

October 20, 2021

The Brimfield Board of Education held its regular meeting on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 7 p.m. in the High School Library. Board President Updyke called the meeting to order with the following members present: Meyer, Bell, Snyder, Johnson, and Graham.

The Board welcomed several visitors

Bell moved and Snyder seconded to approve the minutes from:

- September 15, 2021 Regular meeting;
- September 21, 2021 Building & Grounds Committee meeting; and
- September 23, 2021 Special Meeting & Executive Session

Motion Carried

Bell moved and Snyder seconded to approve Katie Kappes as a member of the Brimfield #309 Board of Education.

Motion Carried

Board President Updyke reported. He thanked the Administration and staff for everything they are doing to keep the kids safe and educated. Thank you!

Superintendent Shinall reported on his board report. He announced that it is Principals' Appreciation month and publicly thanked Mr. Robison and Mrs. Albritton for all they do! He mentioned that each Board Member has a copy of the FY2021 AFR and reminded the Board that the AFR is based off of a recent audit; on that audit, we received a 3.8 out of 4. He thanked Kyle and Michele. Lastly, Shinall announced that Brimfield Junior High has been recognized as a top Junior High School in USNews & World Report; it ranks #107 in Illinois! He congratulated Mrs. Albritton and her staff.

Mr. Robison reported on his High School Report. He provided an update on post season sports, mentioned Parent/Teacher conferences, briefed the Board on the fall concert, recognized Dr. Weiger, and shared an update on the PSAT; He thanked Mrs. Messineo and Mr. Treadway for assisting with the setup. Mr. Treadway was recognized as the staff member of the month and the runner up was Lonna Sumner; Lonna is a rock star! He explained the 'trust the process' slogan for this year and 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. We have had 11 positive cases of COVID-19. She briefed the Board on the SIP day, Spirit Week, the Veteran's Day Program, Winter Programs, and upcoming professional development. She detailed some upcoming events. In the process of providing an update on sports, she highlighted that the Softball and the Girls' Cross Country Teams were state champions; the Boys Cross Country team finished 8th.

There was old business to discuss/approve. There was a discussion of quarantines and the test to stay option. Updyke stated that he would like to limit conversations until our attorney has had the opportunity to address the pending litigation. There was an inquiry regarding the number of rapid tests administered; Mrs. Albritton referenced her Board report. The close contacts are tested every other day; no quarantines if masked and distanced greater than 3 ft. Lunches in classrooms did not work last year so students are grouped and lunch times are spread out as much as possible; there is assigned seating. There was a discussion about the outbreak in 5th grade. There was a brief discussion as to when the current quarantined students can return. There was a brief discussion about assistance for Lonna. There was a discussion about enhancing policy language and/or providing the Health Department's contact information on the website.

There was new business to discuss/approve.

Meyer moved and Johnson seconded to Approve the Resolution for Dunlap's withdrawal from SEAPCO. After Superintendent Shinall read the Resolution, a brief discussion followed. This is a formality. Dunlap will be able to provide these same services; this has been in the works for about a year. Costs are expected to increase for member districts. Motion carried

Meyer moved and Snyder seconded to Approve the modification to the BHS Dress Code. Mr. Robison mentioned that students had concerns. The modification is the consensus between students and Teachers; it is more concise. Superintendent Shinall mentioned that this is brought before the Board because it is part of the handbook. Motion carried

Johnson moved and Snyder seconded to Approve the FFA Conference Overnight Stay from 10/27 - 10/29. Motion carried

Johnson moved and Bell seconded to Approve the Amendment to the Superintendent Contract. Motion carried

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

Updyke welcomed comments from the community members.

Marilyn Eberle inquired about a child being sent home sick when there is a Dr. note on file to excuse the illness. Mrs. Albritton will follow up with nurse Lonna on this. Eberle also inquired about who will be measuring [about the dress code]? Laura Putnam mentioned that the goal is to self-check but she could, if necessary. Jarrod Schlipf inquired about the protocol for student learning while in quarantine. Mr. Robison mentioned that teachers and students can communicate through email, screen castify, and google classroom. Updyke mentioned that technology is a huge help and gave kudos to the Teachers. Courtney Strahm inquired about students being quarantined and no symptoms. It was explained that this was due to being a close contact during lunch or involvement in sports. Updyke mentioned that IDPH has made modifications to distance (6ft to 3ft) and the District has made the test to stay option available which has allowed more students to remain in-person. Josh Murdoch wondered what changed with quarantines. It was explained that the IDPH decides based on the names our nurse provides. Calling the Health Department is better than waiting for them to call you as they are busy. Courtney Strahm asked that, due to a newfound lawsuit, if we plan to continue following the mask mandate? Updyke mentioned that nothing, right now, is changing; the Board will discuss the pending litigation.

Courtney Strahm mentioned a sign at the Grade School that reads "wear a mask- be a hero"; she believes this is sending a message to the kids. Mrs. Albritton mentioned that the students merely thought the sign was cute and was not intended to relay any message; she has no problem with taking it down. Josh Murdoch inquired why the visitors have to wear a mask; he believes they do not have to anywhere else. Updyke mentioned the current mandate. Marilyn Eberle hopes the Board's decision to follow the mask mandate was made for the right reasons. Updyke confirmed by mentioning the decision was made for the students, for participation in extracurricular activities, and cut down on quarantines. Dave Hicke thought the Governor's emergency powers had expired. Hicke is disappointed in the Board Members and Teachers for addressing the mandate on social media. There was a comment on the

Board members sitting through recent meetings and taking heat on the mandate. Cathryn Hill commented on how many believe we could have lost accreditation. Hicke mentioned he believes it was a threat and there was no credibility. Lastly, Courtney Strahm mentioned that she has seen people- in favor of the mandate- not wearing a mask out in public.

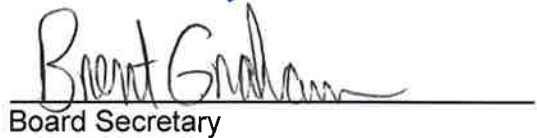
At 7:59pm, Meyer moved and Bell seconded to leave open session and enter Executive Session to discuss *Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8)*. Updyke mentioned the Board will also be discussing the pending litigation. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Bell – yes, Kappes – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

At 8:47 p.m. the Board returned to Open Session. Johnson then moved and Bell seconded to adjourn the October 20, 2021 regular board meeting of the Brimfield CUSD #309 Board of Education. Motion carried



Handwritten signature of Steve Updyke in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Board President



Handwritten signature of Brent Graham in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Board Secretary