

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3 Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2024

- 1) A regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Matt Lentz, at the Hillsboro Unit Office at 7:00 p.m. The following board members were present: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, John Lentz, Blake Furness, Kassie Greenwood, Mike Cerutti, and Nathan Kirby.

- 2) Agenda Item 2.0. Good News Reports

Superintendent Powell stated he received many compliments today while at the high school track meet on all the new facilities. Much praise to the custodians and Fred Butler for their amazing work.

Mrs. Heyen reported the FFA group has won the parliamentary procedure contest for their section and is headed to district competition.

- 3) Agenda Item 3.0 Consent Agenda
 - 3.1 Approval of Regular Session Minutes from March 12, 2024

President Lentz asked for additions or corrections to the March 12, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. There were none.

 - 3.2 Approval of Executive Session Minutes from March 12, 2024

President Lentz asked for additions or corrections to the March 12, 2024, Executive Session Meeting Minutes. There were none.

 - 3.3 Review and Approval of Payables

President Lentz asked for questions or comments. There were none.

 - 3.4 Financial Report

President Lentz asked for questions or comments. There were none.

 - 3.5 2024-2025 IESA Membership Renewal

President Lentz asked for questions or comments. There were none.

Consent Agenda Vote.

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by John Lentz to approve the consent agenda as presented. On roll call the following voted yes: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, John Lentz, Blake Furness, Kassie Greenwood, Mike Cerutti, and Nathan Kirby. Motion carried 7-0.

- 4) Agenda Item 4.0 Old Business
 - 4.1 Consideration of Property Tax Abatement Request

Superintendent Powell continued the discussion from the March meeting. There were no questions.

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by John Lentz to approve the property tax abatement for G & M Gaming. On roll call the following voted yes: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, John Lentz, Blake Furness, Kassie Greenwood, Mike Cerutti and Nathan Kirby. Motion carried 7-0.

5) Agenda Item 5.0 New Business

5.1 Review of Homeschool Student Athletic Participation Policy

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by John Lentz to move agenda item 7.0 Recognition of Audience. Voice vote. Motion carried.

First to speak was former board member Barbara Adams. She stated she was on the board when the current homeschool athletic participation policy was approved. The previous board put a lot of research, thought and understanding into the policy. She asked the board not to do away with the policy. There is no downside, changing the policy now would punish the children participating. She suggested changing the athletic code of conducts hourly requirement.

Kaitlyn Fath addressed the board next. She told the board Hillsboro has a large homeschool group full of good loving families. Removing the homeschool students lessons the talent pool and hurts our local athletic program. Voting to overturn or edit the current homeschool student athletic participation policy is a step in the wrong direction.

Heather Patton stated the policy was unanimously voted on and approved by the previous board, it was not put into place to be a pilot program. They worked as a team with the Superintendent to come up with an effective policy with strict guidelines that the homeschool students must meet to be eligible for athletics.

Seth Huber stated he lived through this experience as a homeschool student. His Junior year he was allowed to play soccer but by his senior year he was not. He does not see an issue with the current policy and hopes his children will be allowed to play someday.

Board member Cerutti stated that no one has suggested removing athletics from homeschool students, the policy is merely being reviewed. He has had several teachers and students approach him about homeschool students only being required to attend one hour a day. Public school students are required to be at school by noon to participate in an event on that given day. Everyone should be equal on this front.

Board member Patton stated if attending a half day requirement is put into place the students are no longer homeschooling they are half public school and half homeschool. The students are not able to complete the required curriculum in that time frame. Mr. Patton mentioned his children by name and a change in the policy would directly affect them. There are currently 8 sports being played by homeschool participants and 6 of them are by his children. He suggests adjusting the student handbook to require a public-school student to be present one hour provided it is an excused absence.

Motion made by Mike Cerutti, seconded by Kassie Greenwood to require homeschool students to be in attendance from 12:00 to the remainder of the day. On roll call the following voted yes: Mike Cerutti, Kassie Greenwood and Blake Furness. Nathan Kirby, Brian Patton, John Lentz and Matt Lentz voted no. Motion failed 4-3.

5.2 Consideration of Resolution Authorizing the Abatement of Tax Levy to Pay Debt Service on General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2023

Superintendent Powell stated Bond County Clerk is requesting this resolution as a procedural matter.

