

MINUTES OF PHILLIPS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Monday, February 20, 2023

- I. Opening Items.
 - A. The Phillips Board of Education regular meeting was called to order by President Pesko at 6:00 p.m. in the PHS Performing Arts Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
 - B. Present: Baxter, Bilgrien, Denzine, Fox, Krog, Pesko, Rose, Van De Voort and Student Liaison Bjork. Absent: Halmstad. Administration present: Superintendent Morgan, Business Manager Lehman, Principals Scholz and Wellman, and Pupil Services Director Peterson. Others: Community members. The meeting was available through the District Livestream station.
 - C. President Pesko stated that public notice of the meeting was properly posted according to Wisconsin Statute 19.84(4). Notice was posted at all school-owned buildings, the School District of Phillips' website, and the Price County Review.
- II. Public Participation - Marc Peterson updated the Board on the Northwoods Global Ecology 2024 trip fundraising progress.
- III. Administrative Report - Elementary Principal Dave Scholz
 - A. Student-led conferences were held February 7th and 8th.
 - B. Winterfest activities were held at Perkinstown for the upper grades on February 10th and the lower grades will be attending a movie on February 24th both funded by Loggers United Booster Club
 - C. A number of the staff are being trained as behavioral specialists in a multi-day training online program.
 - D. The AGR reading goal for this year is 80% of students meeting benchmarks by the end of 4th quarter. The mid-year rates are kindergarten, 78%; first grade, 68%, second grade, 77%, and third grade, 93%.
- IV. Administrative Report - Middle/High School Principal Kevin Wellman
 - A. Students of the month will be announced at the March meeting,
 - B. The FBLA Candygram sales went well.
 - C. A community concert was held February 10th and went well.
 - D. Upcoming events: Middle school trip to Forest Springs and FBLA to Milwaukee.
 - E. Observations in the science department showed lots of great things going on there.
 - F. Technical Excellence Scholarship scores are still being calculated. An announcement of that award will be made at a later meeting.
 - G. Alec Bjork is the recipient of the Academic Excellence Scholarship.
 - H. The Phillips High School 2023 CoValedictorians are Alec Bjork and Solita Kaster.
- V. Administrative Report - Pupil Services Director Kate Peterson reported that about a dozen ACCESS tests were completed thanks to Mary Rohde, Mary Mephram, and Brandi Smith working one-on-one with students. ACCESS is the test for students with limited English language skills.
- VI. Administrative Report - Superintendent Rick Morgan
 - A. The 2021-2022 State Report Cards have been released and the School District of Phillips scored 70.4 which is in the Exceeds Expectations category.
 - B. Options are being considered for the old elementary building, specifically the 1958 portion. Initial cost estimates are \$500,000 to \$700,000 to demolish the building.

Quotes to sever the mechanics from the old building are being sought as this needs to be completed whether the building is demolished or not.

VII. Administrative Report -Student Liaison Alec Bjork updated the Board on the winter sports records and achievements as well as academic and club sport activities.

VIII. Board Committee Reports

- A. A contract was extended to and signed by Rachel Hoffman to be the next Superintendent of the School District of Phillips.
- B. Policy committee meeting met on February 15th and discussed the following:
 - 1) Policies relating to graduation requirements, facility maintenance, Parent Square Communication/Notifications, and Virtual Snow Days/Student Expectations were received and will be reviewed next month.
 - 2) Policy 453.4 Administering Medication to Students was forwarded to the full Board for second reading.
 - 3) Handbook/policies relating to attendance were reviewed regarding the procedure of parents using email as a means of notifying the school of absences.
 - 4) Administration is requesting Policy #830.1, Exhibit 2 be amended to include a technology charge. This was forwarded to the full Board for first reading.
 - 5) Reviewed language regarding virtual access to meetings and are recommending that Board members be allowed to access open sessions of Board meetings, but closed sessions be by in-person presence only.
 - 6) Future meeting agenda items include Series 200 once the new superintendent is present, club sport status and funding, and items from number one above.
- C. Revenue committee met on February 16th and discussed the following:
 - 1) Houtari Construction quotes for the greenhouse project are \$330,000 to \$700,000. The District will look into cost if the school is their own contractor Marc Peterson was present to discuss the project. Recommendation is to move toward securing state approved plans to be able to look for funding.
 - 2) Rick met with community members to discuss the school forest project and fundraising efforts.
 - 3) Naming rights documents from New Berlin were reviewed and recommendation made to move forward in identifying spaces and creating a policy.
- D. Facilities and transportation committee met on February 16th and discussed the following:
 - 1) Maintenance update included dishwasher rebuild, new mold machine in the shop, pool inspection went well and grates need to be replaced in the kid's pool and hot tub, and Houtari bid for demolition of 1958 building.
 - 2) Transportation update included policy changes regarding transportation, vehicle issues on inclement weather days (1/16, 2/10), diesel tank alarm due to water which was pumped on 2/20/23, a roof leak and ice issue in front of the bus garage.
- E. Business services committee met on February 16th and discussed the following after a closed session to discuss the 2021-2022 audit and employee wage requests: :
 - 1) Approximately \$370,000 are left and will be used in accordance with the referendum resolution.

