

OREGON-DAVIS SCHOOL CORPORATION
Monday, June 22, 2020
Special School Board Meeting, 6:30 PM

Humanities Room, Jr/Sr High School, 5990 N 750 E, Hamlet, IN 46532

1. Meeting Opening

1.01 Call to Order – Annette Ferch

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance – Annette Ferch

1.03 Roll Call – Annette Ferch, Chris Lawrence, Brandie Ecker, Kurt Hayes, Kyle Hinds

1.04 Public Comment – None

2. Consent Agenda

2.01 Approval of the Minutes

2.02 Approval of Financial Reports

2.03 Approval of Travel, Facility Requests, Fundraisers, and Donations
Professional Leave

Field Trips

Facility Use

Fundraisers

Donations

2.04 Approval of Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Dermody asked to speak to a recommendation to award Bettie Awald a \$500.00 service stipend for her work as Acting Principal during the COVID-19 crisis. Mrs. Awald has worked tirelessly to fulfill the various duties of the Principal of the Jr/Sr High from April through June 30, 2020 in an extremely challenging environment, all the while under the guidelines of a Guidance Counselor contract. This recommendation is a one-time stipend award, considering Mrs. Awald assumes her official duties as Principal on July , 2020.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Mr. Hinds, second by Mr. Lawrence.
Motion passed 5-0.

3. Discussion/Action Items

3.01 Recommendation to approve Superintendent

Quoting Mrs. Ferch

“On behalf of the Oregon-Davis School Trustees, I would like to inform the community that we received fourteen applicants for Superintendent and the top five were interviewed. Several candidates were appealing but one stood out among them all at the end of the process. We feel that candidate chosen is determined to continue their ten years in education administration as the Superintendent of the Oregon-Davis School Corporation and not for experience only to move on to advance to a larger school corporation. This individual will reside in the area and assist in providing the best for the Oregon-Davis community, students, certified and non-certified staff. The individual is extremely knowledgeable and has an excellent student learning philosophy and communication skills. Working with their staff has shown excellence in staff development, curriculum with related standards and skills, and with a sense in set development progress and improved achievement to create an “A” grade school. This should be an asset with the oversight role with our Oregon-Davis Jr/Sr High School. All course work has been taken for the superintendent’s licensure and the individual is presently working on their dissertation at Indiana State University. The Board proudly will name upon approval tonight William Bennett as the Superintendent of the Oregon-Davis School Community. I ask the Board for a motion to approve William Bennett as Superintendent.” Motion was made by Mr. Lawrence, second by Mr. Hayes. Motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Ferch congratulated Mr. Bennett who then stood and thanked the Board for the time they have invested in him to get to this position. He also thanked his staff and families. He is excited to begin but realizes there is a lot of work to do but he believes they can get to where they need to go.

3.02 Recommendation to approve Ekon-O-Pac System

This is for an additional cold pac system for the elementary school. One had previously been purchased for use at the Jr/Sr High School and has been proven very valuable. This will assist the Food Service Department in providing pre-packaged meals to students and staff. This practice has been strongly recommended by both the State of Indiana and Starke County Health Department. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Ecker, second by Mr. Hinds. Motion passed 5-0.

3.03 Recommendation to approve Resolution for Suspension of School Board Policies Conflicting With Waivers or Extensions During Covid-19 Pandemic

The Board is being asked to consider a recommended resolution from the ISBA. Due to the COVID-19 waivers and temporary policy extensions from the Governor’s Office and the IDOE, this resolution will suspend requirements of existing policies for the duration of time that the

waiver of laws or regulations remain in place. This resolution has been reviewed and approved by Bill Kaminski.

Motion to approve by Mr. Hinds, second by Mr. Hayes. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Other Business

4.01 Report on 2020-2021 Return to School Plan. Mr. Dermody spoke on the reentry plan. This began in the last week of May and since has met two to three times per week. He emphasized that this is a fluid plan that could change at any time. The survey that was sent out to parents had a 54% return rate which the committee felt was very good. Responses from parents and staff have helped the committee in formulating plans for different scenarios of return to school. In formulating a back to school plan, all guidelines from the DOE and from the Starke County Health Department have been followed. Mr. Dermody's hope is to have a finalized draft this week that Mr. Bennett will be able to share with the Board and have a meeting or public work session to gain their input and ideas. Many items in the plan could result in handbook changes that will be brought to the Board in the future. Over the last two weeks it has become more clear that the State of Indiana is pushing for school to open as normal. Our plan will be to return in a regular fashion with full return, steps are being taken and masks will be strongly recommended. All state guidelines and CDC guidelines will be that masks will be strongly recommended. The committee will keep functioning and the plan will be refined further this week. The custodial staff will be cleaning more than they ever have before regardless of a hybrid plan or regular return. Everyone is doing their best to educate themselves, put the students and staff first and then craft a solution. The question was asked about if we know when we will hear back about the FEMA or Cares Act Money. Mr. Dermody said we don't know on the FEMA, the Cares Act will be submitted before June 30th however there is flexibility in that grant to be amended all the way through 2021. The committee has been cautioned that some of the things on the Cares Act list could be bumped if we don't receive it through FEMA, so we may have to go slow on what is ordered. Sanitation and cleanliness of the buildings will be first and foremost. The challenge will be protecting the integrity of instruction.

5. Curriculum

6. Reports

6.01 Superintendent's Report – Registration is tentatively scheduled for July 22 and 23. Online will be encouraged as much as possible. The bond sale for the HVAC project went extremely well. Mr. Dermody would encourage the Board or Superintendent to invite Baker Tilly specialists to the July 20 meeting to give the full scope of the financial portion of this project.

Graduation will be next week. Mr. Dermody thanked the Board and told them it had been a pleasure to work with them again. The eleven weeks went by fast. He said it was a privilege to work with the people he has been working with, they worked really hard and he feels the corporation is in good hands. He congratulated Mr. Bennett and wished him the best.

6.02 Principal's Reports – Mr. Bennett thanked Mr. Dermody for all of his help over the last few months. Mrs. Awald thanked staff members Mrs. Roberts and Ms. Bajgrowicz for their help in working to get the details of the high school portion of the return to school plan ready. Mrs. Awald thanked the Board for supporting the work that they are doing.

7. Board Comments

Mr. Hinds on behalf of the Board wished to thank Mr. Clemons and technology for working through this time to keep things running. Ms. Ecker thanked everyone that has been working on the committee for the time and effort they have put into that project.

8. Future Meetings

8.01 Board Meeting: July 20, 2020

9. Adjournment

Mrs. Ferch asked for a motion of adjournment. Mr. Hinds made that motion with Mr. Lawrence seconding the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM. Guests were then invited to share in a piece of cake to celebrate naming Mr. Bennett as superintendent.