

ASTORIA COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES

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Wednesday, March 18, 2020

The Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the District Library.

Members present: Egleton, France, Prather, Shaw, Stevens

Members absent: Adkins, Musson

Administrators present: JH/GS Principal Dave Crouse

Supt./HS Principal Don Willett

Community members present: None

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions to the agenda: 8.3 Recommend approving extension of Education Fund CD with Ipava State Bank for 48 months; 8.4 Recommend approving three school busses for Prom and Post-Prom on April 25; 8.5 Recommend approving a new furnace for weight room/garage for \$2,786.00 from Astoria Plumbing and Heating.

Motion by Stevens, seconded by France, to approve the consent agenda items (minutes, bills, payroll) as presented. Egleton, France, Prather, Shaw and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

The High School Senior of the Month is Zach Rose, son of Kevin and Darla Rose.

Motion by Stevens, seconded by Egleton, to approve membership in the IHSA for the 2020-21 school year. Egleton, France, Prather, Shaw and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed

Motion by Stevens, seconded by Shaw, to approve the senior trip to St. Louis on May 8. Egleton, France, Prather, Shaw and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Egleton, seconded by Shaw, to approve extension of Education Fund CD with Ipava State Bank for 48 months. Egleton, France, Prather, Shaw and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Shaw, seconded by Prather, to approve three school buses for Prom and Post-Prom on April 25. Egleton, France, Prather, Shaw and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Egleton, seconded by Stevens, to approve a new furnace for the weight room/garage for \$2,786.00 from Astoria Plumbing and Heating. Egleton, France, Prather, Shaw and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

The Principal/Superintendent Report from Mr. Willett included:

- As a guideline, each month is worth 8.33% of the total budget. At eight months into our fiscal year, our guideline is 66.64%. As of February 28, our Ed Fund=60.685; Building Fund=56.12%; Transportation=88.68%. Our overall budget is at 64.79%. As a reference, 1% of our total budget is about \$43,000.
- We have been approved for the School Maintenance Project Grant. This grant will provide \$50,000 of matching funds from ISBE for our roof/HVAC project. We will use facility tax funds to match. This process will save our taxpayers \$100,000 locally.
- Act of God Days – Currently, ISBE is using this designation for the next two weeks. Related to student academics, school districts are not to penalize students for academic work completed or not completed. However, as this process becomes better defined, schools do have the opportunity to assist grades positively based on work completed while students are off. We have provided engaging activities at this point. I foresee a complete change to e-learning shortly, where students will be held more accountable for materials provided by their schools. There will be a lot of decisions to make in short order when we receive more guidance from the Governor and ISBE.
- We have provided 125 breakfasts and lunches over the past two days to our students. Our process seems to be effective, and all are thankful for the food. During this time away from school, we will continue to provide breakfasts and lunches. I will add that we will also provide during weekdays that we are not in session, which would include this Thursday and Friday, as well as during our spring break, if we are still out, from April 7-10. Dave and I would like to thank all who have assisted in the lunches and distribution of the food.
- We are all in unprecedented times, and we are all doing the best we can under the circumstances. I believe we will have a major change in how we operate for a long period of time. Simply put, it will be extremely difficult to navigate moving forward but not impossible. There will be decisions made that many may not agree with but will need to be made in order to move forward and be productive. We have a lot of smart folks in this district, and we will move forward as a single unit.
- At this point, all athletics are suspended for the foreseeable future. All events at the school are postponed or cancelled at this time. We are posting updated postponements and cancellations periodically on our website and Facebook page.

School Board members for junior high promotion will be Brady France and for high school graduation will be Tim Stevens and Brady France.

The board members were given their Statement of Economic Interest forms. They are due May 1.

The 2020-21 School Calendar was discussed.

Motion by Stevens, seconded by Prather, to approve employment in 2020-21 all third-year non-tenured certified staff as listed: Robert Buchanan, Kelsey Dean, Catherine Hackman, Tyler Peterson, Jeremiah Simmons, Ryan Steffen, Stephani Steffen, and Ashley Yazvec. Egleton, France, Prather, Shaw and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Egleton, seconded by Shaw, to approve employment in 2020-21 all second-year non-tenured certified staff as listed: Mandy Friedrich, Christy Quigley and Janee Seitz. Egleton, France, Prather, Shaw and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Shaw, seconded by Stevens, to approve employment in 2020-21 all first-year non-tenured certified staff as listed: Madison Askins, Demri Cameron, Eric Follman, Lisa Heaton, and Holly Wesley. Egleton, France, Prather, Shaw and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Egleton, seconded by Stevens, to approve employment and grant tenure in 2020-21 to staff as listed: Kathy Cheatum, Emily Miller, Amy Simmons and Abbey Kelly. Egleton, France, Prather, Shaw and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Egleton, seconded by France, to hire Ellen Ehgott as full-time Speech Language Pathologist for the 2020-21 school year. Egleton, France, Prather, Shaw and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Recommend approving a five-year contract extension for Superintendent Willett was tabled.

Motion by Stevens, seconded by Prather, to accept the letter of retirement from Mitch Shawgo in June of 2020 with regret and thanks. Egleton, France, Prather, Shaw and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Shaw, seconded by Prather, to hire Jared Trone as Maintenance Director to start in April. Egleton, France, Prather, Shaw and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, April 15, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Egleton, seconded by Prather, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:50 p.m. Egleton, France, Prather, Shaw and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.s