

The Brimfield Board of Education held its regular meeting on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the High School Library. Board President Updyke called the meeting to order with the following members present: Johnson, Meyer, Bell, Snyder, Johnson, Graham. and Kappes.

The Board welcomed approximately 16 visitors.

Updyke welcomed comments from the community members.

Peter Huang inquired if the Board would consider masks optional; he explained why he believes they should be. Fawn Kieser shared how contact tracing has affected her family's mental health. Ashley Cornelison opined on why we have to follow guidelines, not only to keep the school open, but also to keep sports. She talks to her kids about the availability of mental health days also. Courtney Strahm shared how her family's mental health has been affected. She explained why she believes we should not be following the mask mandate; she is frustrated because she is not seeing changes by following the guidelines. Jarrod Schlipf mentioned a previous [Brimfield BOE] meeting and brought up Morton's recent litigation [against the state and ISBE] and believes that our Board of Education should be exploring options regarding masking and quarantines. Updyke shared that he watched the [Morton BOE] meeting and will not be commenting on Morton's litigation at this time. Josh Murdoch inquired if we could get out of our current litigation. Updyke stated that the Board will be having a discussion with legal counsel during the closed session.

Jason Strahm wants the Board to see what they can do to bring about changes [in regards to masking and quarantines]. Updyke shared that he, himself, does not wish to waste taxpayer dollars by suing [the state or ISBE]. Updyke explained that the students/athletes are able to participate in events unlike last year and wants there to be no impact; the Board will be reviewing the guidance. Josh Murdoch inquired if we are spending to cover our current litigation. Updyke mentioned that our current litigation is covered by legal counsel that is covered under our insurance; the Board will be discussing all topics involved [in current litigation] in the closed session. Brianna Murdoch and Fawn Kieser expressed their frustration on how they believe the rules are and enforcement is not consistent with mask placement. Tara Binder was offended by Updyke's responses; she explained. She also believes the District and Board are divided and is frustrated. Meyer explained how everything comes down to votes and we are all allowed to express our individual opinions; he thanked Tara Binder and the other visitors for theirs. Johnson explained that things are not as divisive as they may seem. Courtney Strahm mentioned Lonna's workload and wonders if there have been any student repercussions due the mask guidance; she wonders if the Speech Pathologist and/or Title I instructor have been reached out to. Dave Hicke mentioned how he would be disappointed if all Board members had the same opinions; he believes we are not seeing changes even though we are following the guidance. Ashley Cornelison opined on how she is willing to do what it takes to stay employed and keep the students in school. Meyer thanked the visitors and Fawn Kieser thanked the Board.

Meyer moved and Kappes seconded to approve the minutes from:

- December 13, 2021 Building & Grounds Committee Meeting; and
- December 15, 2021 Regular Meeting

Motion Carried

Board President Updyke reported. He thanked the Administration and staff for everything they are doing. He is glad we had a great first semester and is grateful that we are still having in-person instruction.

Superintendent Shinall reported on his board report. He shared his welcome back message and that the FY23 School Calendar is being worked on. A friendly reminder was shared with the Board regarding DCFS.

Mr. Robison reported on his High School Report. The Girls Basketball team is 17-3 and the Boys Basketball Team is 9-3. He shared the professional development focus for this month. The Board was briefed on the ELITE staff members of the month. The Board was briefed on the 5Essentials survey, upcoming events, homecoming, and upcoming games. He reminded us all how important it is to Be ELITE.

Mrs. Albritton reported on her Grade School Report. The Board was briefed on enrollment numbers. An update from the Nurse was shared. The Board was given updates on Teacher's Institute, the ELA meeting being postponed 1 week, SIP day, 5Essentials survey, upcoming events, and sports updates.

There was old business to discuss- Board Member responsibility regarding DCFS. Superintendent Shinall informed the Board that this is part of ROE compliance and reminded the Board that they are mandated reporters. If there are any questions or concerns about this, he will be happy to assist.

There was new business to discuss/approve.

Kiersten Sheets was given the floor to provide a solar presentation. She discussed part of the desire to bring solar to the community is due to the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act and that Brimfield Tier 2 placement makes them a targeted area. She explained how the District could generate revenue. She proposed where the solar panels could be installed and the structure(s) would not be tied to any electrical structures. The solar company would be responsible for all the work; the school would have no responsibility. She shared the names of 4 nearby areas that have installed solar panels. Kiersten shared the annual funding year. She shared the steps that have yet to be taken before the panels can be installed. She shared the amount of revenue that could be potentially generated, Meyer inquired when a decision needs to be made. Kiersten stated that they will need a lease agreement and an interconnection agreement. The Board agreed that this would be a discussion for the Building & Grounds Committee. Superintendent Shinall was concerned about the possibility of being out of the targeted area if we move to a Tier 3 placement this summer. There was a brief discussion on the materials used and the future disposition process. Kiersten mentioned that there can be 3,000-5,000 subscribers and she shared the current rate. Bell inquired if the usable time can be negotiated in the lease, to which Kiersten said yes.

Johnson moved and Snyder seconded to Approve the Resolution for the TRS Supplemental Savings Plan. Superintendent Shinall briefed the Board on what it is and why the resolution is necessary. Roll Call: Johnson – yes, Meyer – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Bell – yes, Kappes – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

Johnson moved to Approve the contract with Bushue HR, but did not get a second. Superintendent Shinall mentioned that the issues Bushue covers are vast. They can write specifications for property casualty insurance in the future. We can meet with Bushue monthly regarding needs. Shinall mentioned

that Bushue HR comes recommended by Districts that utilize their services. The Board Members requested Superintendent Shinall provide more information. Meyer motioned and Snyder seconded to table the contract with Bushue HR. Roll Call: Johnson – yes, Meyer – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Bell – yes, Kappes – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

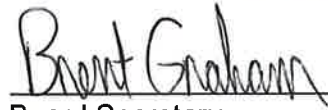
Meyer moved and Graham seconded to approve the Consent Calendar items. Roll Call: Johnson – yes, Meyer – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Bell – yes, Kappes – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

At 8:14pm, Bell moved and Snyder seconded to enter closed session to discuss *Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)* Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Bell – yes, Kappes – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

At 10:28 p.m. the Board returned to Open Session.

At 10:29 p.m., Meyer moved and Johnson seconded to adjourn the January 19, 2022 regular board meeting of the Brimfield CUSD #309 Board of Education.

Motion carried


Board President
Board Secretary