

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – June 14, 2021

The Board of Trustees of Joliet School District No. 7 held a regular meeting on June 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Joliet School Library. Board Members present were Dawn Blain, Justin Oswald, Melvin Stene, Sharon Songstad, Doug Whitehead, and Karin Williams. Also present were Allison Evertz, Superintendent, Clark Begger, Elementary/MS Principal, and Felicia Smith, District Clerk/Business Manager. Visitors in attendance were: Mandi Hernandez, Cynde Cole, and Stacie Nardinger.

Dawn Blain called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Blain welcomed guests, explained procedure and asked for public comment.

Melvin Stene made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

IV. Reports

- a. Athletic Director – Superintendent Evertz communicated that schedules are finished for high school football, middle school and high school cross country, high school volleyball and middle school girls' basketball.
- b. Building Report – A building report was provided in the Board packet for review.

V. Correspondence – Correspondence was provided to the Board.

VI. Unfinished Business

- a. Second Reading of Open Campus Lunch Policy – The Board was presented with the final language for the Open Campus Lunch Policy.

Justin Oswald made a motion to approve the second reading of the Open Campus Lunch Policy. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. Yea votes: Dawn Blain, Sharon Songstad, Justin Oswald, Karin Williams and Doug Whitehead. Nay votes: Melvin Stene.

VII. New Business

- a. HB 611 Revision of Requirements of Flags at School – Each classroom must display a 16" x 24" American flag per new legislation.
- b. Class Weights for Valedictorian and Salutatorian Calculations – The Board was provided with the new class weights.
- c. Reorganization of Board Committees – Per District Policy 1130, "Trustees serving on committees shall be limited to fewer than one-half of the Board." Currently three committees have four members. The Board discussed and removed one member from each of those committees.
- d. Criteria for Distance Learning – The District has chosen to continue the Distance Learning option as part of our Transformational Learning Grant. The eligibility for distance learning will be communicated to all parents and students wishing to participate in Distance Learning.
- e. COVID-19 Designee Stipend – The District now has a COVID-19 designee who fulfills many roles during this health crisis such as: communicating with Public Health, school administrators,

staff, students and families; and assisting Public Health in contract tracing. These duties are quite time consuming and are to be accomplished in addition to the designee's regularly scheduled duties. The District believes there is still a need for a COVID-19 Designee.

Melvin Stene made a motion to approve the \$1,000 stipend to be paid out of ESSER money for the 2021-22 school year, and appoint Mandi Hernandez to continue in this role. Doug Whitehead seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

- f. Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan – In order for the District to apply and access ESSER III grant money, we must post a Safe Return Plan on our website by June 24, 2021 and review the Plan often.

Sharon Songstad made a motion to approve the Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan. Melvin Stene seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

- g. Nonpublic School and Homeschool Participation – 20-5-109, MCA provides for participation of nonpublic and homeschool students, who meet requirements in the statute, in MHSA member school extra-curricular activities. Requirements are set forth for: attendance, academic eligibility, age, semester, dual participation, graduate students, physical exams, and practice rules.

- h. Football Uniforms – The Activities Committee is recommending that the Board approve the purchase of new high school football uniforms.

Sharon Songstad made a motion to approve the purchase of high school football uniforms. Doug Whitehead seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

- i. Proposal for Improvements to Lower Baseball Field – A private donor would like to improve the Little League Grounds, which are owned by the District. A formal plan will be submitted to the Board at a future date for consideration.

1. The Joliet Board of Trustees acknowledges understanding that this project does not involve the Joliet Little League (JLL) in any way, and JLL bears no liability or responsibility for it.
2. The Joliet Board of Trustees reiterates permission is granted for the private donors (Jennifer and Vinson Forsman) to proceed with the project.
3. The Joliet Board of Trustees will allow an advertising banner for Jares Fencing to be placed somewhere on the fence in the lower baseball field during the baseball season. Jares Fencing provided a 25% discount on fencing and materials in exchange for the banner placement.

