

Big Hollow School District #38 Ingleside, IL 60041

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 12, 2021

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 12, 2021.

Roll Call:

The following member were in attendance: Bennett, Cernuska, Kueter, Lyons, Pedersen, Plescia

The following members were absent: Dollinger

The following administration was present: Gold

2. Motion to move to Closed Session:

A motion was made by Cernuska and seconded by Kueter to move to closed session at 6:01 pm.
Motion carried.

Aye: Cernuska, Kueter, Bennett, Lyons, Pedersen, Plescia

Nay: None

3. Resume to Open Session:

Open session began at 6:22 pm.

The following members were in attendance: Bennett, Cernuska, Kueter, Lyons, Pedersen, Plescia

The following members were absent: Dollinger

The following administration were present: Gold

The meeting was available via zoom.

4. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

5. Agenda Addition:

A motion was made by Cernuska and seconded by Kueter to add the reading of the Board Member Oath and Conduct to the Agenda for newly elected President, Kevin Lyons, and Secretary, Lauren Plescia.

Motion carried.

Aye: Cernuska, Kueter, Bennett, Lyons, Pedersen, Plescia

Nay: None

6. Added Items/Approval of the Agenda:

A motion was made by Plescia and seconded by Kueter to approve the agenda with the addition of the Oath of Office.

Motion carried.

Aye: Plescia, Kueter, Cernuska, Lyons, Pedersen, Bennett

Nay: None

7. Board Member "Code of Conduct" Review:

Item #7: "I will prepare for, attend and actively participate in school board meetings."

8. Approve Consent Agenda Items:

A motion was made by Pedersen and seconded by Bennett to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

Motion carried.

Aye: Pedersen, Bennett, Cernuska, Lyons, Kueter, Plescia

Nay: None

9. Public Comments:

No public comments were presented.

10. Board Member Oath and Conduct:

Newly elected President, Kevin Lyons and newly elected Secretary, Lauren Plescia, read together the Board Member Oath of Conduct.

11. Superintendent's Report:

a. COVID-19 Return-to-School Update

Mr. Gold shared an update with the Board in regards to:

*Return-to-school guidance from IDPH/ISBE

Recent guidance gives school districts more control over district decisions and allows for a full return to school. Mask wearing will be up to each individual district. Big Hollow will meet in early August to discuss this topic, after more guidance is released from the IDPH and ISBE.

*Consideration of optional COVID-19 screening for students

A weekly testing program will be available to all students on site, parent approval required.

*Negotiations with the Big Hollow Federation of Teachers

These will take place as more information is received.

b. Budget update and discussion

Mr. Gold presented a pre-audited end of the year expenditure, revenue, and fund

balance summary.

c. Energy Report

Mr. Gold shared with the board a summer of energy costs from 2015-2021. An overall decrease of \$329,769 from 2015 to 2021. The exhibit showed how over the last several years there have been four major initiatives that have impacted our cost savings significantly:

*LED lighting upgrade

*Recommissioning study

*Negotiation of lower electric and gas rates

*Solar field installation

d. Strategic Planning update and discussion

Mr. Gold provided a summary of the impact the current Strategic Plan has had on Big Hollow School District 38 since 2016. He briefly shared some of the highlights and specific accomplishments. Mr. Gold will be sharing this exhibit with the community through a mass mailing. It was also discussed that the development of a new plan will begin in the year 2022.

e. Welcome Back Luncheon

We will hold three days of teacher institute activities to kick off the 2021-2022 school year, Wednesday, August 18 - Friday, August 20. The institute will begin at 7:45 a.m. in the Middle School Multi-Purpose Room/Cafeteria on August 18th. A luncheon provided by the Board of Education in conjunction with the Big Hollow Federation of Teachers will be scheduled.

f. Grant Update: American Rescue Plan - ESSER III

An exhibit was presented detailing the funding received by BHSD38 through ARP-ESSER III and how the funds are to be distributed.

h. Route 12 Tax Increment Financial (TIF) Redevelopment eligibility study

An exhibit was shared that BHSD received from The Village of Fox Lake indicating that a Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment study is being proposed by the Village. This study includes land located at the northwest corner of Route 12 and Big Hollow Road and the northeast corner of Route 12 and Big Hollow Road. Mr. Gold and the Board of Education will remain in constant contact with the Village on the outcome of this study and the impact it may have on our district.

i. Legislative Update

Mr. Gold provided an update on recent bills passed by legislation which will impact our

school district. An exhibit provided by Engler, Callaway, Baasten & Sraga, LLC shows the specific bills and a short description of the requirements.

j. Review the Superintendent evaluation timeline

The board reviewed the timeline previously followed and made changes to the due dates.