- 2) FEMA grant application has been submitted, no new information will be available until July.
 - 3) Lisa Voisin of Baird was present viz Zoom to discuss the cash defeasance payment resulting in a savings of \$275,000 to the District and keeps the levy and mil rate steady.
 - 4) Reviewed current staffing vacancies - IT position, girls soccer, varsity & junior varsity baseball coaches, Cook II, and FACE teacher. The food service director position and custodian position were filled.
 - 5) The administrative team will provide structural review of student services and the building grounds director position.
 - 6) A survey is being written for a hybrid plan of another district's step and lane compensation plan.
 - 7) Curriculum committee will begin meeting in March.
 - 8) Molly Lehman moved some funds at Forward Bank into a high percentage rate savings account.
 - 9) The regular meeting agenda and January bills were reviewed.
- F. Molly Lehman and Anne Baxter reported on sessions they attended at the 2023 Education Convention in Milwaukee last month.

IX. Items for Discussion and Possible Action

- A. The 2022-2023 staffing report was covered by the business services committee report. Upcoming 2023-2024 staffing decisions include a review of information technology FTE, FACE program student interest in determining if we maintain this program, student services review with a report next month as to delivery model and grant options.
- B. The Legislative Session Meeting in Medford has returned to in-person and will be held April 10, 2023.
- C. BoardDocs training will be held for the Board members at the March Business Services Committee meeting. Laptop devices are ready for Board member use.
- D. Motion (Baxter/Denzine) to approve a resolution authorizing the transfer of funds, the establishment of an escrow account with respect to and the defeasance of certain of the general obligation refunding bonds, dated July 9, 2020. Motion carried 8-0.
- E. Motion (Denzine/Krog) to approve second reading of Policy #453.4 Administering Medications to Students. Motion carried 8-0.

X. Consent Agenda Items Motion (Van De Voort/Rose) to approve the following consent items. Motion carried 8-0.

- A. Minutes from January 16, 23, February 6, and 13, 2023 Board meetings
- B. Personnel report
 1. Hiring of Holly DeGroot, LT substitute for FACE teacher 2nd Semester; Brady Bolz, PHS varsity baseball coach; Diane Soul, paraprofessional; Andrea Sippel, food service director beginning July 1, 2023; Shaina Ziemke, custodian.
 2. Approved annual non-faculty contracts with Glenn Ericksen, assistant softball coach and Sarah Socha, co-head track coach.
 3. Accepted resignation from Alex Zajeckowski, paraprofessional (2 months); Christina Tingo, part-time speech/language pathologist (8 years); and Sara Walker, paraprofessional (3.5 years).
- C. Approve bills from January 2023 (#351071 - 351201 and wires) for a total of \$706,355.64.

XI. The next regular board meeting is on March 20, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Phillips High School Performing Arts Center.

XII. Motion (Krog/Baxter) to adjourn. Motion carried 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Baxter, Clerk
Board of Education

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILLIPS

Price County Review
P.O. Box 170
Phillips, Wisconsin 54555

APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION

Minutes of School Board Meeting
February 20, 2023
6:00 PM

Anne Baxter, Clerk
Board of Education