

December 13, 2023

The Brimfield Board of Education held its Regular meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 7 p.m. in the High School Library. Board President Updyke called the meeting to order with the following members present: Bell, Kappes, Snyder, Monk, Blodgett, and Butterfield.

The Board welcomed Nick Vlahos, John Vezzetti (Bernardi's Securities), Kent Floros (Chapman & Cutler), and Dr. Erich Weiger.

The floor was given to John and Kent. John provided his brief background. He explained that Bernardi's has creatively found a way to raise funds (via working cash bonds) without raising the tax rate. Kent explained the timeline and the importance of following it- the tax rate could change for the first year. Snyder inquired how the District could borrow and the tax rate not change? John related it to the increase in the Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV). Kappes inquired if there are other school districts doing this. John mentioned that it is a unique situation; the opportunity is there, so it might as well be used. Blodgett inquired about the fees; are they built into the analysis? Bell asked if the interest rate was fixed? John answered yes to both questions. Updyke inquired if there would be an early payoff penalty? John explained that this is not typical; a discussion could be had later. Blodgett inquired about risk; Kent explained that there is little to none. Bell asked Superintendent Jones if he would be comfortable with the increase in debt service; Mr. Jones explained why he is and explained how working cash bonds operate. John and Kent explained that the IRS limits what working cash bonds can be used for as well as setting a reasonable expectation to spend 85% of the bonds in 3 years. There was a brief discussion on other options outside of borrowing.

Updyke welcomed comments from the community members; there were none.

Monk motioned and Kappes seconded to approve the minutes from:

- November 15, 2023 Regular Meeting

Motion carried

Board President Updyke reported. He has been looking forward to the Holidays; loves the way the campus looks and likes the open campus feel at the High School.

Superintendent Jones reported. The Levy is up for approval; there have been no changes since being presented at last month's meeting. There have been a few late additions to the Agenda including the Chess and Cheerleading overnight trips. He explained the bid process and why the bids [for asbestos removal] came in a bit higher than expected. The window bids were explained; these new windows will provide additional security. Mr. Jones and the Board had a brief discussion regarding the ventilation in the BGS gym. Back to the windows- Mr. Jones mentioned how Fire/Life Safety funds can and will be used. The areas will be prioritized. When the asbestos is removed, the area(s) will be full containment- the individuals removing the asbestos will be in full HAZMAT gear. He discussed, with the Board, the tile removal / replacement options. The Board was briefed on the timeline. There was discussion on a modified bid with versus without tile removal. Mr. Jones then mentioned that cameras have been installed at the Grade School; we are working to get them all online. Lastly, the Board Convention was

a good experience- nice weather and fun; you [Board Members] are all welcome next year also- it takes place the weekend before Thanksgiving every year.

Mrs. Steele reported on the High School. This was the first ever Deck the Halls- there were lots of smiles! We are waiting on a couple of things relating to the 2024-2025 School Year schedule. We are hoping to add additional dual credit courses- Dr. Weiger and Ms. Barrow have applied to teach these courses.

Mrs. Albritton reported on the Grade School. The Board was briefed on enrollment and the K-4 ELA Committee updates; Mrs. Albritton briefly detailed the aggressive timeline for piloting the new curriculum. She then briefed the Board on the 12 Days of Christmas for Staff, Holiday food baskets / canned food drive, the Christmas Giving Tree (thank you for the many donations!), and the PTO carnival updates. Dr. Weiger was thanked for making the Christmas chorus concert possible! The pre-K - 4 concert has unfortunately been delayed until the spring. Lastly, the Board was provided with updates on Girls' Basketball, Boys Basketball, Volleyball, and miscellaneous sports information.

Snyder motioned and Monk seconded to Approve the FY25 Levy as presented. Roll Call: Kappes - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Snyder - yes, Bell - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Kappes motioned and Snyder seconded to Approve the BHS Softball Trip to Clarkesville, Tennessee. Motion carried

Monk motioned and Snyder seconded to Approve the BHS Chess overnight Trip to Elgin, Illinois. Motion carried

Snyder motioned and Kappes seconded to Approve the BHS Cheerleading overnight Trip to Springfield, Illinois. Motion carried

Snyder motioned and Bell seconded to Approve the Asbestos bid from M&O as presented. Kappes inquired if this was the lower bid and reason. Superintendent Jones mentioned that the bid does not include tile removal. It will be a room by room scenario which will incur an additional cost (unknown right now); we will keep you updated. A brief discussion followed. Roll Call: Bell - yes, Kappes - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Snyder - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Snyder motioned and Blodgett seconded to Approve the Window Replacement bid from Peoria Metro as modified. Superintendent Jones mentioned that the modified bid includes glaze. A brief discussion followed. Roll Call: Snyder - yes, Bell - yes, Kappes - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

There were personnel matters to address/approve.

Blodgett motioned and Snyder seconded to Approve Kristen Arnold - BGS Special Education Tutor. Roll Call: Blodgett - yes, Snyder - yes, Bell - yes, Kappes - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Blodgett motioned and Kappes seconded to Approve Marissa Royer - BGS Special Education Tutor. Roll Call: Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Snyder - yes, Bell - yes, Kappes - yes, Butterfield - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Blodgett motioned and Snyder seconded to Approve Jane Mason - BGS Special Education Tutor. Roll Call: Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Snyder - yes, Bell - yes, Kappes - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Kappes motioned and Butterfield seconded to Approve Rick Lithicum - BHS Assistant Softball Coach. Roll Call: Kappes - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Snyder - yes, Bell - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Butterfield motioned and Blodgett seconded to Approve Mallorie Menold - BHS JV Softball Coach. Snyder inquired if this is a paid position and if softball will now have the same number of coaches as baseball; Superintendent Jones confirmed- yes as the numbers support this. Dr. Weiger inquired that if this is a paid position, it is not in the Teachers' contract. Mr. Jones mentioned that he will leave it up to the coaches on how to proceed; the additional position was approved at the previous meeting. Superintendent Jones then recommended the Board approve and he will meet up with Dr. Weiger to sort out the details. Roll Call: Bell - yes, Kappes - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Snyder - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

Kappes motioned and Blodgett seconded to Approve Jennifer Johnson - BHS 2nd Assistant Softball Coach. Roll Call: Snyder - yes, Bell - yes, Kappes - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

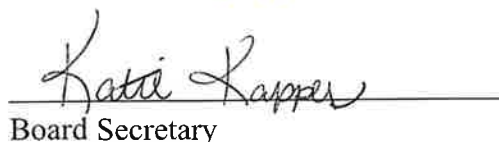
Blodgett motioned and Monk seconded to Approve the Consent Calendar items. Roll Call: Blodgett - yes, Snyder - yes, Bell - yes, Kappes - yes, Butterfield - yes, Monk - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

At 8:13 pm, Monk motioned and Butterfield seconded to exit open session and enter Executive Session: 5 ILCS 120/2 [c][1] under the exception of 2 [c][2] collective negotiating matters. Roll Call: Monk - yes, Blodgett - yes, Snyder - yes, Bell - yes, Kappes - yes, Butterfield - yes, Updyke - yes. Motion carried

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:11 pm.

At 9:11 p.m., Kappes motioned and Snyder seconded to adjourn the December 13, 2023 Regular board meeting of the Brimfield CUSD #309 Board of Education. Motion carried


Board President


Board Secretary