

STARK COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #100
Stark, Knox, Marshall, Henry & Peoria Counties, Illinois

Regular Meeting – October 18, 2021

The Stark County Community Unit School District #100 Board of Education met Monday, October 18, 2021 at Stark County Elementary School. Members present were Emily Holman, Matthew Nagode, Ann Orwig, Erin Price, Brian Rewerts, and Bruce West. Also present were Brett Elliott, Superintendent; Jenna Bibb, Elementary Principal; Megan McGann, Jr.High/High School Principal; students and citizens of the district, and a member of the press. (David Steward was absent.)

With a quorum present the meeting was called to order by President, Mrs. Orwig, at 6:03 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and the Mission and Vision statements were recited.

Motion was made by Mr. West, seconded by Ms. Holman, to approve the consent calendar. Items approved under the consent calendar were:

- Approval of the September 20, 2021 minutes;
- Approval of the September Activity Funds, September Self-Insurance; August and September Imprest and Treasurer's Report
- Approval of the September LEA checks as follows: City of Wyoming \$297.04, Stark County CUSD 100 \$118,860.74, Guardian \$356.49, Guardian \$3,312.10, Guardian \$581.08, Guardian \$475.22, U.S. Postal Service \$500.00, CLIA Laboratory Program \$180.00, Illinois Department of Employment \$2,506.00, VISA \$594.67, VISA \$411.00, VISA \$1,388.87, Stark County CUSD #100 \$154,280.40, Imprest Fund \$6,006.42.

Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mrs. Price, to approve the October bills of \$759,908.80. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

There were no public comments or questions.

Pride and Excellence recipients were awarded to Bruce Bibb for volunteering his time and efforts to complete maintenance tasks prior to the start of school, Owen Mercer for assisting Mr. Bunch in cleaning out of the technology office in preparation of the renovations at the Jr. High, and Gary Frail, volunteer coach for the Jr. High Co-Ed Cross Country team.

Administrative Reports:

Mrs. Bibb reported the Pre-K audit went well and received positive feedback. They are currently working on the Annual Student Improvement Plan. RtI Tier 2 and 3 parent meetings for the first quarter are underway.

Ms. McGann reported the PLC process was going well. Experienced teachers continue to share strategies for success and coaching to the new teachers. Homecoming week was awesome. FFA Soil Team placed 5th in the State Competition.

A focus on college and career readiness over the past month has been successful with more exposure for the students.

Mr. Elliott reported the 2021-2022 school year has been more challenging than past years for staff and administration due to ever changing guidelines and mandates. The Stark Council for Continuous Improvement (SCCI) raised \$5000 towards a community advertising project working with a videographer to produce short advertising segments to promote Stark County. The PLC implementation process is underway as we shift our teaching and learning using the latest instructional strategies to increase student engagement and align instruction to state standards. Additional cameras have been added to the lunchrooms to enhance the contract tracing process and additional tables at the Elementary should be arriving soon. In-person Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held Tuesday, October 26 and Thursday, October 28 from 4:00 -7:00 and a virtual option on Tuesday from 4:00 – 5:00 and Thursday from 6:00 – 7:00. He read the following statement regarding community inquiries regarding mask mandates and COVID 19 IDPH Guidelines:

We have acknowledged your email asking the administration and board to consider the questions that you have outlined. We certainly understand your concerns and frustrations and concur that this pandemic and its various impacts on our lives, including the mitigation measures imposed by the state, have been difficult on everyone. That is especially true this year for people who find themselves in schools all day long as the mitigation measures seem particularly directed to us.

As a school district, we are doing our best to follow the laws, regulations, and guidance implemented by the state and have strived to be transparent and provide timely information to employees, parents and students about the various requirements. As you might guess, you are not alone in your feelings about the mandates. On the other hand, there are many in our community who are thankful for the mitigation measures as a means of trying to suppress transmission of this virus. We try to be mindful and empathetic to all views and feelings about the subject but ultimately both the board and administration believe the best course of action is to follow the requirements implemented by the state. To the extent that people disagree with those policies and requirements, we are encouraging them to reach out to their representatives and elected officials at the state level. For a host of reasons, we do not believe defiance of state requirements is a wise option for a public school district.

