

Big Hollow School District #38 Ingleside, IL 60041

Board of Education Regular Minutes

May 8, 2017-6:00 p.m.-Big Hollow Library

1. Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 8, 2017 at the Big Hollow School Library.

Roll Call: The following members were in attendance: Cernuska, Enters, Kueter, Lyons, Mazur, Pedersen, Plescia

The following members were absent:

The following Administration were present: Robert Gold

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Motion to move to Closed Session:

A motion was made by Kueter and seconded by Mazur to move to closed session. Motion carried.

Aye: Cernuska, Enters, Kueter, Lyons, Mazur, Pedersen, Plescia

Nay: None

4. Resume to Open Session:

Open Session began at 7:03 p.m.

5. Added Items/Approval of the Agenda:

A motion was made by Pedersen and seconded by Kueter to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Aye: Cernuska, Enters, Kueter, Lyons, Mazur, Pedersen, Plescia

Nay: None

6. Academic Spotlight:

Mrs. Stephanie Cullotta showed a presentation that highlighted her students, 5th through 8th grade, putting their STEM knowledge to work through a variety of projects.

7. Approve Consent Agenda Items:

A motion was made by Kueter and seconded by Mazur to approve the consent agenda items. Motion carried.

Aye: Cernuska, Enters, Kueter, Lyons, Mazur, Pedersen, Plescia
Nay: None

8. Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

9. Superintendent's Report:

a. Monthly Board Policy review

Section 6:90 – Update wording to reflect that Big Hollow has full day kindergarten with a half-day kindergarten option.

b. Retirees Honored

The following teachers are retiring the end of the 2016-2017 school year and were honored for their service and dedication to the students at Big Hollow:

Dr. Eeva Burns – 16 years of service (total of 20 years including service in other districts)

Carol Foreman – 16 years of service (total of 31 years including service in other districts)

Debra Rakers – 17 years of service (total of 36 years including service in other districts)

Susan Ambler decided to retire as of today and she will be recognized in the next couple of weeks.

c. Summer Office Hours

During the summer months, the Middle School Office will be open Monday – Friday from 7:00 am – 3:30 pm. Parents/guardians who need assistance completing the registration process should be directed to the Middle School office.

d. 8th Grade Graduation

8th Grade Graduation will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Middle School Gymnasium. We would like to see as many board members as possible at the graduation to help pass out diplomas during the ceremony. If you are able to attend please let Mr. Whipple know.

e. Curriculum Update

We are beginning to take a look at our curriculum across all grade levels. A committee has been established for each subject matter and they are responsible for looking at the current curriculum and researching possible programs that will provide enhancements. The plan is to review one subject per year so that every 5 years each subject curriculum will be reviewed.

Math

Currently our math test scores are low. This is the subject matter that is being addressed first. A pilot program was started using Eureka Math. The pilot received great response and many K-4 staff were onboard with piloting this program with their students. The plan is to

adopt this program over the summer. There are no textbooks to purchase with this program as all materials are online and can be printed out at the teachers' discretion.

ELA

During the 2017-2018 school year a few different programs will be piloted. This will allow for Big Hollow to make an informed decision as to what program would be the best fit for our district across all grade levels. The pilot will be conducted over a period of a school year. This would allow for early release days to be used in part for gathering feedback on the various programs and open discussion on what programs are working and which ones are not working so well.

Social Studies

New state standards have been set for social studies. Big Hollow will need to reshuffle things around in order to meet these new curriculum and state standards. 5th-8th grade teams have met several times during this past year to ensure that students are meeting the subject matter requirement for entering High School.

Science

The science curriculum team is currently looking at what kids can do with science hands on as opposed to learning strictly through a text book. The science curriculum team is looking at purchasing kits to achieve the ability for students to learn science via hand on experiences.

The science curriculum team will be setting the ground work this summer to create a curriculum for next year.

Technology in the Classroom

Quarterly meetings will be held with the curriculum committee to determine how best to implement technology in the classroom using the SAMR model:

S – Substitution

A – Augmentation

M – Modification

R – Redefinition/Re-imagination

Special Education

Currently there is no set curriculum for Special Ed students. The curriculum is set based on each student's needs. The Special Ed department looked to see if there were any common themes amongst the various students. Research showed that there were no common themes. The Special Ed department began looking at various intervention programs:

Jolly Phonics – PreK-1

LLI Reading Literacy

Touch Math
Lexia (3-5th grades)

5th-6th grades starting the 2017-2018 school year will have 1 class focusing only on reading and 1 class focusing only on math.

The Board asked about hiring a full time Curriculum Director and if that would be beneficial. Administrators felt that they would like to try piloting and selecting these programs themselves. Administrators felt it was important for the staff and Administration to be part of the process selecting the appropriate curriculum programs.

Board policy states that a curriculum update should be provided to the Board every year. During the June meeting the Board would like to see the 5-year curriculum plan - a foresight of what is going to happen with the curriculum.

The Board would also like to see the criteria that will be used to evaluate the piloted programs, i.e. ELA pilot programs that are scheduled for next year.

f. Advanced courses at BHMS

Mr. Whipple provided information that addresses the questions that have been asked from parents regarding placement into BHMS advanced classes.

