

OAKLAND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5

OAKLAND, IL

Regular Meeting          November 17, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Dowden at 7:00 p.m. with members: Dowden, Fonner, Lee, Lucas-Knoebel, McQueen, and Stark present. Turner was absent. Also present was Supt. Landeck, Principal Tabatha Cohorst, and a crowd of approximately 40.

A motion was made by Lee, seconded by Fonner, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon roll, all members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Oakland High School Eco Field Study students Allie Percy and Matilde Larson gave a presentation on their work in the field this year. As a part of the class, the students studied plants and wildlife at the Douglas-Hart Nature Center, Walnut Point State Park, and here on the school grounds. Oakland Education Association President Linsay Swigart read a letter to the board in regards to the on-going negotiations between the OEA and the board of education. Parent Jennifer Burch addressed the board in regards to the negotiations as well.

Board members McQueen and Dowden both thanked Ali and Matilde for their presentation. Landeck recognized four Eastern Illinois University practicum students that were wrapping up their experience in Lake Crest classrooms. Landeck thanked the students and staff for another excellent Veterans Day program.

Landeck said there was one FOIA requests since the last meeting. The request was from Jeff Coon and it was received on Thursday, November 11. He asked for the following; “information on the following projects that have recently been completed. Can you also provide the fund that these were used from. Also did any other schools provide financial support. Please list the amount of each project Football field stands, Football field fence, Football scoreboard, Locker room remodeling, Gym floor resurfacing, Gym heating and air improvements, Gym bleacher repair on south side. Can you also provide the tax levies for the past 4 years.” The district provided it’s official response on Wednesday, November 17.

A motion was made by McQueen, seconded by Dowden to approve the Consent Agenda including the payment of bills in the total amount of \$354,122.13 as presented. Upon roll, all members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Landeck informed the board that he had amended the ESSER III grant and that amendment was recently approved by the ISBE. He said the Mose, Yockey, Brown, & Kull were still finishing the audit and it would be finished and presented at the December 15 meeting which is also the deadline for it to be submitted to ISBE.

Landeck said that there are 2 students quarantined as a result of a family member testing positive and one student awaiting test results.

Landeck presented the Tax Year '21 tentative levy. He said that, as usual, the estimated EAV is inflated to assure that the district doesn't miss out on any available local revenues. Landeck said it was a little harder to estimate this year because Coles county did not provide an estimate for EAV. Landeck said he

used ten year trend data to come up with his own estimated EAV for Coles County. He said anticipates the tax rate to be 4.7049% which would be down from 4.8013% last year. A motion was made by Dowden, seconded by Lucas-Knoebel to approve the tentative tax year 2021 levy as presented. Upon roll, all members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Landeck asked the board if it intended to use some of the 1% sales tax revenue to abate taxes again this year. Landeck said if the board decided to abate \$75,000, the same amount as last time, it would reduce the tax rate for the community from approximately 4.8691% to 4.7049%. Landeck recognized that is not a huge amount, but any time the board can reduce the tax rate, it is a good thing. The board directed Landeck to do any necessary prep work so it can be an agenda item for action in December.

Landeck explained that when the aggregate levy, the amount of money asked for, is increasing by more than 5%, Illinois School Code requires the district to hold a Truth in Taxation Hearing before the levy can be approved. Landeck pointed out that because the aggregate levy amount on the tentative levy just approved was only an increase of 4.95% a hearing was not required, but in the spirit of total transparency, it would not be a bad thing to still have a hearing to allow the public an opportunity to comment. The board agreed. Landeck suggested having the hearing before the regularly scheduled December meeting. A motion was made by Fonner, seconded by Dowden set the date and time for the Truth in Taxation Hearing for Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:45 pm in the Lake Crest library. Upon roll, all members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Cohorst and Landeck gave their administrative reports.

A motion was made by McQueen, seconded by Lucas-Knoebel to enter into executive session. Upon roll, all members present voted aye. Motion carried.

The board entered executive session at 7:50 pm and returned from executive session at 8:45 pm.

A motion was made by Lucas-Knoebel, seconded by Lee to approve executive session minutes as read in executive session. Upon roll, all members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dowden, seconded by McQueen to accept Gary Todd's letter of intent to retire. Upon roll, all members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Fonner, seconded by Dowden to accept Michelle Strader's letter of intent to resign at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Lucas-Knoebel, seconded by Dowden to adjourn at 8:49 pm. Upon voice vote, all members present voted aye. Motion Carried.



President



Vice-President