

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION 1  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 119, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
NOVEMBER 21, 2023

The Board of Education of District No. 119, St. Clair County, Illinois, met in the conference room, Belle Valley School District, 2465 Amann Drive, Belleville, Illinois, in said District at 7:02 P.M. on Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

President Kunz called the meeting to order. The roll was called and the following members were present: Mrs. Kunz, Dr. Winfield, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Whipple, Mrs. Stover, Mr. Cole, and Mr. Kraus. Those absent: none.

The Board of Education and others in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Kunz recommended adopting the board agenda. Mrs. Stover moved to adopt the board agenda. Mr. Cole seconded the motion. All members in favor, motion carried.

President Kunz recognized the visitors present for the meeting. There were no public comments.

The Board of Education acknowledged the thank you note from the Tammy Leib family and OPAA's monthly food service report. Kourtne Boose, Special Education Coordinator, presented a status of special education programs. President Kunz read the IASB talking points for November.

Principal Ms. Kramper discussed the following: parent teacher conferences; iReady training at Teacher Institute day; Haunted Hallways a PTO event; Halloween parade and parties; SEL groups have begun which were created from the Panorama benchmark assessment taken by students; first round of formal observations are complete; Girls on the Run are doing their final event run; Veterans Day assembly; interview for a paraprofessional; and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter midterms were sent out.

Principal Dr. Grant discussed the following: Caring Community (SEL) activities – BomberWeen, PBIS rewards party, pep rally featuring a special guest; Teaching and Learning activities – focusing on 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter targeted/trip standards, providing additional content support during “Lunch Bunch”. He introduced Maggie Alibaikzadeh, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. She presented information on two new classes, Communications and Horticulture, being offered to students this school year.

Assistant Principal Mr. Musso discussed the following: comparison of current year and prior year middle school discipline incidents; Knights Program assisting with decorating school building for the holidays; and Principal Student Intervention group.

Supt. Gale discussed the following building and grounds items: received a \$15,410 bill to fix drainage problems outside the multi-purpose gym which is significantly lower than the

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 119, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
NOVEMBER 21, 2023

2

original estimate of \$59,874; and have located a snow removal vehicle for approximately \$35,000. The Board instructed Mr. Gale to enter into a lease purchase agreement for the snow removal vehicle. Supt. Gale provided a thank you letter for a \$500 donation to the Athletic Department. He noted that Jennifer Haas, Band and Show Choir Director, applied for and was awarded a \$1,000 music grant from the Peter R. Marsh Foundation. He noted the Illinois minimum wage goes up January 1<sup>st</sup> to \$14 per hour in 2024 and \$15 per hour in 2025. He provided an informational handout of school district tax rate comparisons. He provided an Annual Summative Designation letter from Illinois State Board of Education. He informed the estimated cost for a new Creston light system is \$50,000. He noted the Bomber Blast Newsletter has been mailed.

Supt. Gale and Mrs. Holt discussed information concerning the proposed 2023 tax levy. A projected increase of 9.4% in the equalized assessed valuation and the correlating tax rates were discussed. The preliminary levy presented resulted in a 4.55% increase including the Debt Service Fund. The tentative proposed tax levy was presented in the following amounts: Education Fund \$2,338,000; O & M Fund \$412,000; Transportation Fund \$141,000; Working Cash Fund \$58,400; Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund \$60,000; Social Security Fund \$158,500; Fire Prevention and Safety Fund \$58,500; Tort Immunity Fund \$53,000; Special Education Levy \$23,500; Lease Levy \$58,400; and Debt Service Fund \$2,255,871.24.

President Kunz asked whether board members had any questions for the consent agenda items, which included: (a) minutes of the regular and executive meetings of the Board of Education on October 17, 2023, (b) freedom of information request – SmartProcure, (c) enrollment report, (d) lunch report, (e) ESP report, (f) tax report, (g) Treasurer report, (h) financial report; and (i) payment of bills, and any upcoming bills that would incur a late fee. The bills were presented for approval and payment in the following amounts, (see itemized lists attached): Education Fund - \$124,587.32; O & M Fund - \$60,637.99; Debt Service Fund - \$1,527.34; Transportation Fund - \$133,032.89; IMRF/Social Security Fund - \$0; Working Cash Fund - \$0; Tort Fund - \$14,231.85; Fire & Safety Fund - \$0. Mr. Whipple moved to approve the consent agenda items. Mrs. Stover seconded the motion. Members voting aye on roll call: Mrs. Kunz, Dr. Winfield, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Whipple, Mrs. Stover, Mr. Cole, and Mr. Kraus. Nays none, motion carried.

President Kunz recommended approving the Schultz Door quote for necessary door hinge and miscellaneous repairs. Mrs. Miller moved to approve the Schultz Door quote for \$8,937.10

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 119, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
NOVEMBER 21, 2023

3

as presented. Mr. Cole seconded the motion. Members voting aye on roll call: Dr. Winfield, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Whipple, Mrs. Stover, Mr. Cole, Mr. Kraus, and Mrs. Kunz. Nays none, motion carried.

Supt. Gale recommended approving an inter-fund loan from the Working Cash Fund to the Transportation Fund up to \$200,000 as needed. Mrs. Holt explained the State of Illinois historically does not release the transportation reimbursement payments in a timely manner. Mrs. Stover moved to approve the inter-fund loan up to \$200,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Transportation Fund as needed. Mr. Whipple seconded the motion. Members voting aye on roll call: Mrs. Miller, Mr. Whipple, Mrs. Stover, Mr. Cole, Mr. Kraus, Mrs. Kunz, and Dr. Winfield. Nays none, motion carried.

Upon the recommendation of President Kunz, Dr. Winfield moved that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 8:35 P.M. under 5ILCS 120/2 (c.) (1) (2) (9) for the discussion of personnel, employment, collective negotiating, and student disciplinary case. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion. Members voting aye on roll call: Mr. Whipple, Mrs. Stover, Mr. Cole, Mr. Kraus, Mrs. Kunz, Dr. Winfield, and Mrs. Miller. Nays none, motion carried.

Upon the recommendation of President Kunz, Mrs. Stover moved that the Board of Education exit executive session at 9:28 P.M. Mr. Kraus seconded the motion. All members in favor, motion carried.

Mrs. Miller moved to approve hiring Shawn Champ as a paraprofessional for the remainder of the FY2024 school year at the collective bargaining rate of \$20.49 per hour. Mr. Cole seconded the motion. Members voting aye on roll call: Mrs. Stover, Mr. Cole, Mr. Kraus, Mrs. Kunz, Dr. Winfield, Mrs. Miller, and Mr. Whipple. Nays none, motion carried.

Supt. Gale discussed the first reading of IASB board policy changes from Issue 113 dated October 2023, those policies were read into the minutes.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education at this time, Mrs. Miller moved that the meeting adjourn at 9:30 P.M. Mr. Kraus seconded the motion. All members in favor, motion carried.

---

Karen L. Kunz, President  
Board of Education  
Belle Valley School District No. 119  
St. Clair County, Illinois

---

Margaret M. Holt, Secretary  
Board of Education  
Belle Valley School District No. 119  
St. Clair County, Illinois