**REGULAR MEETING of the SCHOOL BOARD of EDUCATION**

**Lester Prairie Public Schools**

**Monday March 15th, 2021 5:45 pm**

**Lester Prairie School Media Center**

Roll call was taken and the following board members were present: Corbey Hentges, Steve Ziermann, Mary Otto, Brian Heimerl, and Rebecca Heimerl. Megan Stifter Knoll was absent. Administration present: Dr. Melissa Radeke, Mike Lee and Jenna Wolff **Other Staff**: Kim DeBruyckere **Guests**: Sean Tritabaugh, Larry Hoof, Kristin Lamott, Danny Lamott, Angie Christianson, Amber Lamp, Joe Ulhorn with H&U and Ivan Raconteur from Herald Journal.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steve Ziermann.

**Agenda**

* New Business - Ideal Energies moved to item A.
  + Building Update moved to Item B.
  + Added Item C. Transportation Bus route
  + School Calendar moved to Item D.
* Personnel – Add Item H. Jane Roth Resignation
* Motion by Ziermann second by R. Heimerl to approve the Agenda as presented and or modified

**Vote: 5 for, 0 against**

**Recognition of Communications since Last Meeting**:

* Communication – Report -None
* Open dialogue – Daniel Lamott spoke with concerns of the new bus route after construction, and where do we go from here. He asked what can the public do to help.
  + Board response – Contact the City Council to voice concerns, and letters to the Editor.
  + Hentges responded that the Bus route is on our revised Agenda and the public will be allowed to respond after.

**Minutes and Bills**

* Motion by R. Heimerl and second by Otto to approve the meeting minutes of the Regular Board meeting on 1/11,Special Board meeting 1/27 and pay the bills in the amount of $146,306.66, Building Project bills of $41,788.85 and student activity fees of $124.33

**Vote: 5 for, 0 against**

**Administrative Reports**

**Mr. Lee K-12 Principal Report**: - highlights

* 15 Elementary and 32 Senior High students distant learning.
* Snow Week – Thanks to Cheryl Bayerl for help modifying the events
* Prom – Grand march @ school. Blue Note for dinner, working on attendance and activities
* Finished WIDA testing – Thanks to Christine and Laura for supervising
* MCA testing – all students must come in to building
* Youth Task Force Wednesday St. Patrick’s day – Sponsored by the Lions Club
* Senior Class Trip – The MDE discourages trips during school.
* Mr. Lee would go as a Chaperone along with another staff member
* Board response for Class Trip – B. Heimerl – keep moving forward, Otto – It is their decision, R. Heimerl – Follow guidelines, Hentges- Up to parents and child, Ziermann – Permission to move forward

**Jenna Wolff AD Report**: - highlights

* Virtual Band Concert tonight at 7 pm on YouTube channel
* Solo Ensemble will be on the 2nd week of April
* Robotics came to a close
  + Low participation this year – down to 6 students
  + Received the Engineering Excellence award
* FPS – April 10th awards
* 2 wrestlers participating in state meet
* BB – Zach Jackson scores 1,000 points
* GB – Taylor Ebert scores 1,000 points
* Both Basketball teams play this week in section
* Spring sports meeting coming up

**Dr. Melissa Radeke Superintendent Report**: - highlights

* Enrollment – 488 students
  + Tours given for 3rd and 5th grade students
  + Another family with Kindergarten student has contacted school
* HITA bid for Health Insurance bid is in process
* Working on E-rate bids
* School calendar has been approved by the leadership team
* Graduation standards – 1,020hrs of instruction
* Grades 2-11 – Required 165 days of instruction
* Dashir report
  + Safety meeting on slips and trips
  + Johnson controls repair

**School Board Reports**

* Community Ed. – Collections for Read A Thon $6,500
* PTO – none
* Facilities/Maintenance– none
* Facility Planning – H&U update
* Tech/Media: none
* Activities Committee – none
* Negotiations – none
* Meet and Confer – none
* Policy – none
* Legislative – 2 new insurance bills traveling through legislature – HSF 7 (Provide paid family and medical leave) and HSF 1200 (Provide P/T employees with earned sick time).

