

Coal City Community Unit School District #1
Board Study Session of the Whole Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Call to Order

President Miller called the Study Session meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Coal City Community Unit School District #1 Boardroom. In attendance were Board members Dan Engelhardt, Mary Gill, Shawn Hamilton, Cindy Klein, and Ken Miller. Also, in attendance were Superintendent Christopher Spencer, CSBO Jason Smith, Director of Special Populations Luke Krippel, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jennifer Kenney, and Board Secretary LaWanda Gagliardo. Board Member Steve Rogers was absent, and Board Member Quint Harmon arrived at 6:27 p.m. President Miller led the Board and others present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Discussion on Middle School Principal Hiring Plan

Superintendent Christopher Spencer discussed the middle school principal hiring plan. The current Principal, Travis Johnson retires at the conclusion of the 23 – 24 school year. Mr. Spencer would like to follow the same hiring process that was utilized when identifying the high school principal. There will be 3 interviewing panels. Mr. Spencer will post internally and externally and interview the top 2 – 3, and Mr. Spencer would like to have someone identified for the December Board Meeting.

Discussion on Athletic Director Hiring Plan

Superintendent Christopher Spencer discussed the Athletic Director hiring plan. The current Athletic Director, Dan Hutchings retires at the conclusion of the 23 – 24 school year. Mr. Spencer plans on posting the position internally tomorrow, and would have a candidate identified at the October Board Meeting.

Discussion on Facilities Improvement Plan Update

Superintendent Christopher Spencer provided the Board with an update on the Facilities Improvement Plan. Mr. Spencer met with the Facilities Improvement Committee and it was determined that moving the middle school concession stand and storage project from FY25 to FY24 would be the best for the events held on the back fields. Also, with the transfer of bonds to working cash, 85% of the funds have to be utilized within three years.

The discussions also included a gym addition to the Early Childhood Center. A new gym could be utilized for practice overflow, and meet some curricular goals. The unknown factor during this process is for Life & Safety cost. Life & Safety inspections happen every 10 years.

The Facilities Committee also met with the architects and they will gather the data regarding injuries on turf fields, cost/upkeep, and cancer-causing agents; this information will be provided at a future Board Meeting.

Discussion on the Issuance of the Working Cash Bonds

Superintendent Christopher Spencer and CSBO Jason Smith updated the Board on the Issuance of the Working Cash Bonds. Mr. Smith, Mr. Spencer, Elizabeth Hennessey from Raymond James, Whitt Law attended a Zoom call with Moody's. Mr. Spencer and Mr. Smith provided the Board with a summary of that call.

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Discussion on District Wide Health Screening Results

5 to 6 years ago the district started health screenings for employees who have the district's insurance. Superintendent Christopher Spencer provided the Board with a summary of the results from the annual district health screening. This data will assist district administrators with offering health and wellness programs to staff.

Finance Reports

The bank statements, monthly revenue, expenditure summary reports, check reconciliation report, cash report, and cleared check report for August were enclosed for review. Detailed reports were available in the Business Office for review prior to the meeting. The Treasurer's report, and investment report for August were also enclosed for review.

Open

Items not known at agenda preparation time – none.
Sharing Ideas / Information

During last year's Joint Annual Conference, the administration ordered an activity bus in order have the ability to transport students with special needs. That bus finally arrived today.

Mr. Spencer informed the Board of the 6th Grade Boys Baseball Team's game with Reed Custer. Reed Custer was short players, and the Coaches spoke and some of Coal City's students played for the other side in order to have a game. Mr. Spencer and the Board thanked Coach Pfeifer for allowing students to show good sportsmanship.

Prior to the Board Meeting, Board President Ken Miller, and Vice President Shawn Hamilton met with Mr. Spencer and provided Mr. Spencer his evaluation results.

Adjournment

Mr. Harmon moved and Mrs. Klein seconded to adjourn at 6:43 p.m. the Board Study Session of the Whole meeting.

Kenneth P. Miller, President

Mary Gill, Secretary