

BROWN COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 Mt. Sterling, Illinois

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday evening, November 18, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Brown County Middle School library. The meeting was called to order by President, Dawn Hughes. The meeting minutes were recorded by McKenzie Taute.

Roll call: Hughes, yea; Boylen, yea; Koch, yea; Eichelberger, 5:31 p.m.; Ingram, yea; Reische, yea; Gregory, absent.

Attendance: Kallie Kassing, Kourtney Kassing, AJ Kassing, Hayden Hurley, Lan Eberle, Kris Gallaher, Pollee Craven, Alex Ebbing, Lisa Hannel, Jessica Robertson, McKenzie Taute.

Public Comment: Beth Boylen thanked the board and administration for allowing fans to tailgate prior to the November 9, 2024, playoff game.

Visitors:

Mr. Ebbing recognized Brown County Middle School Student of the Month, Kallie Kassing.

Mrs. Craven recognized Brown County High School Student of the Month, Hayden Hurley.

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

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

Motion Carried

Reports: Dawn Hughes complimented the administration on the Veterans Day programs.

Discussion Items:

Revenue and Expenditure Update: Eberle explained that as of 11/15/2024 the district was 38% through the fiscal year, had received 75% of expected revenue and disbursed 38% of expected expenditures. Eberle also noted that the Tort fund was exceeding expenditures slightly and the district would be keeping a close eye on that fund.

Building Project Update: Eberle discussed several updates on the construction project including masonry block completion, steel work, and upcoming cafeteria window installation. Eberle said he was informed that the east side of the cafeteria will be ready to be utilized by Thanksgiving break. Eberle explained that the construction team is targeting Christmas break for substantial completion and turnover during the spring semester and will aid the school staff in the moving process when the addition is turned over.

Next Board Meeting: December 16, 2024 – 5:15 Truth in Taxation Hearing – 5:30 Regular Meeting

Eberle explained that the Fiscal Year 2024 audit wrapped up November 7, 2024. Eberle said that overall, the audit was very positive, noting the only finding being segregation of duties. Eberle explained that segregation of duties is a reoccurring finding due to limited staff in the district office. Eberle discussed the change in financial score and attributed that to the recent bonding and storm damage revenue and expenditures happening in separate fiscal years.

Motion by Boylen, seconded by Koch, to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Audit.

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

Motion Carried

Eberle explained that the goal is to keep the tax rate around the same amount as last year. Eberle went on to say that a Truth in Taxation hearing is only required if the district were to ask for more than a 5% increase in dollars from the prior year. Eberle said the EAV is not yet known, so while the need for a Truth in Taxation Hearing is not anticipated, the district will hold the hearing for transparency purposes.

Motion by Boylen, seconded by Eichelberger, to approve Superintendent to Prepare Tax Levy.

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

Motion Carried

Eberle explained that the proposed resolution states it would reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property at Brown County CUSD #1 from the impacts of future weather-related hazards and disasters.

Motion by Eichelberger, seconded by Boylen, to approve the Resolution Adopting the 2024 Brown County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

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

Motion Carried

Hughes explained that promotion and graduation plans would be as follows:

Promotion: May 22, 2025 – High School Gym – 7:00 p.m.

Graduation: May 23, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Boylen, seconded by Koch, to approve the Date for 8th Grade Promotion and High School Graduation.

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

Motion Carried**Motion by Ingram, seconded by Koch, to approve the First 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.

Motion Carried

IT Director, Kris Gallaher, discussed the existing marquee and noted that the sign is currently inoperable. Gallaher said the 11-year-old sign has had several parts repaired over the years. Gallaher went on to say that the quote to replace the marquee came in at \$28,509; while the estimate to keep the current sign and replace the internal components was \$25,000. Board members spoke about the need for the sign, funding options, and warranties.

Motion by Boylen, seconded by Koch, to approve the Replacement and Upgrade of the Digital Marquee at Brown County High School (not to exceed \$35,000).

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

Motion Carried

Motion by Eichelberger, seconded by Boylen, to enter closed session at 6:02 p.m. for the following subjects: 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.

Motion Carried

Motion by Boylen, seconded by Reische, to return to open session at 6:15 p.m.

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

Motion Carried

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

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

Motion Carried

Motion by Eichelberger, seconded by Ingram, to approve the Employment of Sandra Prather – Certified Substitute – effective October 11, 2024.

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

Motion Carried

Motion by Eichelberger, seconded by Ingram, to approve the Employment of Kindel Kestner - Certified Substitute – effective October 22, 2024.

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

Motion Carried

Motion by Eichelberger, seconded by Ingram, to approve the Employment of Shawn Roberts – Part-Time Custodian – effective November 18, 2024.

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

Motion Carried

Motion by Eichelberger, seconded by Ingram, to approve the Employment of Jason Garthaus – Volunteer Bass Fishing Sponsor – effective November 18, 2024.

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

Motion Carried

Motion by Eichelberger, seconded by Ingram, to approve the Resignation of Suzanna Sprague – Evening Custodian – effective October 28, 2024.

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

Motion Carried

Motion by Eichelberger, seconded by Reische, to adjourn at 6:17 p.m.

Motion Carried by Acclamation

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