**SOUTH PEKIN GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT 137**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 23rd, 2020**

**\*\*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. Chambers, Board President, called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.**

**ROLL CALL:** Mrs. Chambers, Mrs. Blanchard, Mrs. Senecal, Miss. Rotherham

**ABSENT:**  Mr. Holloway, Mrs. Lamberson

 Mrs. Everhart arrived at 5:02pm

Guests: Mr. Mingus, Mrs. Vohland, Mrs. Strickler

Audience Participation: None

Mrs. Blanchard made the MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF BUDGET HEARING-MINUTES AND REGULAR-SESSION MINUTES from OCTOBER 26TH, 2020. Mrs. Senecal seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE YES- MRS. CHAMBERS, MRS. BLANCHARD, MRS. SENECAL, MISS. ROTHERHAM, MRS.EVERHART. Motion Carried.. Motion Carried.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**:

Mr. Mingus reminded the board that the levy hearing is set for the next meeting at 4:45pm where they will approve the tax levy for the upcoming year. He said the school has about $12,000 in new property, which will help our district. He went on to go over the Covid-19 updates within the school. Mr. Mingus said we will be fully staffed and most of the kids will be back after break from quarantine. The school has had 6 student cases and of those 6 cases it is 3 different families due do siblings. In addition, there have only been 4 staff cases, none of which have tied back to the school. He went on to tell the board that they will be seeing other schools having an adaptive pause after Thanksgiving Break and assured them that South Pekin will not be going this route. School will resume in-person after break. Mrs. Chambers asked Mr. Mingus why the high schools were having a tough time staying in-person. Mr. Mingus informed her and the board that it depends on how the schools set their schedules. If a covid-positive student goes to each class, and has been sitting next to different students for all the classes, one quarantine could turn into multiple. Where at our school, we are small enough to social distance in the class rooms and the students sit by the same students for every class. The staff has also placed tape on the floors in their classrooms. This allows the staff and students to know where the placement of the desks should be, in order to comply with the social distancing policy set forth by IDPH. He assured the board if there is an outbreak or any other covid related issues that arise, he will recommend to go full remote. However, Mr. Mingus said that he feels good continuing with the in-person learning and will continue to monitor the covid percentage within the school weekly. Mrs. Senecal asked Mrs. Strickler if the remote learning days have been going good for her class. Mrs. Strickler answered telling the board how she feels it has gone really well. She even has some kids who participate more online than they do in class. Mrs. Senecal went on to say how she is more comfortable with remote learning than she was last year. Mr. Mingus said the staff has been working really hard to perfect this process. He went on to say that having the planned remote learning days allows the staff and students to practice, in the event we go full remote. He said the remote practice days have also cut the exposure down 20%. Mrs. Chambers voiced a complaint about the remote learning, as a parent. She felt like there was a lot more homework. She said the amount of homework assigned, after being on the computer from 9:00am-2:00pm, felt like too much. Mr. Mingus said there are areas that will continue to improve over time and that the whole purpose of these remote days are to practice. Mr. Mingus went on to discuss how some teachers have started to record live teaching sessions for the kids. Also, if a parent/guardian need help assisting their student, they can always call the office and we will help them. He emphasized, keeping kids in school is our number one priority. Mr. Mingus went on to discuss Title IX policy. He has updated the board policy to reflect the new requirements set by the federal government. This policy goes over, discrimination, sexual harassment with the staff and also students. Mr. Mingus has gone through the required 4 hour training and will have Mrs. Zaayenga and Mrs. Canete do the training as well.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

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

1. Approval of Levy Hearing for December 21st at 4:45
2. Approval of Tentative Levy
3. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Remote Work and Extended Sick Leave Benefits
4. Approval of Jenifer Wisher as Part Time Kitchen Worker
5. Approval of Board Policy 2:265
6. Approval of Amended Board Policy 2:260
7. Approval of Amended Board Policy 5:20
8. Approval of Amended Board Policy 7:20

Mrs. Blanchard seconded the motion ROLL CALL VOTE YES- MRS. CHAMBERS, MRS. BLANCHARD, MRS. SENECAL, MISS. ROTHERHAM, MRS.EVERHART. Motion Carried.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

The Board praised all the staff. Their hard efforts do not go unnoticed!

Have a great Thanksgiving!

At 5:31p.m. Mrs. Blanchard made the MOTION TO ADJOURN UNTIL NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OCTOBER 26TH, 2020. Mrs. Everhart seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE, ALL IN FAVOR: YES

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