

**THE GIST
BROOKFIELD R-III SCHOOL DISTRICT
OPEN SESSION -- REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JUNE 15, 2021**

The Brookfield R-III Board of Education, Brookfield, Missouri met in open session on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in person in the HS Media Center. The following board members were present in person: Jim McIntyre, Blake DeVoy, Jered Wallace, Galen Hicks, Dave Shaw and Noel Staddie. Mandy Tarpene was absent.

President McIntyre called the meeting to order and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. The board unanimously approved the Agenda as presented and the Consent Agenda as presented, There were no public comments.

School Nurse Teresa Nurse presented the annual Student Health Services report. The board discussed the upcoming calendar dates and reviewed the monthly finance reports for May 31, 2021 with the board.

Director DeVoy moved to amend the 2020-21 budget to be in line with the district's actual revenues and expenditures as of June 30, 2021. Director Shaw seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The board unanimously approved 2021-22 Early Out Schedule as presented.

Dr. Collins presented the 2021-22 Proposed Budget to the board for their review. The budget has an approximate deficit in spending of \$140,000 but Dr. Collins stated that figure will change once the ESSER III funds from the federal government of approximately \$1,684,900 are added in. This budget includes a \$1000 raise to the certified salary schedule and on average 3.3% raises for non-certified staff members. Director Hicks moved to approve the 2021-22 budget as presented by Dr. Collins. Director Wallace seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Collins updated the board on the Prop 2 construction project. He stated the good news is the sports field and parking lots will be finished by the end of July. However, the bad news is the poles for the athletic lighting on the sports field will not be delivered until the end of August. The softball team will be able to play on the field as long as it is still light out. Hopefully the poles and lights will be installed very quickly once the poles are delivered. Dr. Collins has expressed his frustration and disappointment to both the contractor and architect in this matter. He will keep the board updated on this matter.

Dr. Collins reported that CTS is busy working on the HVAC updates and check in with him regularly.

Dr. Collins reported that the tentative tax rate for the 2021-22 school year is: Operating 4.238; Temporary Operating 0.4239; Debt Service 0.66; and Total 5.119. The tax rate hearing is August 17th at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Collins will know exactly what he can set it at once he has more information from the State Auditor's office.

Dr. Collins and the board discussed returning to school in the fall with regards to the rules and regulations we had in place for 2020-21 due to Covid. The administrative team have developed a plan for the 2021-22 school year and it is title SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN (SRCSP). By federal law, the plan must carry this title. The

district's plan involves in-class, in person instruction only for 2021-22. If students wish to attend virtually, their only option is through MOCAP, which the district has to pay for each student choosing this option; however, if a student fails MOCAP at any grading period, the district no longer is required to pay for that student. The student's parents are then responsible for payment. Director DeVoy moved to approve the district 2021-22 SRCSP as presented. Director Staddie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The board and Dr. Collins discussed ESSER III funds for 2021-22 and possible uses for those funds. Some possibilities are summer school, virtual instruction fees (if any), technology, health services, locker room updates, new HS and MS lockers, HVAC upgrade in the HS gym, a new greenhouse, and playground upgrades. Some of these are more likely than others. Dr. Collins is waiting for more guidance from the federal government about how these funds (approximately \$1,684,900) can be used.

The board held a first reading of the MSBA Policy Updates 21A and 21B.

The board reviewed the following oil/propane/tire bids:

Oil

Rainbo Oil - 400 semi-syn 15w40 at 11.50/gal firm
Lubriguard semi-syn 14w40 at 9.00/gal firm

Propane

Ray-Carroll Fuels - \$1.23 firm
Ferrellgas - \$1.44 firm
MFA Oil - \$1.31 firm

Tires

Brookfield Tire - 430.58 & 371.00

Director DeVoy moved to accept the oil bid of 400 semi-syn 15w40 at 11.50/gal firm from Rainbo Oil, the propane bid of \$1.23 firm from Ray-Carroll Fuels, and the tire bid of 430.58 and 371.00 from Brookfield Tire. Director Staddie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Collins discussed a bill we received last week from Symmetry Natural Gas for our natural gas use in Jan/Feb 2021, which came in over \$48,000. He explained that the district belongs to a natural gas consortium through MSBA, as do many Missouri school districts. Currently we get our natural gas from Symmetry Natural Gas out of Texas. Due to the severe weather Texas experienced this winter, they lost power and had a lot of problems during a particularly severe cold spell, which proved to be very costly to the natural gas companies in Texas. Many organizations and companies are receiving large invoices now from Symmetry, making them wonder if Symmetry is not trying to pass on their costs to their customers due to Symmetry not being adequately prepared for the cold spell. Dr. Collins has written Missouri's Attorney General and formally complained to Symmetry. He is waiting to hear back from both. He budgeted \$38,000 for natural gas for 2020-21 and the last invoice we received before this one was roughly \$6,000. Further, of the last twelve months, Symmetry has only sent us six invoices (including this one for a little over \$48,000). He will keep the board updated on this matter and stated the district will not pay this invoice in full. Some kind of compromise will have to be reached.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. and the board moved into closed session to discuss personnel and records.