

Bond County Community Unit School District No. 2
Board of Education Regular Board Meeting Minutes

December 22, 2021

The Board of Education of Bond County Community Unit No. 2 held its regular meeting on
Wednesday, December 22, 2021, in the BCCU #2 High School Auditorium,
1000 E. State Rte. 140, Greenville, IL.

Board President Randi Workman called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Those present were board members Frey, Gerl, Prater, Reavis, Simmonds, and Workman. Others present were Superintendent Wes Olson; Principals Kara Harris and Amy Jackson; Assistant Principal David Weller; PreK and Technology Director and Grants Coordinator Meg Davendonis; Facilities Director Mike Wilhite; Board Secretary Emily Laesch; WGEL Jeff Leidel; Mike Lindley, Staci Lindley, Allan Tipsword, Mary Sugg, Trey Sugg, Dena Smith, Kim Myers, Delaney Smith, Tanya Kunkel, Twila Cruthis, Delene Marak, Amanda Voyles, Kelley Voyles, Skylor Voyles, Carol Gerl, Dolly Knebel, Michael C. Knebel, Ackerley Paul, Stephen Paul, Gage Paul, Kassidy Kramer, Stacey Mriscin, Michelle Richmond, Monica Grigg, Suzette Williams, Joel Starn, Michael Williams, Billie Worstell, Jo Sussenbach, Don A. Wall, Emilee Kunkel, Susan Corbus, Jeff Rehkemper, Ben Goodall, Alicia Stefanisin, Kenzi Stefanisin, Linda Klotz, Ron Klotz, Carrie Reincke, James Reincke, Ray Schuster, Elizabeth Mascote, Ernie Oakley, Sarah Ralston, Samantha Bassett Harmon, Mark Harmon, Jackie Blumer, Joe Blumer, Alan Gaffner, Cody Smith, Jack Wall, Cole Wall, Tammy Hudson, Jeremy Hudson, Tiffany Smith, Aimee Baker, Tonya Kampwerth, Laura Wall, Jacie Sackett, Lisa Stockamp, Cory Smith, Tom Varner, Melissa Goymerac, Ashley Schisler, Kayleen Kampwerth, Alicia Eversgerd, Adam Boudouris, Brandy Haas, Nevaeh Haas, and Sondra Maxwell.

Board Member Zeeb was absent.

RECOG. OF ED.
EXCELLENCE

There was not a Recognition of Educational Excellence presentation this month.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Melissa Goymerac - mother of 3 kids in Sorento. She thanked the board for cancelling the hearing and planned vote tonight. They were planning to pack the room which would not have been good with the pandemic still going on. She used the words of her kindergarten student, "I forgive you, but I am still upset." She said that the Board has sat there silent. You terrified us, we all had Christmas plans that had to be altered or canceled to work to fix this situation. The people of Sorento demand thoughtful consideration that is why they are here tonight. She asked for more options to be considered and have community feedback. She thanked the board for not having the vote tonight.

Don A. Wall said if we are really concerned about learning loss from COVID, we already have the perfect situation to fix that - small class sizes to catch up students. Give it 2 - 3 years to catch up students and then at the time - revisit the topic. He read a letter from Doug Duncan asking not to close down Sorento School.

Jeremy Hudson Sr. sent out an email last night. He thanked Ms. Frey for answering him and thanked Dr. Olson and the board for postponing the vote. I want to apologize for all of the threats that you have been receiving on a personal level. With transparency - we can work together and figure it out. In his job as a systems analysis, he knows you have to have multiple plans for when one plan doesn't work. There wasn't even a plan B or plan C presented. We need to have transparency and a plan that the public needs to know about. We are concerned about the education of our children. Thank you for listening to us we appreciate it.

Kassidy Kramer has been going around to the people who live in Panama and passing out a survey to see about sending their kids to Sorento. She has received 116 signatures of people in Panama that would be in favor of those kids going to Sorento. This would bring 8 more students. It was discussed at the Panama City Council

meeting. They seem in favor of keeping the school open and sending their kids there.

