

**BROWN COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
Mt. Sterling, Illinois
December 16, 2024**

The Public Hearing to review the 2024 Tax Levy was held on Monday evening, December 16, 2024, at 5:15 p.m. in the Brown County Middle School library. The meeting was called to order by Dawn Hughes. The minutes were recorded by McKenzie Taute.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Attendance: Lan Eberle, Pollee Craven, Alex Ebbing, Lisa Hannel, Kris Gallaher, Jessica Robertson, McKenzie Taute.

Public Hearing Minutes

Superintendent, Lan Eberle, discussed the 2024 Tax Levy and how he reached the proposed tax rate and amounts to be levied for each fund. Eberle explained in prior years he had used an averaging method to determine the proposed tax rate. However, this year, the equalized assessed value provided by the Brown County Assessor’s Office came in approximately 9.6% higher than the previous year. Eberle said due to the increased equalized assessed value for the upcoming tax year, the district was able to decrease the school’s portion of the tax bill by lowering the rate 0.0259 from the prior year.

Public Comment: None

Motion by Boylen, seconded by Eichelberger, to adjourn at 5:25 p.m.

Motion Carried by Acclamation

Regular Board Meeting

The regular Board of Education meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Dawn Hughes. The meeting minutes were recorded by McKenzie Taute.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Attendance: Lan Eberle, Pollee Craven, Alex Ebbing, Lisa Hannel, Kris Gallaher, Jessica Robertson, McKenzie Taute, Kent Boylen, Leighann Boylen, Nena Boylen, Kerry Ransom, Melissa Ransom, Lydia Ransom.

Public Comment: Beth Boylen mentioned that she had attended the first two high school boys’ basketball games and witnessed a positive and respectful relationship between the coaches and players.

Visitors:

Mr. Ebbing recognized Brown County Middle School Student of the Month, Lydia Ransom.

Mrs. Craven recognized Brown County High School Student of the Month, Nena Boylen.

Motion by Gregory, seconded by Eichelberger, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Reports: Mr. Ebbing noted that the 7th grade girls' basketball team brought home the state championship.

Mrs. Craven presented high school test scores and comparisons with several local schools. Craven discussed the different testing methods the state used last year including the PSAT (taken by freshman and sophomores), the SAT (taken by juniors only), and MAP (taken by freshman, sophomores, and juniors). Craven explained that the Illinois Report Card only represents data captured from juniors, and of the possible 100% score, only 16% is based off test scores, while 54% is based on the graduation rate.

Mrs. Craven also shared that the Scholastic Bowl team won a tournament they recently hosted and placed fourth in a 15-team tournament in Rushville over the weekend.

Boylen asked about Xello, a new college/career planning and tracking program mentioned in the monthly technology report. Craven explained that CTE grant funds were used to purchase the program that will be utilized at both the middle school and high school. Eberle added this program helps meet the state requirements for career exploration and also helps address goals of the recently approved strategic plan.

Discussion Items:

Revenue & Expenditure Update: Eberle explained that as of 12/12/2024 the district was 45% through the fiscal year, had received 88% of expected revenue and disbursed 50% of expected expenditures.

Building Project Update: Eberle updated the board on current and upcoming construction progress noting the following:

- 12/16 – East cafeteria opening
- 12/16 – Weight room rubber floor presentation
- 12/17 – Classroom addition concrete pouring (weather permitting)
- 01/20 – Transformer switch (pending Ameren availability)
- Spring break – target date for new addition turnover

Operational Funds Expenditure Report and Reserve Reduction Plan: Eberle discussed Public Act 103-0394 requiring any district that does not receive federal impact aid to calculate the combined, annual average expenditures of its operational funds for the previous three fiscal years, as reported in the school district's most recently audited annual financial reports. Eberle went on to say that included in the act is a requirement that school boards annually present a written report covering the annual average expenditures of its operational funds for the previous three fiscal years at a board meeting. Eberle explained that since the district's combined cash reserve balance of the

operational funds do not exceed 2.5 times the annual average expenditures, there is no need to submit operational funds reserve reduction plan to the Illinois State Board of Education.

Vision 2030 Board Resolution: Eberle provided a summary of the Illinois Vision 2030. Eberle noted that the initiative asks each school board to adopt a resolution supporting Illinois Vision 2030 that provides a blueprint to enhance public education through future-focused learning with shared accountability and predictable funding. Hughes also touched on the vision noting that she had received information regarding the initiative while attending the school board conference.

High School Baseball/Softball Gate Fee/Ticket Taking: Eberle proposed the idea of not charging entrance fees for baseball and softball games for the upcoming seasons. Eberle explained that finding ticket takers has been challenging and added that many local schools don't charge gate fees for baseball and softball.

Next Board Meeting – January 13, 2025

Motion by Ingram, seconded by Gregory, to approve the 2024 Tax Levy.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Gregory, seconded by Ingram, to approve the Second Reading of Press Issue 117 including the following Policy Section Changes:

- 2:105 Ethics and Gift Ban
- 2:120 Board Member Development
- 4:30 Revenue and Investments
- 4:60 Purchases and Contracts
- 4:150 Facility Management and Building Programs
- 4:170 Safety
- 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
- 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited
- 5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
- 5:120 Employee Ethics: Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest
- 5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct
- 5:230 Maintaining Student Discipline
- 6:60 Curriculum Content
- 6:135 Accelerated Placement Program
- 6:270 Guidance and Counseling Program
- 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities
- 7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students
- 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
- 7:200 Suspension Procedures
- 8:10 Connection with the Community

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Boylen, seconded by Ingram, to enter closed session at 5:57 p.m. for the following subject 1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Boylen, seconded by Eichelberger, to return to open session at 6:09 p.m.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Boylen, seconded by Eichelberger, to approve the minutes of closed session.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Ingram explained that the current statute, capping board member earnings at \$1000 for any work they do outside of sitting on the board, could deter board members from becoming coaches/sponsors and vice versa. Ingram suggested that amounts exceeding that threshold be added to the sport/club activity account for which that board member coaches/sponsors.

Motion by Gregory, seconded by Koch, to approve the Board Member Extra-Curricular Stipends that Exceed the Maximum Allowable Threshold (105 ILCS 5/10-9).

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Eichelberger, seconded by Boylen, to approve the Resignation of Matthew Baumgardner – Custodian – effective December 2, 2024.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Eichelberger, seconded by Boylen, to approve the Employment of Levi Arana – Chorus Sponsor – effective December 16, 2024.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Eichelberger, seconded by Boylen, to approve the Employment of Lynn Tomlinson – Homebound Tutor – effective November 19, 2024.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, no; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Eichelberger, seconded by Boylen, to approve the Employment of Matthew DeMoss – Certified Substitute – effective December 16, 2024.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Eichelberger, seconded by Gregory, to approve the Employment of Carolyn Hall – Certified Substitute – effective December 16, 2024.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, yea; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, yea.

Motion Carried

Motion by Eichelberger, seconded by Ingram, to adjourn at 6:13 p.m.

Motion Carried by Acclamation

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