

ASTORIA COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

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

Members present: Adkins (by Zoom), Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw (by Zoom), Stevens

Members absent: None

Administrators present: JH/GS Principal Dave Crouse
Supt/HS Principal Don Willett
Board Secretary Tammie McCormick

Community members present: Jennifer Wherley, Jennifer Willard, Megan Rodgers, Lisa Kennedy, Christina Kling, Chris Kling.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions to the agenda: 10.6 Remote Learning; 11.2 Recommend approving Bob Connor as Scholastic Bowl Sponsor

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

Christina Kling, daughter of Lisa Kennedy and Chris Kling, was recognized as the October High School Student of the Month. Megan Rodgers, daughter of Jennifer and Eric Willard, was recognized as the November High School Student of the Month.

Motion by Stevens, seconded by Egleton, to set the Truth in Taxation Hearing for Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library. The regularly scheduled Board Meeting will follow. Adkins, Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Egleton, seconded by Shaw, to recommend approving a resolution to abate the 2020 bond payment using \$50,000 of facility tax funds. Adkins, Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Stevens, to approve Press Policies 2:260; 2:265; 5:10; 5:20; 5:100; 5:220; 5:330; 7:10; 7:20; 7:180; 7:185. Adkins, Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Shaw, seconded by France, to approve the high school graduation for Sunday, May 23, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. Adkins, Eggleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

The Principal report from Mr. Crouse included:

- With a positive COVID 19 test in our elementary, it was necessary to go remote with our 1st and 2nd grades until after Thanksgiving break. Parents and staff have been great during this process, making it a worthwhile learning experience for our students.
- Parents and teachers shared both positive and negative thoughts on virtual parent/teacher conferences, but all were in agreement meeting face-to-face is a much better option. It was a good experience, and I think there are things we can take away from it to make it much better if we have to do something like this in the future.
- D and F slips are going out on Friday.

The Principal/Superintendent report from Mr. Willett included:

- I am expecting that the governor will continue to increase the restrictions across the state as the virus counts spike. It is likely he will have something to say about in-person schooling in the near future. As of today, we have one active COVID case within the district that we are aware of.
- Mrs. Massaglia was informed on November 12 from the Secretary of State that our school was awarded the Digital Network Access Grant! This grant is for \$10,000, and the funds have been used to upgrade our internet infrastructure. Thanks to her for putting in the work to get the grant!
- Our substitute pool has gotten a little deeper over the past month. We have 2-3 more sub teachers available to us, but still do not have any para subs. Please contact one of the offices at the school if you are interested in starting the process to become a paraprofessional sub.
- The Chamber of Commerce has asked for assistance in setting up the Christmas trees on the square once again this year. We are hopeful that we can provide them with 10-15 students to assist in that community project this Friday.
- Our high school girls' cross-country team competed in their sectional contest at Elmwood on October 31. Congratulations to our team! They finished 13th out of 15 teams, and congratulations to Meg Simmons who finished 11th overall. We also had good performances from Belle Wherley and Elena DeWees. A strong finish to a great season for our girls!
- Thanksgiving break starts next Wednesday. Have a great Thanksgiving!

The Governor has put the basketball season on pause.

The auditor hopes to come the week after Thanksgiving.

Covid testing will be held on the east side of the park from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on December 1.

They hope to get started on the concrete project in early December.

Computers and iPads will be collected before Christmas breaks so they can be updated.

A letter will be sent to our remote learners encouraging them to come back to school next semester for in-person learning.

From December 1-11, junior high and high school students will go to remote learning. Grade school students will still be in session. Meals will be delivered to those who sign up.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Prather, to accept the resignation, from Dr. Jerry Edwards from his Spanish teaching position at the end of the 2020-21 school year. Adkins, Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Shaw, seconded by Adkins, to approve Bob Connor as the Scholastic Bowl sponsor for the 2020-21 school year. Adkins, Egleton, France, Musson, Prather, Shaw, and Stevens voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Musson, seconded by Stevens, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:58p.m. All voted aye. Meeting adjourned.

The next regular Board Meeting will be Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.