

Panhandle Community Unit District No. Two Board of Education

Regular Session Minutes February 27, 2023

The Panhandle Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 27, 2023, at the Lincolnwood Jr/Sr High School Library in Raymond at 7:00 p.m. Board President Teresa Payne called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and roll call was taken.

Board Members Present: Teresa Payne, President; Linda Brown, Secretary; Scott Cowdrey, Heather Millburg, Gabe Pope, and Brett Slightom

Board Members Absent: Dana Pitchford, Vice-President;

Also in attendance: Aaron Hopper, Superintendent; Ken Schuster, Principal; Donna Lemon, Bookkeeper; Kyle Herschelman, Carrie Huber

Community Comments

None

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

None

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of minutes of January 23, 2023, regular and executive session
- B. Approval of February 2023 bills, January 2023 disbursements, Treasurer's Report and Activity Accounts
- C. Approve disposal of closed-session recordings over 24 months old

It was moved by Slightom and seconded by Brown to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0 with Pitchford absent.

Old Business Items

Policy 7:40 Presentation:

Mr. Hopper presented information regarding policy 7:40 implementation across Illinois which was requested by the board at the January 4, 2023 special meeting. 202 districts across central Illinois were reviewed to better understand the implementation of policy 7:40. Of the two hundred plus district researched in central Illinois one hundred thirty-five districts in the region were identified as either allowing or not allowing homeschool participation. There are several variations to the policy across the identified region. 28 allow participation, 107 district do not, and 67 districts have a draft policy, did not response to request for information, or their status could not be determined. Seven districts identified allow homeschooled student participation in extra-curriculars with no attendance limitation to participation. 7 of 135 represents 5.18% of the district's researched allows with no restriction. Two school districts in the region require one hour of attendance, one district requires two hours of attendance, and eleven of the twenty-eight districts require one half or more attendance during the school day in order to participate. Nearly 40% of the district allow homeschooled participation require at least ½ day of student attendance.

There are numerous aspects and points to consider when amending a policy of a school district. In the case of approving a change to board policy 7:40 it is important to consider local graduation requirements, attendance requirements for students, IHSA and other association requirements, and academic standards for students.

The primary goal of district is the education of our students. If there is a change to board policy 7:40 this should be the keystone of any requirements which allow homeschool participation in extra-curricular activities. Extra-curricular activities are an extension of the classroom not an entity by themselves. The focus of the amendment, if there is one, should be creating a foundation for approving curriculum that meets the rigor, standards, and expectations of course work that would provide credit toward graduation from Lincolnwood High School.

There should be an enrollment deadline of May 1st included if there is a change to current policy. The calendar deadline provides a timeline for the application process, the ability to plan for enrollment in courses, eliminated the ability to change enrollment status during a school year and continue to participate in extra-curricular activities, and has been already established in other districts within the region as well.

New Business Items

Sportsmanship Code Discussion and Approval

Mr. Hopper provided information regarding the proposed Sportsmanship Code and message that the staff have developed within the district. If approved the message will be displayed for the public as a way to promote good sportsmanship by all who attend events at the school.

It was moved by Slightom and seconded by Pope to approve the first reading of the district sportsmanship code as presented. Motion carried 6-0 with Pitchford absent.

Discussion regarding potential solar projects within the school district

Mr. Hopper reviewed the board's desire prior to 2019 to consider solar within the district. The board discussed the desire to have Mr. Hopper look into solar that would be installed at the campus but not on the school building. Mr. Hopper will report back to the board in April.

2023-2024 School Calendar Discussion

Mr. Hopper shared with the board a sample of the calendar for the 2022-2023 school year. Once a draft is developed it will be shared with the teachers' association prior to bringing to the board later this spring for approval.

Appointment of board member to the district's handbook/discipline committee

President Payne appointed board member Pitchford to serve on the handbook/discipline committee this spring.

Community Comments

Administrative Update

Administrative reports were submitted with the board packet.

Executive Session

It was moved by Slightom and seconded by Millburg to enter into closed session at 7:40pm for the following purposes as allowed under the Illinois Open meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2(c): Appointment, employment and/or dismissal of employees of the District; Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. Motion carried 6-0 with Pitchford absent.

It was moved by Slightom and seconded by Brown to reconvene into open session at 8:41pm. Motion carried 6-0 with Pitchford absent.


Executive Session Action

It was moved by Slightom and seconded by Millburg to accept the resignation of Austin Wagahoff effective February 24, 2023. Motion carried 6-0 with Pitchford absent.


It was moved by Cowdrey and seconded by Pope to approve Jim Slightom and Tharin Clarke as volunteer assistant softball coaches for the 2022-2023 school year pending successful completion of all state and local employment requirements. Motion carried 6-0 with Pitchford absent.

Adjournment

It was moved by Slightom and seconded by Millburg to adjourn at 8:04pm. Motion carried 6-0 with Pitchford absent.



Teresa Payne, President



Linda Brown, Secretary