletes. He shared his reasons why the cooperative will not work for baseball. He can take the pressure but who does the decision come back on? He wants all interested in baseball to have the best opportunity to play.
- Todd Hollis provided a brief personal introduction. He believes we are in the 2nd longest running co-op in the state. He mentioned that Golf and Volleyball have separated from the co-op and have been great. He mentioned that he cannot speak to the "all or nothing" but has met with Elmwood Administrators and athletes and their parents. He believes there is a lack of interest from Elmwood, considering the number that have signed up.

Meyer motioned and Bell seconded to approve the minutes from:

- January 18, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting; the approved minutes will contain the correction to Meyer's vote on the policy updates. Motion carried

Board President Updyke reported. He personally thanked Superintendent Shinall for everything and leading the District as a Principal and Superintendent. He mentioned that when the Board arrives at the co-op vote, it is not public comment time and will be discussed as a Board.

Superintendent Shinall reported on his board report. He mentioned a few FOIA requests that he had received, the April Board Meeting being moved back, status of the window project at the Grade School, an update on the solar project, as well as modifications to the current camera system.

Mrs. Burdette Steele reported on her High School Report. Updates were shared on planning of the 2023-2024 School Year; 64 of 65 of next year's seniors are now scheduled. Somewhere around 60% of next year's juniors have schedules created. Information was provided regarding IEPs and 504s. Information was provided regarding the updating of data in Skyward; this hopes to provide additional support. The Board was briefed on SAT study groups and next week being FFA week. Mrs. Steele congratulated the chess team. She encouraged all to attend and support the girls at Wethersfield. Meyer inquired about any updates on the grading scale; Mrs. Steele mentioned that the process should be completed before summer.

Mrs. Albritton reported on her Grade School Report. She provided an update on attendance. The Board was briefed on: the Wit & Wisdom Curriculum, Data Teams/Review Days, the School Improvement Day, upcoming Parent/Teacher conferences, Erin's Law Presentations, 5Essentials survey, Books are Fun Fundraiser, IAR assessment, ISA, and the 8th grade Graduation. She mentioned the great seasons that both the girls and boys basketball teams had! The 7th grade volleyball team played well and the 8th grade team hopes to return to state! Lastly, the 7th and 8th grade scholastic bowl teams had great representation to show off their knowledge!

There was new business to discuss/approve.

Tom Leahy, from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), was given the floor. He provided a brief introduction and distributed materials to the Board members. The Board was detailed on the search process, timeline, and cost. Brochures were shared, with the Board, that illustrated what the ideal candidate search results would look like. He mentioned that the pool of candidates narrows if this process is delayed; he shared other contributory factors. He broke down the favorable timeline. Kappes inquired how long the search is open? Tom mentioned that the deadline is currently March 28. Bell inquired if IASB performed a search for us before. Tom mentioned that it was a long time ago; he added that he believes there are 25-35 potential candidates. Snyder inquired if IASB conducted Princeville's search; Tom said yes. Bell inquired when we [the Brimfield Board of Education] will know who the candidates are? Tom mentioned that IASB will present the Board with its suggestion(s). Kappes inquired about if the Board gets to interview the candidates; Tom mentioned that, yes, and IASB will assist with structure. Snyder and Bell expressed concerns of the timeline conflicting with the Board of Education election. The presentation finished with brief discussions on total cost, Superintendent retention, background data, and certifications.

Meyer motioned and Kappes seconded to Approve of Illinois Association of School Boards for new Superintendent search.. Roll Call: Kappes - yes, Snyder -yes, Bell - yes, Meyer - yes, Johnson - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Snyder motioned and Bell seconded to Approve the Athletic Cooperative to re-new a co-op participation agreement for the next two seasons with Elmwood in Football, Boys' and Girls' Cross Country, Spirit Squad, Boys' and Girls' Track & Field, Baseball, and Softball for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years. A lengthy discussion ensued. Updyke addressed misconceptions. This is not all or nothing with the IHSA and can be looked at two ways. The co-op exists for opportunity. He is not sure why the junior high numbers are not transitioning over to the high school but would like to know. Johnson mentioned