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by John Lentz to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Abatement of Tax Levy to Pay Debt Service on General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2023. On roll call the following voted yes: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, John Lentz, Blake Furness, Kassie Greenwood, Mike Cerutti, and Nathan Kirby. Motion carried 7-0.

5.3 Discussion of Adding an Agriculture/Science Teaching Position at HHS

Principal Heyen proposed adding an additional teacher in the agriculture/science department. It would allow students to be in the shop more completing hands on activities. Mr. Gallion is doing an outstanding job, having another teacher would greatly assist him with the growing program.

6) Agenda Item 6.0 Communication

There was none.

7) Agenda Item 7.0 Recognition of the Audience

See Agenda Item 5.1.

8) Agenda Item 8.0 Executive Session

Motion made by Nathan Kirby and seconded by John Lentz to move into Executive Session at 8:27 p.m. for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Motion by Nathan Kirby and seconded by John Lentz to move out of Executive session at 9:56 p.m. Voice Vote. Motion carried.

9) Agenda Item 9.0 Action Items Resulting from Executive Session

9.1 Acceptance of Letter of Intent to Retire from Secretary

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by John Lentz to approve the letter of retirement from Betsy Homa. Voice vote. Motion carried 7-0.

9.2 Acceptance of Letters of Intent to Retire from Teaching Assistants

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by John Lentz to approve the letter of retirement from Karen Melton effective at the conclusion of the school year. On roll call the following voted yes: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, John Lentz, Blake Furness, Kassie Greenwood, Mike Cerutti, and Nathan Kirby. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by John Lentz to approve the letter of retirement from Amy Redman effective at the conclusion of the school year. On roll call the following voted yes: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, John Lentz, Blake Furness, Kassie Greenwood, Mike Cerutti, and Nathan Kirby. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by John Lentz to approve the letter of resignation from Trersa Hollingshead effective immediately. On roll call the following voted yes: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, John Lentz, Blake Furness, Kassie Greenwood, Mike Cerutti, and Nathan Kirby. Motion carried 7-0.

9.3 Employment of Special Education Teachers

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by John Lentz to approve the employment of Special Education Teachers Elisabeth Durbin (pending successful completion of all state

and local requirements), Laura Lessman and Noelle Morrese. On roll call the following voted yes: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, John Lentz, Blake Furness, Kassie Greenwood, Mike Cerutti, and Nathan Kirby. Motion carried 7-0.

9.4 Employment of High School Math Teacher

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by John Lentz to approve the employment of High School Math Teacher Alexa Huber pending successful completion of all state and local requirements. On roll call the following voted yes: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, John Lentz, Blake Furness, Kassie Greenwood, Mike Cerutti, and Nathan Kirby. Motion carried 7-0.

9.5 Re-employment of Winter Season Coaches

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by John Lentz to approve the re-employment of all winter season coaches. On roll call the following voted yes: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, John Lentz, Blake Furness, Kassie Greenwood, Mike Cerutti, and Nathan Kirby. Motion carried 7-0.

9.6 Employment of High School Cheerleading Coach

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by John Lentz to approve the employment of High School Cheerleading Coach AbbyJo Chambers . On roll call the following voted yes: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, John Lentz, Blake Furness, Kassie Greenwood, Mike Cerutti, and Nathan Kirby. Motion carried 7-0.

9.7 Approval of High School Volunteer Cheerleading Coach

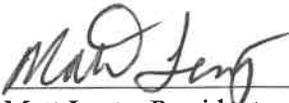
Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by John Lentz to approve Kelly Kenny as a Volunteer Cheerleading Coach. On roll call the following voted yes: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, John Lentz, Blake Furness, Kassie Greenwood, Mike Cerutti, and Nathan Kirby. Motion carried 7-0.

9.8 Resolution Reference the Dismissal of Professional Educator Licensed Employee

Motion made by Nathan Kirby, seconded by John Lentz to approve the Resolution Reference the Dismissal of Professional Educator Licensed Employee Cecelia Bloome. On roll call the following voted yes: Matt Lentz, Brian Patton, John Lentz, Blake Furness, Kassie Greenwood, Mike Cerutti, and Nathan Kirby. Motion carried 7-0.

10) Agenda Item 10.0 Adjournment.

Motion by Nathan Kirby, seconded by John Lentz to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.



Matt Lentz, President
Board of Education



John Lentz, Secretary

5/14/24
Date