There is a system in place for selecting students for advanced classes:

Primary source – MAP Scores

Writing skills based on rubric

Secondary source – Math assessment (used after MAP test)

Currently there are ~40 students who qualify for advanced classes based on their MAP scores. If all 40 students would like to stay in the advanced class, then two classes, each containing 20 students, will be created. Any child, who did not make it into an advanced class because of MAP scores, can ask to be placed in an advanced class. There must be enough students interested in joining an advanced class in order for an additional class to be created.

If a student places into an advanced class, BHMS will communicate, via mail, to the parents with this information. Parents will also be notified that they can still request their child be placed into an advanced class even if they did not meet the MAP score cutoff providing there are enough students to create the class.

Advanced classes are only offered in grades 6-8.

g. MAP Assessment Update

Once all of the students have finished testing, the Map window will close. This will likely be the last week of May. Students and teachers receive their preliminary scores immediately, however, data summary reports are not available until after the testing window has closed. A summary of the District MAP scores will be presented to the Board at either the June or July meeting. Reports will be sent to parents and each report will show a summary of all MAP assessments taken by their child during their time at Big Hollow. Matt McCulley is working to have this information also displayed on Skyward.

h. Flexible seating

Some teachers have elected to adopt flexible seating arrangements in their classroom. This has not been something forced on all teachers. Teachers have been given the option to adopt this type of seating in their classroom if they feel it suits their style of teaching.

The pods in the Middle School will be redesigned. Mr. Whipple has been working with Interior Designers for advice on how best to update these spaces to make them more inviting to our students.

i. Technology support plan

Mr. Gold shared with the Board the direction Big Hollow will be moving with regards to the technology support staff. A decision has been made to discontinue all services with Sentinel Technologies. The current contract with Sentinel allows for a network administrator on site 4 days a week at a cost of \$129,230.04. An optimal technology support plan would allow for a tech onsite 5 days a week. We tried to bring on staff the current network administrator, who has been at Big Hollow for several years, but found it was not possible due to a non-compete clause in his contract with Sentinel.

As a long term solution we could look at hiring our own network administrator which can be explored at the right time.

At this time, we have elected to partner with a non-profit technology support group, SBTC. SBTC operates under an ala carte model which will allow us to tap into various types of technology support as needed. There is no contract with SBTC and service can be cancelled at any time.

SBTC will be able to provide us with a level 1 tech 3 days per week and a level 2 tech 2 days per week. Total costs for 5-day onsite support along with various ala carte items we have selected will be \$72,272.

j. Superintendent Goals

The Board has set Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 6:00 pm as the date and time to hold a meeting to discuss the Superintendent goals for the upcoming contract renewal.

10. Other Action Items:

- a. Approve the purchase/lease of technology for the 2017-2018 school year

A motion was made by Cernuska and seconded by Kueter to approve the purchase/lease of technology for the 2017-2018 school year. Motion carried.

Aye: Cernuska, Enters, Kueter, Lyons, Mazur, Pedersen, Plescia

Nay: None

- b. Approve the proposal from Power Energy Solutions for installation of new interior and exterior LED fixtures and retrofit kits.

The total cost for fixtures, installation, clean-up and recycling is \$255,466. With the DCEO incentive Big Hollow will only have to pay \$35,588. We have elected to pay for an upgrade to the pole lights in the parking lot which will cost an additional \$5,000 bringing the total owed by Big Hollow to \$40,000. The money will be taken out of Fund 60 as this project is considered a capital improvement. Power Energy Solutions will supply 16 electricians to work evenings and weekends through the beginning of June to complete the project.

All 4 foot fixtures, exterior lighting including lights along the buildings and parking lot lights will be included in this project. The only fixtures that will not be included and therefore will not be changed will be any two foot lights. The upgrade parking lot pole lights comes with a 10-year warranty and all other fixtures come with a 5-year warranty.

A motion was made by Pedersen and seconded by Cernuska to approve the proposal from Power Energy Solutions for installation of new interior and exterior LED fixtures and retrofit kits. Motion carried.

Aye: Cernuska, Enters, Kueter, Lyons, Mazur, Pedersen, Plescia

Nay: None

- c. Approve the April Employment Report

A motion was made by Pedersen and seconded by Cernuska to approve the April employment report. Motion Carried.

Aye: Cernuska, Enters, Kueter, Lyons, Mazur, Pedersen, Plescia

Nay: None

11. Resignations Accepted:

The following resignations were accepted during the month of April:

- Leeanna Knauff, District Secretary, effective May 31, 2017
- Kristen Bordonaro, Director of Special Services, effective June 30, 2017
- Cassie D'Addeo, School Counselor, effective end of the 2016-2017 school year
- Susan Ambler, retiring as 6th grade English Language Arts Teacher, effective end of the 2016-2017 school year
- Laura Ward, 3rd grade teacher, effective end of the 2016-2017 school year

12. Informational Items:

- a. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests
There were no FOIA requests to report this month.
- b. Monthly Reports for the Board
Administrator, Lunch Program, and Monthly Discipline Reports.
- c. Meeting Agendas
No comments.
- d. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will take place on Monday, June 12, 2017 with the closed session beginning at 6:00 p.m.

13. Motion to move to closed session:

There is no need to enter a second closed session this evening.

14. Return to open session:

15. Take any necessary action following closed session regarding minutes, employment of personnel, resignations, terminations, or leaves of absence:

16. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Kueter and seconded by Cernuska to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Aye: Cernuska, Enters, Kueter, Lyons, Mazur, Pedersen, Plescia

Nay: None

Board of Education President
Big Hollow School District 38

Board of Education Secretary
Big Hollow School District 38

