

OAKLAND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5

OAKLAND, IL

Regular Meeting November 18, 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, Director of Student Services Patty Stark, Brian Anderson, Terry Sullivan, and William Sewell.

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

Landeck presented the FY20 audit report on behalf of Kent Kull, CPA with Mose, Yockey, Brown, & Kull.

Landeck presented a letter from the Regional Office of Education that recognized the members of the board for School Board Member Day in Illinois on November 15. Landeck announced that Oakland HS was notified that Brian Anderson would be recognized by the IHSA and Country Financial as a Spotlight Teacher on November 19.

Landeck informed the board there had been zero FOIA request since the last meeting.

A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Fonner to approve the Consent Agenda including the payment of bills in the total amount of \$478,490.53 as presented. Upon roll, all members present and on the phone voted aye. Motion carried.

Landeck gave a brief financial update. He explained that since the graduated income tax proposal failed, the State was going to have to find ways to fill the gaps in the budget. The budget included revenue from a graduated income tax. Landeck said that Springfield will now have to find new revenue, make cuts, or do both. He has been told to anticipate a 5% cut in funding this year and a 10% cut this year. However, the cut probably wont be in Evidence Based Funding as that would require the General Assembly to change the law and they canceled their fall legislative session. We might see the cuts in categoricals such as transportation. Right now, no one knows.

Landeck gave an update on the construction of the new locker rooms. He reported that the changes CTS had made to the shower stalls was not accepted by the district and were being redone. The work to provide more privacy had been done by adding studs and drywall. It did not match the cinder block walls. The studs and drywall are being removed and replaced with cinder blocks.

Landeck reported there were 8 students currently remote by choice and 7 total students and staff quarantined due to contact tracing. Landeck stated that after reconsideration, the administration did not think it would be possible to return to a 3:20 dismissal schedule while the still required to provide remote instruction to remote by choice and quarantined students. Dowden asked if going to the 2:15 schedule used on Wednesdays before COVID was a possibility. Landeck said it might be. He said they

would have to sit down with the times and see if they could work the required FLEX period in that is eliminated on 2:15 collaboration Wednesdays. The board also discussed high school winter sports as related to COVID. The fact that the IHSA had put out a statement saying winter sports seasons would be delayed to a later date took any decision making out of local boards hands, Landeck said. Several board members said they disagreed with the IDPH and Governor's office to begin with as well as the IHSA to not have the season now. Board members agreed that school activities such as sports are vital for the emotional health of students and for some students that is the motivation to attend school.

Landeck reminded the board that last month, after discussing changes to the language in the Student Handbook pertaining to attendance, the board asked administration to push it out to the public for comment. Landeck said that neither he nor Mrs. Coffey received any feedback after pushing it out. Landeck went on to say the language being presented tonight is the same language as last month. A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Walsh to approve the Student Handbook changes related to the attendance policy as presented. Upon roll, all members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Landeck presented the Tax Year '20 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 based on the actual EAV estimates he has received, he anticipates the tax rate to be 4.9999% which is down from 5.0750% last year. A motion was made by Clifton, seconded by Fonner to approve the tentative tax year 2020 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. That was not done last year, but it was the year before. 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 4.9999% to 4.8266%. 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.

Because 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 suggested doing it before the regularly scheduled December meeting. A motion was made by Fonner, seconded by Turner set the date and time for the Truth in Taxation Hearing for Wednesday, December 16th, at 6:45 pm in the Lake Crest library. Upon roll, all members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Landeck reported on the 2020 school report card. He noted that it was primarily directory type information because there were not state-wide student assessments during the 19-20 school year.

Stark and Landeck gave their administrative reports.

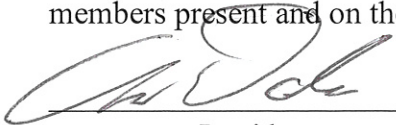
A motion was made by Clifton, seconded by Fonner to enter into executive session. Upon roll, all members present voted aye. Motion carried

The board entered executive session at 7:43 pm and returned from executive session at 8:20 pm.

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

A motion was made by Clifton, seconded by Dowden to hire Taylor Goldsmith as head coach junior high volleyball. Upon roll, all members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Fonner, seconded by Walsh to adjourn at 8:42 pm. Upon voice vote, all members present and on the phone voted aye. Motion Carried.



President



Vice-President