

Special Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Board President Updyke with the following members present: Bell, Snyder, Blodgett, Butterfield, Monk, and Kappes.

The Board welcomed several visitors.

Updyke welcome comments from the community.

-Todd Johnson, Jakoby Johnson, Landon Binder, Brady Johnson, Cam Blodgett, Cleveland Bizosky, Jack Houlihan, Regina Crowe, Kenny Bizosky, Melissa Kenney, Lori Johnson, Chris Malone, Donna Malone, Scott Carlson, Joy, Brad Coyle, Tucker Blum, Austin Sims, Erin Schatsiek, and Kelly Bizosky all spoke positively about Brandon Porter as a coach.

--Todd mentioned that he does not appreciate shade Porter is receiving. Jakoby wants to play baseball next year with Porter as his coach.

-- Landon spoke of how Porter helped him grow as person and player and explained how; he does not want Porter removed as a coach. Brady also spoke of how Porter has helped him grow as a person and player and does not approve of Porter being removed as coach; he mentioned that he hopes it is not because of Porter's cash withdrawals. Cam has known Porter since the 6th grade; he mentioned that Porter is family. Cleveland mentioned that Porter helped him love baseball and has helped him grow as a person and player; believes Porter to be inspiring. Jack loved playing for Porter and thanked Porter; he mentioned that he did not love baseball but did like Porter as coach.

--Regina mentioned that her child lives and breathes baseball and explained how Porter has helped her child; she spoke of her child's admiration of Porter; she spoke of the baseball program's achievements under Porter. Kenny believes the BOE is making a mistake; believes Porter to be a winner: believes Porter to have a heart and believes Porter to be one of the most respected coaches in the state; he pleaded with the Board to keep Porter in the Baseball program. Melissa explained that she has not always seen eye to eye with Porter but respects him as a coach. Lori does not agree with Porter being removed from the program; Lori believes that if this has to do with his personal account-talk to him about it; she expressed her frustration with the lack of administration at games; she does not agree with all of Porter's decisions but believes he has a heart for the game-she then explained why she believes so. Chris Malone believes a massive hole will be left if Porter is not brought back; he does not believe that situations have been handled appropriately at ball games but wants Porter to continue coaching-to have an opportunity to prove himself.

--Donna Malone mentioned that they are here by choice and for baseball; she believes that Porter has made a difference-she explained; she believes the Board needs to work with Porter; believes that the community sees the good and that Porter is being discounted for how good he is; she believes Porter needs an opportunity to do better. Scott Carlson spoke of being in a similar situation to Porter; he hopes Porter can continue to coach considering the amount of support here tonight. Joy mentioned that coaches are hard to bring in; believes we need people who are dedicated as we don't know who we will get.

--Brad Coyle spoke of his history in the community and his current contributions to the baseball team(s); he believes Porter goes above and beyond as coach and that it is evident in the students; he shared a few of Porter's compassionate moments; he urged the Board to not let Brandon go

and to reconsider. Tucker does not Porter to be taken away. Austin appreciates the opportunity to play and coach; Porter has had an impact on his life and others; he believes Porter to be second to none; he wishes the Board to reconsider. Erin believes that the financial concerns should have been caught long before now-she mentioned that there are checks and balances in place; she believes there are several hands in the pot; she shared a compassionate story regarding a student's dilemma and Porter; she mentioned that people make mistakes; she believes that the Board needs to reconsider if Porter's actions were not malicious. Lastly, Kelly Bizosky believes that removing Porter from coaching has been in the works for a long time-believes it to be about 5 years-due to personal vendetta; believes that removing Porter from baseball affects kids of all ages-the summer baseball camp was mentioned.

--Dr. Erich Weiger spoke of Griffith Inskip and provided a very brief background; please make him feel welcome- applause followed. Dr. Weiger then mentioned that Griff is going to do a great job with the 5th graders!

At 7:48 p.m., Meyer motioned and Snyder seconded to leave open session and enter closed 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)*. Roll Call: Monk – yes, Butterfield – yes, Snyder – yes, Kappes – yes, Bell – yes, Blodgett – yes, Updyke – yes.

The Board returned from closed session at 9:32 p.m.

Butterfield motioned and Monk seconded to Approve the BGS Extracurricular Assignments for 2023-2024. Roll Call: Blodgett - yes, Monk - yes, Butterfield - yes, Snyder - yes, Kappes - yes, Bell - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Snyder motioned and Blodgett seconded to Approve the BHS Extracurricular Assignments for 2023-2024. Roll Call: Bell - yes, Blodgett - yes, Monk - yes, Butterfield - yes, Snyder - yes, Kappes - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Snyder motioned and Monk seconded to Griffith Inskip – BGS 5th Grade Teacher (pending paperwork). Roll Call: Kappes - yes, Bell - yes, Blodgett - yes, Monk - yes, Butterfield - yes, Snyder - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. Motion carried


Board President


Board Secretary