

August 11, 2021

The Brimfield Board of Education held its regular meeting on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School commons. Board President Updyke called the meeting to order with the following members present: Coyle, Meyer, Snyder, Bell, Graham, and Johnson.

The board recognized and thanked all visitors for attending.

Board President Updyke welcomed comments from the community members.

Cindy Sloan, Peter Huang, Steve Thurman, Brianna Murdock, Nate Hamilton, Josh Murdock, Jarrod Schlipf, Dave Hicke, and Fawn Kieser all opined against the Governor's mask mandate and urged the Board to not follow the mandate. After 30 minutes had passed, Meyer moved and Bell seconded to extend the public comments session for an additional 30 minutes. Motion Carried.

Brent Kieser was next, followed by Matt Gillespie, Courtney Strahm, Kelly Bizosky, Dave Hicke (Jade Wagenbach yielded her time), Anna Heinz, and Sam Hoerr. All voiced their disapproval of the mask mandate and also urged the Board to not follow the mandate. After 30 minutes had passed, Johnson moved and Snyder seconded to extend the public comments session for an additional 30 minutes. Motion Carried.

Tara Binder was the last to voice her opinion against the mask mandate.

Bell moved and Coyle seconded to approve the minutes from:

- July 21, 2021 – Regular Meeting & Executive Session
- August 10, 2021 – Curriculum Committee Meeting

Motion Carried

Updyke reported. He appreciates all the summer workers and custodians for all they have done. He loves the inside and outside updates to the Grade School.

Superintendent Shinall reported on his board report. He was very appreciative of all involved with the rollout of online registration. He briefed the board on the tentative budget. We will be receiving just under \$20k of additional funds for Evidence-Based Funding. Lastly, he briefed the Board on returning to school.

High School Principal Robison reported. He shared how he has learned how much of a family atmosphere we have here! He is excited for the new employees to get started. He explained that schedule changes can still take place through the first week of school. He explained the 'trust the process slogan' for this year and reminded us all how important it is to BE ELITE.

Grade School Principal Albritton reported. She briefed the Board on Summer school attendance as well as the areas of growth and improvement. She elaborated on registration turnout thus far. There will be an Open House on August 17<sup>th</sup>; Teacher Institute days are on August 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, she explained the completed summer maintenance projects and directed attention to the pictures included with her report.

There was new business to discuss/approve.

Johnson moved and Bell seconded to approve the Review of Closed Session Meeting Minutes.

Motion carried

Meyer moved and Johnson seconded to approve the Grade School Handbook.

Motion carried

Meyer moved and Coyle seconded to approve the High School Handbook. Motion carried

Meyer moved and Coyle seconded to approve the Tentative Budget and set the Hearing date for September 15, 2021. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

Superintendent Shinall referenced two documents that were distributed to Board members. The first was a letter he received that afternoon from the State Superintendent detailing ISBE's position on the Executive Order. The expectation of ISBE was for districts to follow the Executive Order. This letter detailed the consequences of not following the Executive Order, including a change in the district's recognition with ISBE. If remediation was unsuccessful, the letter detailed this would lead to a loss of recognition, meaning a loss to access to state funding and the loss of the ability to participate in athletic contests sanctioned by the Illinois Elementary School Association and the Illinois High School Association. The second document was the professional recommendation of Superintendent Shinall to follow the Executive Order. A list of possible outcomes of not following the Executive Order were listed in this letter as well.

Meyer moved, contingent on possible changes, and Bell seconded to approve the Revised Return to School Plan. After much discussion the recommended changes were:

- Meyer moved and Bell seconded to approve striking the verbiage, under contact tracing: "...and are vaccinated." Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – no, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – no. Motion carried
- Meyer moved and Bell seconded to approve the following: A mask mandate exists, except in mitigation tier/level one where masks will be recommended. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – no, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – no. Motion carried
- Meyer moved and Bell seconded to approve the following metric replace the existing metric: daily positive cases x 10 divided by the sum of the 3 zip codes (61517, 61528, 61529). Motion carried
- Meyer moved and Bell seconded to strike the "5 days prior" terminology from the Mitigation tiers/levels and replace with "based on the above calculation starting on the 18<sup>th</sup>." Motion carried
- Meyer moved and Bell seconded to strike "masks required" under Mitigation tier/level one and replace with "masks recommended." Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – no, Snyder – yes, Graham – no, Coyle – yes, Updyke – no Motion carried
- Meyer moved and Bell seconded to approve the verbiage "who are in close contact and symptomatic" under Quarantine Staff per directive. Motion carried

