

July 19, 2023

The Brimfield Board of Education held its Regular meeting on Wednesday, July 19, 2023 at 7 p.m. in the High School Library. Board President Updyke called the meeting to order with the following members present: Snyder, Bell, Monk, Blodgett, Butterfield, and Kappes.

The Board welcomed approximately 12 visitors.

Updyke welcomed comments from the community members.

- Lori Johnson shared her concerns about how the situation with Porter and the baseball program was handled; she does not believe that the Board and Administration are working together when it comes to the kids. She does not believe that the baseball camp communication was handled correctly and she does not like the state of the baseball field. She requested more information and clarification on the events that led to Porter's resignation. She believes that Porter's miscues could have been handled differently. She shared why she used to be happy with the Baseball program. She mentioned all of the time and efforts Porter has dedicated to the baseball program and is baffled how we got here. Lori requested other options in holding Porter accountable.
- Regina Crowe shared her frustrations with the handling of Porter that led to his resignation. She shared why she believes Porter was good for the baseball program. She believes a couple of Board Members seemed pleased after Porter resigned. She believes Porter should resume coaching, preferably this year.
- Updyke weighed in on the events that led to Porter's resignation: Porter was not removed for his coaching abilities; he was removed from the program due to his handling of the private account. He explained further. A discussion followed between Updyke, Regina Crowe, and Lori Johnson. Updyke explained why activity accounts exist. Updyke also mentioned that this situation is no different than one of them signing a check, made out to their employer, and depositing it into a personal account. Superintendent Jones asked Regina and Lori if they would ask Porter where the money is at? Updyke mentioned that Porter has not been in contact with the Board or Administration. Updyke also explained why the baseball field is in the condition that it is in. Lori Johnson wants to believe, but is not convinced, that the Board/Administration's [handling of the Porter situation] is in the best interest of the kids. Updyke mentioned that the penalties could be more severe.
- Kiersten Sheets from Trajectory Energy Partners provided an update on the solar project. Jubilee Solar has received the rec award; she mentioned that it was expected in the spring. Kiersten then presented a \$30k check to the District. Solar panel construction is expected to begin late this year/ early next year. Superintendent Jones inquired about the connection between solar and the lights to the baseball field. Kiersten mentioned that the panels will be connected to the Ameren grid; there was mention of additional subscribers providing additional revenue for the District.

Snyder motioned and Monk seconded to approve the minutes from:

- May 10, 2023 Regular Meeting

Motion carried

Board President Updyke reported. It seems like things are going well; he is excited about the start of the new school year.

Superintendent Jones reported. The Board was briefed on details from the recent co-op meeting; another will be held at the conclusion of the football season. There had been discussion about including Brimfield on the jerseys; transportation had also been discussed. Snyder mentioned that there was discussion about community involvement, coaching policies and evaluations for co-op sports, and recognition. Mrs. Steele mentioned that there is a plan to make a uniform handbook across both schools. Superintendent Jones briefed the Board on development of a 5-year strategic plan with the objective to implement by July 1, 2024.

Mrs. Steele reported on the High School. The semester exam schedules were discussed. There will be a few new expectations this upcoming school year: locker usage, chromebook bags with straps, and cell phones to be out of sight. Regina Crowe inquired about students with a medical need needing their phones. Mrs. Steele mentioned that it would be included in the applicable 504 plan. Kudos to Bren and Julie [Edwards] and a HUGE thank you for their work over the summer! She also thanked the custodial staff [Mandi Carroll, Jim Treadway, and Jake Gunter] for everything they have been doing to help get the building ready for the start of school. Lastly, she detailed the implementation of the Xello platform.

Mrs. Albritton reported on the Grade School. She began providing details on registration. Lori Johnson and Kappes had made a mention of service fees being added; Mrs. Albritton mentioned that she would check with Bren and Kevin Faulkner and see about getting those fees removed. She then provided additional details on registration. She briefed the Board on the ELA Committee, Summer professional development, and MAP assessment. The custodial staff [Ashley Cornelison, Lee Ray, Michael Challacombe, Danette Jackson, Lyndsey Forney, and Melissa Smith] was thanked for all of the building work and for updating the main hallway. Details were then provided on upcoming dates and sports. NWEA MAP growth measures were briefed upon. IAR info was received just earlier today; more information on this will be shared.

