

Big Hollow School District #38 Ingleside, IL 60041

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 11, 2024

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, March 11, 2024.

Roll Call:

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

The following members were absent: Cernuska

The following administration was present: Gold

2. Motion to move to Closed Session:

A motion was made by Pedersen and seconded by Kueter to move to closed session at 6:01 pm

Motion carried.

Aye: All

Nay: None

3. Resume to Open Session:

Open session began at 6:46 pm.

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

The following members were absent: Cernuska

The following administration were present: Gold, Biancalana, Cornwell, Janusz, McDonough

4. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

5. Added Items/Approval of the Agenda:

A motion was made by Plescia and seconded by Kueter to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

Aye: All

Nay: None

6. Academic Spotlight

Big Hollow Middle School Scholastic Bowl shared with the board some background on this new team as well as who they are and what they do. The Scholastic Bowl is made up of 16 students in grades 5th-8th on two teams; Varsity and Jr Varsity. They compete against other schools with trivia questions.

7. Accomplishment Recognition

The following individuals were honored as the February 2024:

- o Student of the Month Primary: Sophie Heredia, 1st Grade. Sophie was nominated by her teacher, Mrs. Olney for being an amazing role model. She always comes to school with a smile on her face; this has so much compassion, patience and understanding with her peers.
- o Student of the Month Elementary: Braylon Evans, 3rd Grade. Ms. Keenon, 3rd Grade Teacher, nominated him for being kind and helpful. He is a natural leader and encourages his classmates to follow directions both verbally and by example. He is an excellent student.
- o Student of the Month Middle School: Stella Capulong, 8th Grade. Stella was nominated by Ms. Hagen, 8th Grade Science Teacher. Stella is a model student who approaches each task with thoughtfulness and attention to detail. Her commitment to excellence is reflected in the quality of her work, which consistently exceeds expectations.
- o Employee of the Month: Annie Wahls, MS Spanish Teacher and Athletic Director. Annie was nominated for her incredible dedication and hard work as a teacher who constantly goes above and beyond for her students. As our new athletic director, she has created an athletic handbook, volunteer opportunities for students, new programs for registration, fundraising and much more.

8. Board Member "Code of Conduct" Review:

Item #5: "I will abide by majority decisions of the board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels."

9. Approve Consent Agenda Items:

A motion was made by Plescia seconded by Kueter to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

Motion carried.

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

Nay: None

10. Public Comments

No public comments.

11. Superintendent's Report:

a. Staffing Plan 2024-2025

A motion was made by Pedersen and seconded by Dollinger to approve the staffing plan for the 2024-2025 school year as presented by Mr Gold.

Motion carried.

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

Nay: None

b. 2024 Summer School Learning

Mr. Gold shared an exhibit created by Kira DeNovo, Student Services Coordinator, which shows the 17 enrichment courses, Extended School year, Transition Camp, and ELL Summer Academy details and descriptions. All summer school opportunities are available to families at no cost. Big Hollow is co-oping with Gavin to provide the enrichment courses.

c. Water main project update

Mr. Gold shared an update on the connection to the water main.

A number of new bids have come in much lower than the original bid received in February 2024 for the decommissioning of the well. Mr. Gold will be working to secure the best price to complete this project. Connection to the water main as well as the well decommissioning should be completed by early summer.

d. End of the 2023-2024 SY

The following dates were highlighted:

- 8th Grade Graduation
 - Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the Big Hollow Middle School Gym
 - This day is also an early release for the 8th grade students.
- Final day of school (Pending no emergency days are utilized)
 - Friday, May 24, 2024

- This will also be an early release day.

12. Other Action Items:

a. February Employment Recommendations

A motion was made by Bennett and seconded by Plescia to approve the employment report for February 2024 as presented.

Motion carried.

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

Nay: None

b. 2024-2025 Administrative Assignments

A motion was made by Dollinger and seconded by Pedersen to approve the recommended administrative assignments for 2024-2025.

- Dr. Vinni Biancalana – Elementary School Principal
- Mr. Josh Cornwell – Middle School Principal
- Mrs. Kira Denovo – SPED Coordinator
- Mrs. Sara Kumpula – Elementary School Assistant Principal
- Mrs. Amanda McDonough – Middle School Assistant Principal
- Mr. Matthew McCulley – Director of Technology
- Mrs. Rachel Mullen – Primary School Principal
- Dr. Erin Pittman – Assistant Superintendent of Student Services (shared position with Gavin School District 37)
- Ms. Barb Steinseifer – Curriculum & Instruction Director (part time)
- Mrs. Nicole Stroup – Teaching and Learning Coordinator
- Mr. Brian Summers – Middle School Assistant Principal
- TBD – Primary School Assistant Principal

Motion carried.

Aye: All

Nay: None

c. Big Hollow Primary School Classroom Construction Project

Mr. Gold shared a proposed blueprint for the construction of a classroom in the current kindergarten “pod”. This additional space is needed due to the efforts of the District to lower overall class sizes in recent years.

A motion was made by Plescia and seconded by Dollinger to approve the proposed construction of a classroom in the current Kindergarten “pod” at Primary.

Motion carried.

Aye: All

Nay: None

d. Phase 1 with Veregy

Mr. Gold discussed the Phase 1 scope of work with Veregy which includes roofing upgrades to all buildings, a chiller at primary school, condensing unit at elementary school, and duct work at middle school; as well as technology system upgrades. The Finance Committee and Building/Grounds/Transportation Committee have each met to discuss the projects as well as funding.

A motion was made by Pedersen and seconded by Plescia to approve the recommended facilities projects in phase 1 to be completed through a performance contract with Veregy.

Motion carried.

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

Nay: None

13. Resignations Accepted:

- Accepted resignation of Jean Hayes, Elementary Lunch Monitor, effective February 14, 2024.
- Accepted resignation Corthell McDaniel, Middle School Lunch Monitor, effective February 28, 2024.
- Accepted resignation of Matthew Kalmerton, Custodian, effective March 8, 2024.
- Accepted resignation of Kara Mancini, 8th Grade Science Teacher, effective end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- Accepted resignation of Anthony Murray, 8th Grade ELA Teacher, effective end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- Accepted resignation of Nicole Buschek, 8th Grade ELA Teacher, effective end of the 2023-2024 school year.

14. Informational Items:

- a. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests
There were no FOIA's from February 2024

- b. Monthly Reports
Board of Education Administrator Report, Administrator Meeting Agenda, Monthly Attendance, AAPAC Agenda from February 1, 2024 and CAC agenda from February 26, 2024 were all exhibited.
- c. The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will take place on Monday, April 8, 2024 with closed session beginning at 6:00 pm and open session immediately following.

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 Dollinger and seconded by Plescia to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Motion carried.

Aye: All

Nay: None

Board of Education President
Big Hollow School District #38

Board of Education Secretary
Big Hollow School District #38