**SOUTH PEKIN GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT 137**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 22nd, 2021**

**\*\*Please Note:\*\***

***Everyone in attendance is fever-free and are required to wear a mask.***

***South Pekin School District 137 will continue to practice social distancing during meetings as advised through the guidelines set by the IDPH.***

**Mrs. Blanchard, Board Vice-President, called the Board of Education Meeting to Order at 5:00P.M.**

**ATTENDING VIRTUALLY:** Mrs. Chambers.

**ROLL CALL:** Mrs. Chambers, Mrs. Blanchard, Mrs. Lamberson, Mr. Holloway, Mrs. Senecal, Mrs. Everhart

**ABSENT:**  Miss. Rotherham arrived at 5:04pm

Guests: Mr. Mingus, Mrs. Vohland

Audience Participation: None

Mrs. Blanchard made the MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF REGULAR-SESSION MINUTES from JANUARY 25TH, 2021. Mrs. Lamberson seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE YES- MRS. CHAMBERS, MRS. BLANCHARD, MRS. SENECAL, MR. HOLLOWAY, MRS. LAMBERSON, MRS. EVERHART. Motion Carried.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**:

Mr. Mingus went over the IAR testing, also known as the old PARCC test. He informed the board that IAR testing is a federal requirement. The state is applying for this test to be waived for this year. While this is true, SPGS has tentatively set dates for the test. This way, if something changes within the state, we will be prepared. Mr. Mingus moved on to inform the board of the opportunity to restructure the school’s bonds. He said the bonds will become "callable" this year, in December. This means that the school can refinance the bonds at a lower interest rate. The interest rate could go from 8% to about 2%, which, in the long-run, will save tax payers money. Another thing that can happen with refinancing is that we can borrow more money with the lower interest rate without changing the amount owed. He made it clear to the board that nothing can happen until December. In the meantime, Mr. Mingus will continue to gather information and keep the board updated. Mr. Mingus went on to talk about the amount of money the district may receive from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Grant (ESSER). He said as of right now, there is not an active grant in the system. However, the state is implying that our school will receive around $200,000 from this grant. If the school receives this grant, we have to spend it on things that are Covid related. Mr. Mingus spoke with Mr. Grogan, the maintenance director, about putting an HVAC with air purification system in the new gym and possibly the old gym. He scheduled a meeting with Johnson Mechanical so the school can have an idea on the cost. The cost will be around $200,000, maybe more. He believes the grant and refinance could work together to make this work if the cost goes over the amount of the grant. Mr. Holloway asked if there were any other projects the ESSER grant could fund or if there were any other options other than HVAC. Mr. Mingus discussed the possibility of investing in touchless toilets and plumbing throughout the school, if the board was against adding an HVAC. Mr. Mingus told the board he is looking at bigger projects that will cost the most since the school is a good position to make those bigger changes. Mr. Mingus added, with the board’s permission, to go ahead and hire an engineer to map out the specs so the district can bid the HVAC system to contractors. Mr. Holloway asked how much the engineer would cost. Mrs. Lamberson also asked if the engineer is something the school can afford. Mr. Mingus estimates that the engineer will be about $10,000 and he assured the board that there is enough cash flow to go ahead and proceed. Later, he can put the cost for the engineer into the grant and the district could be reimbursed. Mrs. Chambers and the rest of board gave Mr. Mingus permission to move forward with contacting an engineer. Mr. Mingus went on to discuss sports. All sports are back. Volleyball is in full swing and boys basketball has started practicing. Due to a variety of issues, boys basketball has had a rocky start but they do have a few games on the schedule. Track is going to start either next week or the week after. Also, the school has been allowing fans and so far we have had zero issues. He went on informing the board that he will send out the link for the superintendent evaluation tomorrow and the board can reach out to him with any questions they may have. Mr. Mingus spoke about the 4th quarter changes. He went over the amended transition plan, and one of the things that have been added was returning to 3:00 p.m. dismissals on March 15th. In addition, after school detentions start again. He also said language was added in regards to remote learners. If a student fails 3rd quarter, they have a doctor's note to remain in remote learning. He added that morning tardiness will start having disciplinary action. The goal is to be back to as normal as possible. He informed the board that there are currently only 5 remote learners. Mrs. Chambers asked what will happen to these remote learners at the start of 4th quarter. Mr. Mingus plans to call parents to inform them of the changes in materials for remote learners. Lessons will still be provided, however teachers will turn more of their focus on the students that are in face-to-face learning. Mrs. Chambers added that if students are choosing to do remote learning, they are not to participate in school activities. Mr. Mingus and the board agreed to this. Mr. Mingus stated that there are chrome books that are good and usable, but are no longer supported by the Google Classroom because of how old they are. He would like to pull 30 of these and to sell them for $5 to $25 a piece. He plans on writing in 30 chrome books for next year's Title I grant.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

Mrs. Senecal made the MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Consent Agenda

1. Approval for Seth Mingus to begin work on 2021-2022 budget
2. Approval of Mary Kate Black’s Resignation Effective End of 2020-2021 School Year
3. Approval of Devin Richard as Assistant Basketball Coach for 2020-2021 School Year
4. Approval of Amended 2020-2021 School Calendar
5. Approval of Rachel Bursott’s FMLA Leave
6. Approval of Amended Transition Plan
7. Approval of Resolution Creating TRS Supplemental Saving Plan Option for Eligible Employees
8. Approval of STL Managed Service Provider Contract
9. Approval to Sell Old/Outdated Chromebooks (Declare as Surplus Property)
10. Approval to Sell Finishing Mower (Declare as Surplus Property)

Mr. Holloway seconded the motion . ROLL CALL VOTE YES- MRS. CHAMBERS, MRS. BLANCHARD, MRS. SENECAL, MR. HOLLOWAY, MRS. LAMBERSON, MRS. EVERHART, MISS. ROTHERHAM. Motion Carried.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Mrs. Blanchard made a MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORTS AND PAYMENT OF BILLS. Mrs. Lamberson seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE YES- MRS. CHAMBERS, MRS. BLANCHARD, MRS. SENECAL, MR. HOLLOWAY, MRS. LAMBERSON, MRS. EVERHART, MISS. ROTHERHAM. Motion Carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mr. Mingus reminded the board that Track will start the 1st Week of March and Girls Basketball will start March 15th. Mrs. Everhart asked Mr. Mingus if regular tutoring will resume when dismissal goes back to 3:00pm. Mr. Mingus confirmed that it will start back up on the 15th when school dismissal starts at 3:00pm.

At 5:36p.m. Mrs. Blanchard made the MOTION TO ADJOURN UNTIL NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING MARCH 22, 2021. Mrs. Senecal seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE, ALL IN FAVOR: YES

Mrs. Chambers, Board President Mrs. Lamberson, Board Secretary