As for your specific concerns below, you should know that the Illinois Department of Public Health issued emergency regulations which amended the definitions of quarantine and modified quarantine. Those trial level decisions which resulted in a TRO prohibiting quarantine or implementation of the mask mandate without a court order only applied to the schools in those cases and predated the change in the law. Also, the school is in regular contact with our school attorneys and have been given guidance on many of the issues you have outlined. However, we do not utilize district resources to engage the services of our attorneys to provide detailed responses to complex legal questions asked by parents. You will need to consult your own attorneys for answers to these questions.

The Stark County Board will be recognized at the November 4th IASB Blackhawk

2021-22	2021-22 Expended	School 2020-21	2020-21 Expended	2019-20	2019-20 Expended	2018-19	2018-19 Expended	2017-18	2017-18 Expended
25%		25%		25%		25%		25%	
17.57%	1,586,022	18.77%	\$1,430,825	24.11%	\$1,559,765	21.11%	\$1,342,917	22.49%	1,428,041
13.56%	181,924	19.31%	\$215,016	22.00%	\$299,609	25.14%	\$181,981	23.82%	182,761
42.99%	182,964	32.89%	\$157,644	32.56%	157,654	32.52%	\$164,167	29.86%	148,346
18.24%	43,746	16.10%	\$37,673	17.50%	38,816	21.33%	\$48,138	19.48%	45,668
52.51%	181,673	48.82%	\$168,280	54.06%	164,057	59.52%	\$139,463	62.26%	146,496

October 18, 2021
 Division for receiving the 2021 IASB Excellence in Board Governance

Award. He provided an update on FY22 budgeted expenditures as follows:

Mr. Elliott provided an update on the solar project stating Gov. Pritzker signed an energy bill on September 15, 2021, that would allow Future Green and Ecoenergy to secure Renewable Energy Credits of Illinois School Districts which would increase our savings rate from a projected \$1,700 savings in year one to an estimated \$5,780 in in energy cost savings. Motion was made by Mrs. Orwig, seconded by Mr. West to approve the new rates for the SCES Solar Project as presented. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Mr. Elliott reported the Board will be attending the 2021 Triple I School Board Conference in Chicago on November 19 and 20, 2021. Members will be attending sessions on Friday and Saturday.

Motion was made by Mr. West, seconded by Mr. Nagode, to grant Superintendent Elliot approval to begin the 2022 tax levy process. Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Mr. Elliott informed the board that if the tax levy exceeds 5% increase from the prior year we will be required Truth in Taxation hearing prior to adopting the tax levy. Past practice has been to hold a Truth in Taxation hearing regardless of if the increase exceeds the 5% and plans are to hold a Truth in Taxation hearing again this year.

Mr. Elliott presented a request to combine the Jr. High Soda account, High School Social account and the High School Teacher’s Lounge account into one account named Junior High/High School into one account called “Social Sunshine” within the Jr. High/High School Activity Fund. Motion was made by Ms. Holman, seconded by Mrs. Price, to approve the Jr.High/High School Activity Fund request as presented. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Mr. Elliott shared the updated e-Learning procedures in the event of an adaptive pause caused by COVID19. Ultimately the decision would be made by the Board of Education based on the health department recommendation based on local metrics. The Board discussion was in favor of utilizing the Task Force if time allowed or if the pause would be long term. No action was taken.

Mr. Elliott shared snow day procedures for 2021-2022 via the approved e-Learning Plan. There are not changes to the plan from last year.

Mr. Elliott informed the Board that due to liability of the current, outdated playground equipment at the Jr. High, that removal of the equipment should be considered. The area could then be utilized for additional parking space. He recommended waiting until spring/summer 2022 to take formal action.

Items for the next meeting: Award Snow Bids, Possible PRESS Update, Renovation Update, Update on the Levy Process, Review Closed Session Minutes from Past Six Months, Possible School Report Card Update.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mr. West to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing possible employee performance, resignations, students and hiring at 6:53 p.m. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. and to hold the Executive Session Minutes, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mr. West, to approve the September 20, 2021 Executive Session Minutes, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Mr. Nagode announced the resignation of Sarah Stieghorst as 7th grade volleyball coach, effective immediately.

Mr. Nagode announced the resignation of Katelyn Rumbold as Jr High cheerleading sponsor, effective immediately.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to approve Vicki Nowlan as Jr. High cheerleading sponsor, effective immediately. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Ms. Holman, to employ Elizabeth Gibson as a bus supervisor at the Stark County Athletic Complex. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mr. West, to adjourn at 8:11 p.m. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Ann Orwig
President

Matthew Nagode
Secretary

Approved: November 15, 2021