There was new business to discuss/approve.

Butterfield motioned and Snyder seconded to Approve the BGS Ceiling and Sound Proofing Bid from Wright-Way for \$13,700. Superintendent Jones elaborated on the necessity. Roll Call: Blodgett - yes, Kappes - yes, Bell - yes, Snyder - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Blodgett motioned and Monk seconded to Approve the BGS Lighting Bid from CIES for \$6,700. Superintendent Jones mentioned that the lighting is being upgraded, at the Grade School, to LED. Roll Call: Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Kappes - yes, Bell - yes, Snyder - yes, Butterfield - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Snyder motioned and Monk seconded to Approve the installation of an office window at BGS from Joseph Brothers for \$12,057. Superintendent Jones mentioned that it will be opening up space so [Bren] can see who is entering the building; we are addressing a safety concern. Roll Call: Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Kappes - yes, Bell - yes, Snyder - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Kappes motioned and Blodgett seconded to Approve the FY24 Audit Contract from Gorenz & Associates as presented. Superintendent Jones mentioned that this year's audit is based on last fiscal year's numbers. Roll Call: Snyder - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Kappes - yes, Bell - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

There were personnel matters to address/approve.

Roll Call: Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Kappes - yes, Bell - yes, Snyder - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Snyder motioned and Butterfield seconded to Accept the resignation of Troy Tilly - BGS Golf Coach. Motion carried

Kappes motioned and Blodgett seconded to Approve Josh Johnson - BGS Head Baseball Coach. Roll Call: Bell - yes, Snyder - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Kappes - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Kappes motioned and Snyder seconded to Approve Josh Johnson - BHS Boys' Baseball Volunteer Coach. Roll Call: Kappes - yes, Bell - yes, Snyder - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Butterfield motioned and Monk seconded to Approve Mike Meinders - BGS Assistant Baseball Coach (pending paperwork). Roll Call: Blodgett - yes, Kappes - yes, Bell - yes, Snyder - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Butterfield motioned and Snyder seconded to Approve Phil Johnson - BGS Baseball Developmental Coach. Roll Call: Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Kappes - yes, Bell - yes, Snyder - yes, Butterfield - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Blodgett motioned and Butterfield seconded to Approve Mallorie Menold - BGS Softball Developmental Coach (pending paperwork). Roll Call: Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Kappes - yes, Bell - yes, Snyder - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Kappes motioned and Monk seconded to Approve Trent Trotter - BGS Golf Coach. Roll Call: Snyder - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Kappes - yes, Bell - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Snyder motioned and Blodgett seconded to Approve Nick Herbst - BGS Volunteer Golf Coach. Roll Call: Bell - yes, Snyder - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Kappes - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Kappes motioned and Blodgett seconded to Approve Devin Jones - BGS Volunteer Cross-Country Coach. Roll Call: Kappes - yes, Bell - yes, Snyder - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Blodgett motioned and Monk seconded to Approve Griffith Inskip - BGS Volunteer Cross-Country Coach. Roll Call: Blodgett - yes, Kappes - yes, Bell - yes, Snyder - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Blodgett motioned and Monk seconded to Approve Devyn Lewis - BGS Paraprofessional. Roll Call: Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Kappes - yes, Bell - yes, Snyder - yes, Butterfield - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

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

At 7:45 p.m., Monk motioned and Snyder seconded to enter closed/executive session to discuss *The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).* Updyke mentioned that there would be no action afterwards. Roll Call: Snyder - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Kappes - yes, Bell - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

At 9:04 p.m., the Board returned from the closed/executive session; there were a couple of additional personnel matters to discuss/approve.

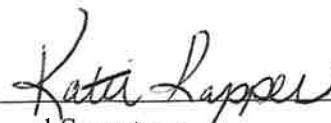
Butterfield motioned and Blodgett seconded to Approve the FY24 Non-Certified Staff Salary Raises as Modified. Roll Call: Bell - yes, Snyder - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Kappes - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Butterfield motioned and Blodgett seconded to grant Superintendent permission to hire a full-time paraprofessional. Roll Call: Kappes - yes, Bell - yes, Snyder - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

At 9:06 p.m., Blodgett motioned and Snyder seconded to adjourn the July 19, 2023 Regular board meeting of the Brimfield CUSD #309 Board of Education. Motion carried



Board President



Board Secretary