

Bois Blanc Pines School Board of Education
Regular Meeting
February 11, 2020

Call to Order/Roll Call

School Board President Cindy Riker called the meeting to order via conference call at 4:00p.m.

Board Members present were Board Trustee Jessi LaPorte and Board Secretary Dan Reynolds. Board Members participating via conference call were President Cindy Riker, and Vice President Suzette Cooley-Sanborn. Also participating via conference call was Dean Paul, Administrator.

Public present were Ken and Christine Hasbrouck, Ted and Wendy Spray, Joan Schroka, Margi, Isaac, and Raine LaPorte, Sarah Sims, Shawn Nelson, Brandon Schlund, Sherrie Akers, and Francis Urbany.

Approval of Agenda

C. Riker noted an addition to the meeting agenda: Board review of the 01/23/2020 Closed Session Meeting Minutes. She also noted additions under New Business: (1) A letter to the Township regarding local tax payments, and (2) Pines School kiosk.

D. Reynolds made a motion to approve the revised agenda. S. Cooley-Sanborn second.

Roll call vote: Ayes were J. LaPorte, D. Reynolds, S. Cooley-Sanborn, C. Riker. Nays, none.

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

D. Reynolds made a motion to approve all public Board meeting minutes from January 2020 meetings that occurred on Jan. 14, 15, 16 and 23. J. LaPorte second.

Roll call vote: Ayes were J. LaPorte, D. Reynolds, S. Cooley-Sanborn, C. Riker. Nays, none.

Motion carried.

C. Riker made a motion to approve all closed Board meeting minutes from January 2020 meetings. S. Cooley-Sanborn second.

Roll call vote: Ayes were J. LaPorte, D. Reynolds, S. Cooley-Sanborn, C. Riker. Nays, none.

Motion carried.

Communications

D. Reynolds reported on mail received by the school during the latest mail run. Statements and bills will be reviewed with C. Riker to determine what should be sent to the EUPISD for processing.

Committee Reports

None.

Board of Education Public Statement

C. Riker stated that, because of a delayed response from the Attorney for the Pines School, it was not possible to make a public statement at this time regarding the school closure and faculty layoff. She noted that a special meeting of the Board would likely be convened on a date to be announced in the near future.

Visitor Comments

Christine Hasbrouck notified the Board that she would be removing her student's personal items from the school locker.

Christine Hasbrouck requested permission for children participating in physical education at the Wagner Room to utilize school-owned equipment. Discussion ensued; C. Riker recommended issuing a waiver of liability to allow equipment to be used as requested. C. Riker is believed to be in possession of the key needed to access the equipment; she will confirm and make it available upon her return to the Island in March.

C. Riker made a motion to have D. Reynolds draft a waiver for the purpose of allowing non-enrolled children to utilize school-owned gym equipment in the Wagner Room. D. Reynolds second.

Roll call vote: Ayes were J. LaPorte, D. Reynolds, S. Cooley-Sanborn, C. Riker. Nays, none.

Motion carried.

Joan Schroka inquired about where special meetings of the Board are posted. D. Reynolds and C. Riker explained that the Open Meetings Act requires regular and special meetings to be posted at the Board's meeting location, which is the Pines School building. Additional postings in other locations, such as the Post Office and other bulletin boards or kiosks around the Island, may be provided as a courtesy at the discretion of the Board. C. Riker added that meeting dates are published on the school Web site, <https://boisblanc.eupschools.org>. The public should not rely on social media for any official postings or updates.

Administrator Report

Noting that the School Board is still working to fill a trustee vacancy, D. Paul indicated that the EUPISD would assist, adding that there is no time limit by which the vacancy must be filled. The Board is planning to obtain a list of voters registered in Bois Blanc Township, which may help to identify potential candidates.

D. Paul explained that, if a substitute teacher must be found in the future, any retired or formerly certified teacher may be able to qualify for a daily substitute permit. D. Paul and Jill Coates from the EUPISD can assist. Names of interested parties should be forwarded to D. Paul. Existing substitutes, or individuals without a teaching certification but with at least 60 hours of college credit, may also be eligible. It was agreed that any such individual would be employed by EduStaff, and not by the Pines School District.