*June/July

-Superintendent creates goals which support the District goals, including indicators of success. Board approves these Superintendent goals. The Board and Superintendent agree on any additional expectations for which the Superintendent will be held accountable.

*~~November~~ will now be January

-The Board and Superintendent conduct a less-formal semi-annual evaluation to monitor progress to date.

*~~January~~ will not be March

-Superintendent provides the Board with a self-assessment of performance on each of the goals and expectations that had been agreed to.

Individual Board members and all Administrators complete the Superintendent evaluation forms. The forms are collected by the Board president.

*~~February~~ will now be May

-The Board meets in closed session to compile the results and complete the summative evaluation document.

-The Board president meets with the Superintendent to present the final evaluation. A written summary of the evaluation is given to the Superintendent and copy retained by the Board.

*~~March~~ will now be June

-The entire Board meets with the Superintendent so that he or she has the opportunity to hear all points of view.

12. Other Action Items:

a. June Employment Report

A motion was made by Plescia and seconded by Cernuska to approve the May employment report with the addition of Miriam Wallace, Paraprofessional. Motion carried.

Aye: Plescia, Cernuska, Lyons, Bennett, Kueter, Pedersen

Nay: None

b. Health/Dental/Vision/Life Insurance Rates

Mr. Gold provided an exhibit detailing the recommendation to continue with Cigna as our health insurance provider and MetLife for dental, vision and voluntary life coverage for the 2021-2022 school year.

A motion was made by Cernuska and seconded by Plescia to approve the recommendation from Mr. Gold and the Health Insurance Committee
Motion carried.

Aye: Cernuska, Plescia, Pedersen, Bennett, Kueter, Lyons
Nay: None

c. Salary Study

Mr. Gold shared with the Board the desire to have an outside company conduct a salary study for the following positions: Administrative Assistants, Paraprofessionals, Maintenance Employees, Custodians, Food Service Employees, Principals and Directors. This will allow us to be more competitive with other surrounding districts. The board requested the addition of Teachers and benefits that are provided.

A motion was made by Plescia and seconded by Pedersen to approve the agreement with Education Leadership Services to conduct a salary study which will allow BHSD38 to compare current wages being offered to certain employee groups at BHSD38 to other Illinois school districts with similar demographics. The study will be completed by September 1, 2021.

Motion carried.

Aye: Plescia, Pedersen, Cernuska, Bennett, Kueter, Lyons
Nay: None

d. Closed Meeting Minutes

Each July and January, Mr. Gold is to report to the Board of Education any closed session minutes that have been closed to the public that should be released. Mr. Gold is recommending that current closed minutes should remain in closed status.

A motion was made by Cernuska and seconded by Bennett to keep all closed meeting minutes in closed status.

Aye: All
Nay: None

e. COVID-19 Testing Support Agreement

The BHSD administration is recommending that an agreement with the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois be approved in order to provide twice weekly testing/screening for the general population of students whose parents request to opt-in the testing process. Unvaccinated students in higher-risk categories such as extra-curricular participants, co-curricular participants, or students who meet the definition of being in close contact with someone who has tested positive with COVID-19 will also be part of the screening program.

There is no cost to the District for this program, as all costs and staff are covered due to the designation of BHSD38 as a Tier I school district in regards to the Evidence Based Funding model.

A motion was made by Cernuska and seconded by Kueter to approve the SHIELD IL COVID-19 Testing Support Agreement

Motion carried.

Aye: Cernuska, Kueter, Bennett, Lyons, Pedersen, Plescia

Nay: None

- f. Resolution to Governor JB Pritzker Requesting Local Control and Immediate Guidance for COVID-19 Mitigation Measures for the 2021-2022 School Year

A motion was made by Lyons and seconded by Kuter to postpone the resolution indefinitely.

Motion carried.

Aye: Lyons, Kueter, Bennett, Pedersen, Plescia, Cernuska

Nay: None

13. Resignations Accepted:

- Accepted resignation from Lauren Kistler, 6th Grade Social Studies Teacher, effective July 12, 2021.

14. Informational Items:

- a. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests

A FOIA request received on July 7, 2021 was presented to the board. No comments or questions.

- b. Monthly Reports

The Monthly Administrator Report and Administrator meeting agenda from June were presented to the board.

- c. The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will take place on Monday, August 9, 2021.

- d. A special board meeting will be held on Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 6:00 in the Big Hollow Middle School Multi-Purpose room for the purpose of reviewing the return-to-school plan.

15. Motion to move to Closed Session:

Not needed

16. Return to Open Session:

Not needed

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

None

18. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Kueter and seconded by Cernuska to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.
Motion carried.

Aye: All

Nay: None

Board of Education President
Big Hollow School District #38

Board of Education Secretary
Big Hollow School District #38