

BELFRY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

13 August, 2020 –7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Regular School Board Meeting of the Belfry School District was called to order at 7:01 PM by Board Chair Mary Lee Krenning.

Board members present were Linda Gasser, Duane Hergenrider, Jolene Nose, and Willis Herden. Superintendent Jason Olson and District Clerk Beth Pulse were present. Kasey McClane, Laura Herden, Sandi Campbell, Kendra Johnson, Cheryl Brown, Gordon Serrine, Rebecca Nash, Jenny Ewing, Teri Herden, and Lori LeBrun were present in the public section.

Approval of July 14th Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

The Belfry Board of Trustees move to approve the minutes of the July 14th, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION: Linda Gasser

SECOND: Jolene Nose

VOTE: 5-0

Approval of August Claims/Warrants

The Belfry Board of Trustees move to approve warrant 30286 through warrant 30314 for a total of \$19,066.30 for August 2020.

MOTION: Willis Herden

SECOND: Jolene Nose

VOTE: 5-0

Review Expenditure Actual to Budget Report

There was discussion about Covid funding.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

None.

Delegates to Address Board

None.

Administrative Report

Mr. Olson explained that we are finalizing what next year will look like. With hiring the history teacher, we will be able to get the schedule finalized. He's been talking to parents regarding masks and reopening. Linda asked if people wanted to go ahead and be in the school building. Jason said parents want their kids in class and teachers want to be in class and parents are not happy about the mask mandate. Duane asked if any teachers have requested PPE and if the teachers have access to any PPE they need. Jason said he hasn't had any requests except for one and we have the supplies they need.

Cross Curricular Trip

Jason asked the Board how they felt about the class, considering the current Covid situation. He said it would be disappointing to the students do the class and then not be able to go. He was considering some options in the event that they are not able to go to Hawaii, such as opening the class period up for other classes such as electives. They could still integrate topics and themes regarding Hawaii in the other classes and then, if they are able to go in February, they still could. They could do a modified project between then and February and still do a community presentation. He said they could also still do the class with the understanding that the trip may not happen. There was discussion that the trip could not be scheduled later in the spring because of all of the other activities that happen in spring. Duane said he thought we should postpone it for this year and that we are already asking too much of the teachers with the extra cleaning and reopening requirements this year. Willis said they could also just do the class with the kids knowing that there is a possibility that the trip might not happen if things don't open up. Laura Herden said that, as a parent, that's what she would like to see. There was discussion about just leaving it alone, doing the class and readdressing travel in November or December.

The Belfry Board of Trustees move to do the cross-curricular class as normal and reevaluate travel in November or December.

***MOTION: Jolene Nose
opposing***

SECOND: Willis Herden

VOTE: 4-1 with Duane Hergenrider

Hire History Teacher

Jason explained he received a last minute history teacher application. Jason interviewed him. He is well traveled and seems excited to be in class and he recommends hiring Clyde Collins for the history teacher position. Willis asked why he didn't already have a job; where there any red flags? Jason explained that Mr. Collins had been teaching overseas, had come back in January and applied for his license but still had to do his Praxis. When Covid became an issue, he could not do his Praxis.

The Belfry Board of Trustees move to approve the hiring of Clyde Collins as History teacher, per Mr. Olson's recommendation, for 2020-2021.