Bell shared that he has knowledge of a legal battle over the masking debate and related threats. Bell believes we should undertake some risk due to the ease of course change if the COVID-19 threat is severe enough. Coyle believes ignoring the masks in Mitigation Tier one is a risk worth taking. Updyke explained the severity of the risks, the amount of funding at stake, the importance of recognition loss, insurance liability, and personal liability. Johnson appreciates everyone attending and strongly expressed why it is so important that we follow the mandate. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – no, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – no. Motion carried

Meyer moved and Johnson seconded to approve the Consolidated District Plan. Superintendent Shinall explained that all of our grant funding is contingent on the completion and approval of this plan. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

Bell moved and Johnson seconded to approve the membership in the High School District Organization of Illinois. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

Snyder moved and Coyle seconded to waive the first reading and approve the Five Year Review for the following Board Policies:

- 1:10 School District Legal Status
- 1:20 District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements
- 2:220-E4 Exhibit – Open Meeting Minutes
- 3:30 Chain of Command
- 5:270 Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment
- 6:100 Using Animals in the Educational Program
- 6:170 Title I Programs
- 6:315 High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8
- 7:220 Bus Conduct
- 7:230 Misconduct by Students with Disabilities

Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

Bell moved and Graham seconded to waive the first reading and approve the Adoption of Draft Updates for the following Board Policies:

- 1:30 School District Philosophy
- 2:10 School District Governance
- 2:120-E1 Exhibit – Guidelines for Serving as a Mentor to a New Board of Education Member
- 2:120-E2 Exhibit – Website Listing of Development and Training Completed by Board Members
- 2:130 Board-Superintendent Relationship
- 2:220-E7 Exhibit – Access to Closed Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Recordings
- 2:30 School District Elections
- 2:240 Board Policy Development
- 2:240-E1 Exhibit – PRESS Issue Updates
- 2:240-E2 Exhibit – Developing Local Policy
- 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
- 6:145 Migrant Students
- 6:160 English Learners
- 6:235 Access to Electronic Networks
- 6:255 Assemblies and Ceremonies
- 6:260 Complaints About Curriculum Instructional Materials and Programs
- 7:280 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease
- 8:90 Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs

Bell motioned and Snyder seconded to vote on the 2:240 Board Policy items separately. Motion carried  
Roll Call (for approval of the remaining policies): Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

Bell moved and Meyer seconded to waive the first reading and approve the Adoption of Draft Updates for the following Board Policies:

- 2:240 Board Policy Development
- 2:240-E1 Exhibit – PRESS Issue Updates
- 2:240-E2 Exhibit – Developing Local Policy

Roll Call: Meyer – no, Bell – no, Johnson – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – no, Coyle – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

Johnson moved and Graham seconded to waive the first reading and Approve the Adoption of Draft – Rewritten for the following Board Policy:

- 3:40-E Exhibit – Checklist for the Superintendent Employment Contract Negotiation Process

Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

Johnson moved and Graham seconded to approve the hiring of Phil Johnson – 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant BGS Baseball Coach. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

Updyke mentioned there will be no vote on Ben Johnson as he has removed his name.

Meyer moved and Johnson seconded to approve a stipend for the High School Secretary and a stipend for the Grade School Secretary. Superintendent Shinall mentioned that this is the stipend that covers extra time spent doing things such as sub calling. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

Johnson moved and Snyder seconded to approve the Consent Calendar items. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

At 9:08 p.m. Meyer moved and Bell seconded to adjourn the August 11, 2021 regular board meeting of the Brimfield CUSD #309 Board of Education. Motion carried

  
Board President

  
Board Secretary