Following the Administrator Report, C. Riker honored a public request for the meeting to be reopened to Visitor Comments. Sarah Sims asked why the school is seeking a substitute. C. Riker replied that the school is not currently seeking a substitute. Shawn Nelson stated that he did not understand the discussion of substitute teachers while a teacher is currently available. Visitors were reminded that school personnel matters are private and, further, that the Board cannot discuss any issues that may be under legal advisement.

Old Business

School Repair Update: Repairs to the overhang on the rear of the building have been completed, now just waiting for paint work to be completed. S. Cooley-Sanborn has reached out to the painter but has received no response.

Strategic School Plan and Project-Based Learning: No discussion at this time.

Education for School Board Members: S. Cooley-Sanborn has not yet set up the proposed training. To be discussed at next regular meeting.

Substitute Pay: C. Riker reported that the Pines School's current rate of pay for substitutes is \$75 per day. Discussion ensued that this rate is too low. C. Riker provided comparison data suggesting that other districts in the state pay their substitute teachers as much as \$143 per day, with the average pay being \$108 per day. C. Riker and S. Cooley-Sanborn recommended tabling the discussion again until the next regular meeting. D. Reynolds abstained from discussing the rate of pay, but urged the Board to move forward on a decision no later than the next regular meeting.

Other: None.

New Business

Board Trustee Nomination: No applications or letters of interest have been received.

Approval of Audit Firm Contract: Board reviewed the contract provided by Hungerford-Nichols.

C. Riker made a motion to approve the Hungerford-Nichols audit firm contract for years 2020-2024. D. Reynolds second.

Roll call vote: Ayes were J. LaPorte, D. Reynolds, S. Cooley-Sanborn, C. Riker. Nays, none.

Motion carried.

Secretary/Treasurer Compensation: Discussion ensued regarding rate of compensation for the Secretary/Treasurer role, formerly held by C. Riker. Since D. Reynolds is now serving as Secretary only, with Treasurer functions being contracted to the EUPISD, the rate of pay should be revised accordingly. C. Riker reviewed the number of hours she had spent each month in performing both functions, and felt that the Secretary role had comprised about one-third of her overall work for the Board, or approximately 7.5 hours per month.

C. Riker made a motion to establish revised pay rate for the Secretary role at the equivalent of \$150 per month, with pay schedule and retroactive pay to be discussed. J. LaPorte second.

Roll call vote: Ayes were J. LaPorte, S. Cooley-Sanborn, C. Riker. Nays, none. Abstained, D. Reynolds.

Motion carried.

Township deposits to Citizens Bank: Rather than C. Riker receiving local tax check payments and depositing them to Citizens Bank, the Township can deposit checks directly, but will need a letter of authorization and will need the account information.

D. Reynolds made a motion to draft the letter of authorization and to provide information necessary for the Township to deposit local tax check payments directly to Citizens Bank for the Pines School. S. Cooley-Sanborn second.

Roll call vote: Ayes were J. LaPorte, D. Reynolds, S. Cooley-Sanborn, C. Riker. Nays, none.

Motion carried.

Kiosk: Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of installing an information kiosk in front of the Pines School. D. Reynolds agreed to check into options for a free-standing kiosk that would allow postings to be placed more prominently than inside the school door glass.

Wendy Spray asked C. Riker to clarify whether she had been contacted by the school's attorney. C. Riker explained she was awaiting further recommendations, and encouraged Ms. Spray to contact her privately to discuss further, due to attorney-client confidentiality.

Financial Report

C. Riker stated that checks for expenses will now be prepared and mailed by EUPISD staff. D. Reynolds will notify Melissa Gilhooley via email of approval of expenses.

D. Reynolds made a motion to transfer \$20,000 from Savings to Checking to pay bills. J. LaPorte second.

Roll call vote: Ayes were J. LaPorte, D. Reynolds, S. Cooley-Sanborn, C. Riker. Nays, none.

Motion carried.

C. Riker reported that she had to transfer \$7,000 from Savings to Checking to cover annual Board stipend payment, because the bank reported that the account was overdrawn.

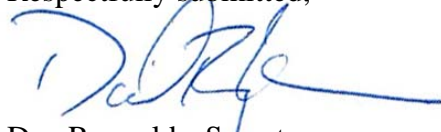
C. Riker made a motion to post-approve the earlier transfer of \$7,000. J. LaPorte second.

Roll call vote: Ayes were J. LaPorte, D. Reynolds, S. Cooley-Sanborn, C. Riker. Nays, none.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Dan Reynolds, Secretary
Bois Blanc Pines School Board