

OAKLAND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5  
OAKLAND, IL

Regular Meeting      September 23, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Dowden at 7:00 p.m. with members: Clifton, Dowden, Fonner, McQueen, Stark, Turner, and Walsh present. Also present was Supt. Landeck, Principal Coffey, Director of Student Services Patty Stark, Terry Sullivan, Michelle Strader, Jeremy Hoenes, Ryan Petty, and Jess Petty. Janice Hunt entered shortly after the start of the meeting.

A motion was made by Walsh, seconded by Turner, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon roll, all members present and on the phone voted aye. Motion carried.

McQueen stated that he was glad the district has gotten as far as it has without having to be full remote. Director of Student Services Stark thanked teacher Jennifer Clark for the assistance she has provided with the paperwork associated with special education caseloads in the absence of a second licensed special education teacher. Landeck congratulated board members McQueen and Dowden for earning Master Board Member – Level 1 with the Illinois Association of School Boards. Landeck thanked EnerStar for the \$2,857.14 grant presented to the district to be used for expenses associated with COVID. Landeck thanked the community for the support after someone wrote a letter to the editor using lies and fear to discredit the district's decision to start the school year with in-person instruction.

Landeck informed the board there had been 1 FOIA request since the last board meeting. It was from SmartProcure. The district received the request for all purchasing records from 12/12/19 to 9/8/20 on September 8<sup>th</sup> and provided it's official response on 9/9/20.

At 7:05 pm, a motion was made by McQueen, seconded by Dowden to enter into executive session. Upon roll, all members present and on the phone voted aye. Motion carried.

The board returned from executive session at 7:22 pm.

A motion was made by Walsh, seconded by Dowden to approve the Consent Agenda including the payment of bills in the total amount of \$468,272.23 as presented. Upon roll, all members present and on the phone voted aye. Motion carried.

Landeck stated that the district was receiving Evidence Based Funding on schedule, but had yet to receive any transportation money. He explained that surrounding districts would be receiving Digital Equity Formula grant's, but Oakland did not qualify because it's adequacy level is above the cutoff to qualify.

Landeck gave an update on the construction of the new locker rooms. He said punch list items were checked off the day before, but there were some items that needed to be addressed before the district would accept them.

Landeck informed the board that the day-to-day process of in-person instruction along with remote-by-choice instruction continued to go well. He said it was the administration's intent to continue in this manner through the end of the first semester. As the first semester moves forward, continuing evaluation will take place with a goal to return to full in-person learning and a 3:20 dismissal to start the second semester.

Landeck asked if there were any additional questions about the FY21 budget. There were none. A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Dowden to approve the FY21 budget as presented. Upon roll, all members present and on the phone voted aye. Motion carried.

Landeck presented the Administrator and Teacher Salary & Benefit Report. He stated that by law, the report had to be approved by the Board and then displayed on the district web-site. A motion was made by Clifton, seconded by Dowden to approve the Administrator and Teacher Salary & Benefit Report as presented. Upon roll, all members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Landeck provided the first reading of new language that is required to be in the *Student Handbook*. The language was copied exactly from the Illinois Principal's Association Model Student Handbook that the district subscribes to for student handbook language. Landeck said no action would be taken until next month.

The board discussed the attendance policy that was approved in July. Board members and administrators heard from parents that because it was such a drastic change to the previous policy, the change should have been better communicated to parents. There was also concern that, unlike in the past, parents did not have any leeway to keep children out of school for something the parents deemed necessary without the student being classified as unexcused and receiving consequences. There was discussion if the board even had the authority to consider something excused if it wasn't listed as a valid cause in the *School Code*. There was lengthy discussion on what should be excused and unexcused. There was also discussion on if parents were given freedom to keep their children out of school for "something" how many times could a parent do it and it still be considered excused. The board directed Landeck to draft language that gives parents some leeway, but also limits the number of days in a school year it can be done and still be considered excused.

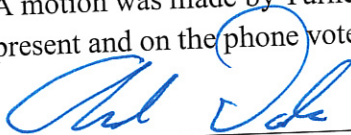
Stark, Coffey, and Landeck gave their administrative reports.

At 8:50 pm, a motion was made by Clifton, seconded by Fonner to enter into executive session. Upon roll, all members present and on the phone voted aye. Motion carried.

The board returned from executive session at 9:05 pm.

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

A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Dowden to adjourn at 9:08 pm. Upon voice vote, all members present and on the phone voted aye. Motion Carried.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice-President