- j. HB 143 – This new legislation is an Act incentivizing increases in base pay for teachers in public school districts; increasing the Quality Educator Payment for districts that meet legislative goals for competitive base pay for teachers; providing definitions; amending Section 20-9-306, MCA; and providing an effective date. The JTA has been asked to poll its members to determine if the union would be willing to negotiate a change in the matrix to take advantage of this new legislation which would improve our ability to hire and retain new teachers.

- k. Handbook Revisions for 2021-22 School Year – The administration, in conjunction with MTSBA has reviewed the student handbooks and made revisions for the upcoming school year. The Board has reviewed the changes.

Melvin Stene made a motion to approve the handbook updates for the 2021-22 school year. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

- l. Multilocal Agreement Transportation Update – Donell Rosenthal from the Office of Public Instruction has advised the District that transportation to alternative sites (i.e. Red Lodge CTE Center) is not reimbursable and cannot be claimed.
- m. School Improvement Committee – It is recommended to convene a diverse team of internal and external stakeholders of roughly 4-6 members. Stakeholder surveys will be used as a basis for information and then analyzed by the group. Ideally, the committee will be comprised of individuals who can serve based on their functional role and who have knowledge/expertise in the area of focus. Only one Board member is suggested in adhering to “best practice”.
- n. MTSBA Policy Changes – The MTSBA provides updates to our policies based on new legislation, and state and federal law. The policies that have been updated by MTSBA include: 3210, 3225, 3225P, 3225F, 3226, 3310, 5010, 5012, 5015, 5012P and 5012F.

Sharon Songstad made a motion to approve the Joliet School District Policies to reflect alignment with new legislation, and other state and federal guidelines. Melvin Stene seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

- o. Out-of-District Student Acceptance – The Board was provided with documentation regarding out-of-district students who have completed paperwork to attend Joliet schools. Superintendent Evertz recommended all students, with the exception of #1 and #58, be accepted.

Justin Oswald made a motion to accept all out-of-district students listed, with the exception of #1 and #58. Doug Whitehead seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

- p. Drug Testing for Extracurricular Participants – The Board discussed the possibility of drug testing extracurricular participants, and decided that testing would not take place at this time.

VIII. Personnel

- a. Hiring
Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Callie Atkinson as a teacher for the 2021-22 school year.

Doug Whitehead made a motion to hire Callie Atkinson as a teacher for the 2021-22 school year. Melvin Stene seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Cailen Herriford as the high school science teacher for the 2021-22 school year.

Sharon Songstad made a motion to hire Cailen Herriford as the high school science teacher for the 2021-22 school year. Melvin Stene seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Tracy MacArthur as an elementary teacher for the 2021-22 school year.

Karin Williams made a motion to hire Tracy MacArthur as an elementary teacher for the 2021-22 school year. Melvin Stene seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Kendall Denham as the assistant high school football coach for the 2021-22 school year.

Karin Williams made a motion to hire Kendall Denham as the assistant high school football coach for the 2021-22 school year. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Amber O'Rourke as the high school and middle school head cheer coach for the 2021-22 school year.

Sharon Songstad made a motion to hire Amber O'Rourke as the high school and middle school head cheer coach for the 2021-22 school year. Doug Whitehead seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Danielle Sullivan as the high school and middle school assistant cheer coach for the 2021-22 school year.

Doug Whitehead made a motion to hire Danielle Sullivan as the high school and middle school assistant cheer coach for the 2021-22 school year. Melvin Stene seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

IX. Superintendent/Principal/Business Manager Reports

Superintendent – Ms. Evertz advised the Board on: MAPS testing results; and possible social-emotional learning.

Principal – Mr. Begger provided the Board with an update on: K-8 scheduling; middle school social studies texts; middle school math; and K-8 MAPS data.

Business Manager – Ms. Smith provided the Board with reports of all claims paid, payroll disbursements, and a financial statement.

X. Items for Next Agenda

Administrative Job Descriptions

XI. Next Board Meeting Date

The next regular Board meeting will be held July 12, 2021 in the Joliet School Library.

XII. Adjournment

Sharon Songstad made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Melvin Stene seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

Approved 10/14/2021
Board Chair Dawn Blain

Clerk [Signature]