**New Business**

* Ideal Energies gave presentation for solar panels on roof
  + Board asked several questions. Warranty, Savings, selling energy back to grid etc…
  + Board to discuss further at special meeting
* Building Project Update – Joe Ulhorn
  + Gave tour to staff on March 5th
    - 40 or more attended
    - Board member Ziermann in attendance
  + South addition
    - Finishes continue
    - Administrative staff to move in temporarily
  + North addition
    - Drywall, painting, and tiling going in.
    - Ceiling grid install April 15th
    - Bleachers for Gym arrive early May
    - Traffic plan and Shed removal – by 2nd week of June
    - Worked on weight room solution for the summer
    - March 9th Council meeting
      * City communicated that school must follow submitted plan
    - Need solution for shed removal by next meeting
    - Otto expressed concern of deliveries late afternoons blocking student drop off zone
    - Color Sample to committee by April 26th
* Bus Route Discussion
  + Board member B. Heimerl addressed the Board concern of the bus route on Hickory Street given to the district by the city to follow.
    - School closed a section of N. 2nd Avenue north of the school.
    - Permits were being held up by the city
    - City said they were not aware of the road needing to be closed
    - In order to continue construction process and get permits, the school agreed to the bus route plan given to them by the city on Hickory Street and would address it at a later time.
    - City said this is a compromise
    - We have used these same roads for 45 years
    - Not changing anything structurally
    - We cannot have Elementary kids walking through High School to get to the Elementary side.
    - We have always dropped off on the Elementary side
    - Board has safety concerns of this new route as the buses now have to travel down Hickory Street to the North, make a right turn and then a quick left turn in to the parking lot and make a U turn and travel back down Hickory Street headed South.
    - Board has concerns with young drivers and students walking in the parking lot.
    - Board member B. Heimerl approached the city to re-consider the bus route for the safety of the students.
    - City Administrator advised the Board to work through the city liaison
    - Board would like to keep the buses on traveling North on Fir street to 2nd Avenue North, head west to on 2nd Avenue North to Elm Street, and then South on Elm Street.
    - Board member B. Heimerl gave the Administrator Board’s plan
    - Letters from 4.0 and School Board insurance company given to City Administrator
    - City has concerns from City Attorney (open up liabilities), City Safety director (weight 18,000) and the City Engineer Bolten and Menk(width of street)
    - Finally, after some run around from the city Administrator, Board member B. Heimerl was allowed by the city administrator to be on the City Council Agenda to address the bus route and safety concerns of the students.
    - Unaware it was to be a zoom meeting. Administrator allowed Board member B. Heimerl in to city hall.
    - After hearing Board member B. Heimerl address the council at the meeting, City council member Ron Foust made a motion to keep the current bus route on Hickory Street from the advisement of City Attorney, Safety Director and City Engineer.
    - Council member Luke Meyer 2nd the motion and all were in favor except for Mayor Chris Mike.
    - Bus owner of 4.0 Mike Hennek experience with buses since 1985, spoke about his concerns of safety of the students and his drivers.
    - Agrees with the board’s plan to stay on Fir Street to keep the buses isolated.
    - You are just asking for problems if you turn around the buses in the parking lot.
    - Possibly have to back up buses to make the corner
    - Just doesn’t make any sense to have them turn around in the parking lot.
    - What if it your student that gets hurt, how much is that road really worth.
    - We are talking 4 buses, 175 days for 20 minutes in the morning and 20 minutes in the afternoon
    - Visiting schools use 2nd avenue North and dropping students off
    - We can fix buses but cannot fix a student as easy
    - If you buy a house by a school you most likely will have buses driving by. Sometimes you have to state the obvious
    - Buses are currently using the route down Fir to 2nd avenue to Elm Street and it is working just fine.
    - Buses have always traveled down the narrow roads in the city of Lester Prairie
    - Mr. Hennek stated in the other districts he serves, the bus route has always been separated from the parking lots.
    - Mr. Hennek would like to keep the buses on Fir Street for the safety of students and drivers.
    - Dr. Radeke explained the misconception of the secure entrance.
      * Secure entrance is not the only drop off. This is entrance is used for visitors during the day.
      * School is locked down after start of school during the day.
      * School has several drop-off areas.
    - Clarified there is not a daycare on Fir Street, only on Madison street
    - Students from Madison Street daycare are picked up and dropped off by buses.
    - Board has always had concerns of this turn around
    - Parking would be eliminated on the west side of Hickory if the buses stay on Hickory
    - Years ago parking there was diagonal parking on Hickory street
    - Board has sent emails to city to work together
    - School is biggest attribute of city
    - Board member B. Heimerl has received several calls of support
    - Here to talk about the safety of the students
    - School needs the city and city needs to the school
    - Dr. Radeke to reach out to the entire Council
    - Working with each other creates the relationship
    - Community member Danny Lamott said he does not want to see the buses in the parking lot and suggested that if the city wants the School Board to continue with the plan of the buses turning around in the parking lot, the Board should move all parking out to the streets. Board needs to look out for the safety of the kids.
    - Joe Ulhorn from H & U construction stated that from his experience the busing and traffic have been separate at schools and always a concern of the district and building plan
      * Sometimes separate loops, driveways, and parking lots are made for just buses
      * Community member Angie Christianson asked if a traffic study was performed by H&U – Dr. Radeke said no.
    - School admin performed their own traffic study showing the day to day activity in the parking lot.
    - City attorney stated the permit process would have to be revisited if we changed anything in our plan
      * No changes to road and parking lot. No permitting issues
      * No costs to city
      * Pretty simple change
    - Community member and former city council member Larry Hoof stated if you do another presentation for the city.
      * Have good clear drawings for the city
      * Maybe city can change streets to one ways for safer of students and buses
      * Present information to the planning and zoning commission
      * Keep your attorney involved
      * City Attorney was a bunch of lawyer talk with threats
      * Council was aware that it was always in the plans to close 2nd avenue N.
      * City council was aware of the road being closed
      * Get information to the parents
      * Scary for elementary kids to walk thru high school side
    - Joe Ulhorn – Original plans given to the city had the buses on Fir and parking for kids was on Hickory street.
      * It was a trade-off that we will give you 2nd avenue and in return for you putting the buses on Hickory
      * Board did not come up with the plan for the buses to be on Hickory, it was given to them by the city council.
    - Chariperson Hentges stated it may take some time to work through to keep the buses on Fir but would do everything they can
      * Get the word out and have the conversation with the city
    - Board member B. Heimerl stated it is only 4 buses.
    - Mike Hennek has not heard a compelling argument for the city stance on the matter
      * The question need to be asked why
      * He has never been denied in his experience in any city he servers of going down any street
    - Buses do travel in town on the narrow roads already
    - School buses have always been exempt for driving on roads
  + Molly Mike – One of the complaints and arguments that the roads were not strong enough
    - Bolten and Menk have not stated anything about weight, their issue is the width of the road
    - City ordinance states gross weight is 18,000 lbs. unless you are on a truck route.
  + Otto – stated the street may be wider but having to go in the parking lot defeats that argument as the parking lot would be very narrow to loop through.
  + B. Heimerl – stated he was told that Hickory was built for buses but he does not know that as he was not here at that time. It is more of an opinion than anything.
    - * Why is a road more important than a kid.
* Hentges stated the board will do all that it can and the #1 priority is the safety of the kids
* Motion by R. Heimerl and 2nd by Otto to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar establishing 171.5 student days and 181 teacher duty days.