MOTION: Jolene Nose

SECOND: Linda Gasser

VOTE: 5-0

Reopening Plan

Mr. Olson said the plan is approved by the county, but we could make changes and resubmit it if the board chooses to make changes. He said the governor has since mandated masks in the school. Duane said the plan shows breakfast being served in the classroom. It was noted that breakfast will be served in the lunchroom. There was discussion about how breakfast was going to work. Jason said there would have to be social distancing and high school students will need to go to their classroom as soon as they are done eating. There was discussion about how lunch will be handled. Mr. Olson said teachers would be with their classes. Classes will be going to lunch at staggered times (three minutes between each group.) After kids are done eating, the teacher could disinfect the table and then they would go outside. Duane suggested hiring additional staff to clean the lunch room and serve the plates to the students. Jolene suggested having someone put the plates on the table for the students. It was discussed that Tura was already planning on doing that with OLinda. There was discussion that the aide who was working with the special needs kids that aren't coming back this year would be able to clean. She would be willing to help with some cleaning, but feels that there are other students that she could help with. Jason said he would be willing to help clean. Jenny said that not having the salad bar would help save time. Cheryl said she could help out as well. Jenny said she would be able to spray and wipe the table and seats when her kids are done eating. Duane said that teachers have enough to do in the normal course of a day and doesn't want to ask them to do anymore. It was explained that preschool would be eating lunch in their classroom because parents come inside to pick them up and we don't want that extra traffic in the lunchroom. It was stated that we would need to limit the community coming in and eating meals. Duane said he is concerned that the teachers also have a

classroom they need to clean. There was discussion about how the students would stay separate outside if they are all outside at the same time and that we would need more than one staff member out at recess. Jason said we have two staff members out, normally, but he thought this year we would have one outside and then a second person to clean the tables. There was discussion that the teachers will be able to clean their class's lunch table before the high schoolers come in. Mary Lee requested that temperatures be taken before the students go into the lunch room. Jason said the teachers could do that in the classroom before they came to lunch. Willis asked if we were going to take temperatures on the bus on the highway. There was discussion about which bus stops that would be an issue for. Sandi will be the only driver that might have a highway stop. It was stated that we need to get a bus stop sign for the new stop on 72. It was asked how distance learning would be handled if there are kids that can't wear masks. The student would have to provide a statement from a doctor. Someone asked if face shields would be provided? Cheryl said we would have a few available. Duane asked if classrooms are big enough for 6-foot social distancing. Jason said most of them. Cheryl explained that we are getting plexiglass dividers for tables in some of the classrooms. Duane asked if all the teachers students and staff had all of the ppe that they need. Jason said that, as far as we know, we do. Willis asked if teachers would be okay if a student came in with a doctor's note excusing them from wearing a mask. Laura Herden asked what if a student just refuses to wear one. There was discussion that other schools are starting before us and it will probably be an issue for some of them. There was discussion that Ken will be cleaning the buses with the electrostatic sprayer. There was discussion that we might need to hire just one person to help clean. There was discussion about sanitizing and temperature taking for the kids and vehicles being used for sports practice. There was discussion that tables will need to be wiped down between classes. There was discussion that the staff could see how things go then maybe we could look at hiring extra staff. Classes could be held outside. Laura Herden asked about kids who won't wear a mask. Jason said the student would have to go home and do distance learning. There was discussion about what would happen if someone tests positive for Covid and what would happen if someone develops a fever at practice in Fromberg. It was stated that a parent will need to pick the student up in Fromberg and the student will have to get tested. Laura asked if the school would provide internet for online learning. Jason said we could provide hard copies like we did this spring. She asked how we could keep students out for refusing to wear a mask, but allow students in who have vaccine waivers. Jason had to explain that the county is enforcing this and will shut us down. There was discussion that Bullock put the mandate in place without going through the office of public instruction and that we really don't know what will happen. Teri Herden asked if absence policies will be waived if kids are being sent home for every little sniffle. Jason said the county gave school specific instructions. There was discussion that the fever is the indicator and the reason to refuse entrance. Jolene asked if one kid in a family has a fever, do all the kids stay home? It was stated that would be up to the parent. Gordy said Billings clinic lab has been approved for testing and is anticipating a three-day turnaround for test results. Jason said that things are changing rapidly and constantly and that wisdom will be used in this situation but the county was coming down hard on schools.

The Belfry Board of Trustees move to approve the Belfry School reopening plan.

MOTION: Jolene Nose

SECOND: Duane Hergenrider

VOTE: 3-2 with Duane

Hergenrider and Willis Herden opposing.

The next regular meeting will be held on September 8, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

MOTION: Willis Herden

SECOND: Duane Hergenrider

VOTE: 5-0

Beth Pulse, District Clerk

Mary Lee Krenning, Board Chair