that it was Elmwood that wants all or nothing. Calls have been made to surrounding districts- not one of them want to co-op, with us, in football; he mentioned what costs this District would incur to start up its own [football] program. Snyder suggested starting a co-op committee. Kappes and Superintendent Shinall discussed the tentative timeline for co-op approval. Bell inquired if we have to wait two years [to make changes to the agreement]? Shinall mentioned that if both parties are in agreement [both parties have approved of the co-op], then no. Johnson voiced his displeasure with the narrative being on our baseball coach and would like to know what Elmwood is doing to promote the program. Bell would like a joint [Elmwood/Brimfield] meeting. Updyke believes a sit-down meeting with the stakeholders is necessary. Meyer inquired about Elmwood's exact words, to which Shinall mentioned, " if Brimfield pulls Baseball, Brimfield is choosing to end the co-op." Updyke mentioned that we need to give the kids every opportunity to play; there are no cuts in a co-op. Meyer urged Superintendent Shinall to reach out to Elmwood to set up a meeting. Bell suggested we approve and explained why. There was a discussion on the timeline. Snyder and Bell then rescinded their votes.

Snyder then motioned and Kappes seconded to table the Athletic Cooperative to re-new a co-op participation agreement for the next two seasons with Elmwood in Football, Boys' and Girls' Cross Country, Spirit Squad, Boys' and Girls' Track & Field, Baseball, and Softball for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years. Meyer encouraged the visitors to appear at the Elmwood Board of Education Meeting. Costs were discussed as well as other ideas to level them. Possible reasons for low sport turnout was discussed. There was a suggestion for a survey as well as better communication between Elmwood/Brimfield Boards of Education. There was a suggestion that any future meetings, regarding this agenda item, be posted on the website and an all-call alert. A visitor disagreed that Elmwood did not suggest all or nothing; this visitor mentioned that a public meeting between the two schools would be nice and inquired about a penalty. Meyer explained. A discussion followed. Meyer suggested a joint meeting. Updyke mentioned that we need some understanding. Meyer suggested that a joint meeting be held next Wednesday and for us to host it. Motion carried

Meyer motioned and Bell seconded to table items D and E. A discussion followed. Updyke explained why this Lease with Digital Copier works; it is the best of the three options available. Meyer then inquired if bidding this service is a requirement. Superintendent Shinall then mentioned that, no, this service is exempt and read, verbatim, the applicable school code. Meyer suggested that, although not a requirement, we should still field offers for this service. Meyer and Bell then rescinded their votes to table items D and E..

Johnson motioned and Kappes seconded to approve the Digital Copier Lease. Roll Call: Meyer - no, Johnson - yes, Kappes - yes, Snyder -yes, Bell - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Updyke explained the camera quote. New cameras need to be installed at the Athletic Complex and the interface needs to be updated. Bell was concerned about the cost. Snyder mentioned the existence of unnecessary liability. Updyke suggested the camera quote be tabled; we need to get a revised quote. Meyer motioned and Johnson seconded to table the Security Camera quote for the Brimfield School District grounds. Motion carried

There were personnel matters to address/approve.


Bell motioned and Snyder seconded to Approve Michael Challacombe - Student Worker. Roll Call: Snyder -yes, Bell - yes, Meyer - yes, Johnson - yes, Kappes - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried


Meyer motioned and Snyder seconded to Approve a High School Special Education Teaching Position. Mrs. Steele mentioned that there are many specific needs, 504s, as well as the need for self-contained classes. Kappes inquired if this is a temporary need, to which Mrs. Steele indicated that the need has been trending upward. Updyke inquired about the ease of acquiring? Superintendent Shinall mentioned that the sooner we start, the better. Snyder inquired about funding, to which Shinall mentioned that we would utilize a combination of funds being held in our Education Fund and grants; it does cost much more to send these students elsewhere. Roll Call: Kappes - yes, Snyder -yes, Bell - yes, Meyer - yes, Johnson - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Bell motioned and Snyder seconded to Approve the Consent Calendar items. Roll Call: Johnson - yes, Kappes - yes, Snyder -yes, Bell - yes, Meyer - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Updyke mentioned that the Board will reach out for a date that will work best for a meeting with Elmwood/Brimfield regarding the co-op.

At 9:01 p.m., Snyder motioned and Bell seconded to adjourn the February 15, 2023 Regular board meeting of the Brimfield CUSD #309 Board of Education. Motion carried


Board President


Board Secretary