**Vote: 5 for, 0 against**

**Old Business**

* None

**School Finance**

* Motion by B. Heimerl and 2nd by Ziermann to approve revised budget for the 2021-2022 school year

**Vote: 5 for, 0 against**

**Policy Administration**

* None

**Personnel**

* Motion by Otto and 2nd by B. Heimerl to approve the resignation of Catherine Scoblic as High School SPED Instructor effective June 30, 2021.

**Vote: 5 for, 0 against**

* Motion by R. Heimerl and 2nd by Otto to approve the resignation of Kim DeBruyckere as Computer Tech Techer of Technology effective June 15, 2021.

**Vote: 5 for, 0 against**

* Motion by B. Heimerl and 2nd by Ziermann to approve the resignation of Pamela Magistad as EL Instructor effective February 20, 2021.

**Vote: 5 for, 0 against**

* Motion by Otto and 2nd by B. Heimerl to approve the resignation of Megan Schrupp as paraprofessional effective March 12, 2021.

**Vote: 5 for, 0 against**

* Motion by Ziermann and 2nd by R. Heimerl to approve Angelica Timbush as K-12 Art Teacher with assigned duties for the 2021-2022 School Year
  + Discussion – She has a lot of passion, Stood out the most, very resourceful.

**Vote: 5 for, 0 against**

* Motion by R. Heimerl and 2nd by B. Heimerl to approve the following contracts

Taylor Bayerl – Spring Play Advisor

Jon Koehler – JH Baseball Coach

Blaine Walstrom – JH Track Coach

**Vote: 5 for, 0 against**

* Motion by Ziermann and 2nd by B. Heimerl to approve the resignation of Jane Roth as Elementary Teacher effective June 3rd, 2021.

**Vote: 5 for, 0 against**

**Other Items for the Board** - None

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM**



*Steven D. Ziermann, Clerk ISD #424*