

OAKLAND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5

OAKLAND, IL

Regular Meeting February 17, 2021

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 Amanda Coffey, Director of Student Services Patty Stark, Terry Sullivan, April Lee, and Janice Hunt.

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

Landeck congratulated the junior high and high school students that made the honor roll for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. He announced that Damian Ellsworth had won the Coles County Spelling Bee and that Estin Jones finished second. Ellsworth now advances to the Regional Spelling Bee in Decatur. Landeck announced that the high school girls basketball team was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the State in the first state-wide rankings that had just come out. Landeck thanked Mrs. Nelk for making it possible for our students to participate in two recent virtual events; the Coles County Spelling Bee and the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Conference.

Landeck informed the board there had been two FOIA request since the last meeting. The first was from the Illinois retired Teachers Association. The request asked for the name and email address of any teachers or administrators retiring at the end of this school year. The second request was from a Joe Sutton. This request asked for contracts associated with the district's website management system, the district's alert notification provider, the district's mobile app provider, and the district's learning management system provider.

A motion was made by Clifton, seconded by Walsh to approve the Consent Agenda including the payment of bills in the total amount of \$286,140.83 as presented. Upon roll, all members present and on the phone voted aye. Motion carried.

Landeck gave a brief financial update.

Landeck told the board he had not heard from any of them in regards to possible summer facility projects. He reminded them that like he had said in January, there were no pressing facility projects that had to take place this summer. He said that outside of general cleaning and maintenance, the only "project" that will take place this summer is the parking lot being re-sealed.

Landeck provided the board with a COVID update. He said that there are currently 0 students in quarantine and no positive cases. There are 7 remote-by-choice K-8 students and 1 remote-by-choice high school student.

There was discussion on whether or not to fill the administrative position that will become open when Mrs. Stark retires at the end of this year. Landeck presented the board with a list of options that

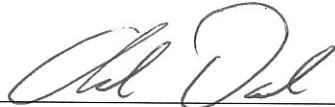
included not filling it and having two administrators, filling it with a half-time administrator, filling it with a half-time teacher/half-time administrator, not filling it and providing staff stipends for taking on roles administrators currently take on, and hiring a full-time administrator. Landeck went through the pros and cons of each option as well as the financial impact. There was thorough discussion. The board directed Landeck to go in the direction of hiring a half-time administrator with the thought that if that does not work, stipends will be paid to staff to take on some duties currently held by administrators.

Landeck recommended the junior high graduation date be set as Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> and the high school graduation date be set as Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Dowden to set the graduation dates as presented. Upon roll, all members present and on the phone voted aye. Motion carried.

Coffey introduced a language change to the recently approved student attendance policy. The language currently states during the last week of the semester, an absence must meet the criteria set by the State to be excused and that parents would not have the ability to simply call a student in. However, the situation arose at the end of the first semester where K-5 students were sick on the last day of the semester, but were only missing Christmas parties. Coffey told the board a parent shouldn't have to get a doctor's note to make such an absence excused. The intent of the language was to discourage 6-12 grade students from missing finals. Therefore, the administration is recommending the language be changed to indicate that this is for 6-12 grade students only. This was the first reading of the policy change and will be presented for approval in March.

Stark, Coffey, and Landeck gave their administrative reports.

A motion was made by McQueen, seconded by Dowden to adjourn at 8:52 pm. Upon voice vote, all members present and on the phone voted aye. Motion Carried.

  
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President

  
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Vice-President