Allan Tipsword reiterated what that young lady said. You need to have students brought in from outside areas. If you ever think about it again - let's have a two way discussion and talk back and forth.

Kenzie Stefanisin goes to Sorento School. She thanked the board for postponing the vote - it would put a lot of stress on us over the holidays. She asked the board to think about what switching schools would mean to us - it would be stressful.

Melissa Goymerac wanted to make sure the board knew that having Panama annexed into Sorento School is a real thing they are doing. They have been working with Julie Wollerman to get that done.

Board President Workman said that the work we will do in the future will be hard. This is a good time to take a break and start fresh. We realize that it has been very stressful for you, but we have been afraid for our families – we have received personal threats. She wants the board to have a break and come to a logical decision. She feels that the previous boundary study from two years ago has left the county divided. Now you are talking about firing a superintendent and are treating the board members badly. I just want you know, this is not something new that we are discussing. I have spoken to past board members and for 30 years it has been brought up. This is nothing new – this is not on this superintendent or this board only. The board is made up of a great group of people who are open minded and capable of thinking for themselves. Whatever ends up happening, she knows there will be fallout, but she hopes that it will not divide our communities.

EXECUTIVE SESSION Motion Frey, second by Reavis, that the board of education enter into executive meeting at 8:26 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, or specific volunteers of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor, or a volunteer of the District or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity, and litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Frey, second by Reavis, that the board of education return to open session at 9:01 p.m. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES Motion by Frey, second by Simmonds, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of the November 17, 2021 regular school board meeting. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

RETIREMENT Motion by Reavis, second by Frey, to accept the retirement of Anne Langham, Teacher at Greenville Jr. High School, effective at the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

HIRING OF NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL Motion by Frey, second by Gerl, to hire the following Food Service personnel for 5 hours per day, at the rate of \$12.00 per hour as listed: Cyndi Fenton, retroactive to November 29, 2021; Becky Hiepler, retroactive to November 29, 2021; Nicole Kennedy, retroactive to December 7, 2021; and Jennifer St. Jean, retroactive to December 13, 2021. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Reavis, second by Simmonds, to hire Nancy Hanratty as a Special Education Paraprofessional at BCCU #2 High School at the rate of \$14.24 per hour, beginning January 4, 2022. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Frey, second by Simmonds, to hire Nakita Pruitt as a Special Education Paraprofessional at BCCU #2 High School at the rate of \$13.05 per hour, beginning January 4, 2022. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Reavis, second by Gerl, to hire Ronn Beavor as a School Bus Driver, for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, at the rate of \$19.84 per hour, retroactive to December 13, 2021. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE Motion by Simmonds, second by Frey, to approve the leave of absence for Sarah King, Teacher at Pocahontas School, from November 17, 2021 until December 10, 2021. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Gerl, second by Reavis, to approve the leave of absence for Diego Gamino, Maintenance Employee, from November 18, 2021 until December 6, 2021. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Frey, second by Simmonds, to approve the leave of absence for Jolene Notter, Food Service Employee, from December 7, 2021 until January 3, 2022. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Frey, second by Gerl, to approve the leave of absence for Barbara Goodson, Speech Language Pathologist, from December 15, 2021 until January 3, 2022. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Gerl, second by Simmonds, to approve the leave of absence for Shayleen Lewis, Teacher at Greenville Elementary School, from December 20, 2021 until February 22, 2022, and use donated sick leave bank days as found in the certified contract, if they are available. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Reavis, second by Simmonds, to approve the leave of absence for Brooke Weiss, KRP Paraprofessional, from tentatively February 18, 2022 until the beginning of the school year in August, 2022. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Frey, second by Gerl, to approve the leave of absence for Tamara Thole, KRP Teacher, from tentatively February 22, 2022 until tentatively May 2, 2022. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Simmonds, second by Reavis, to approve the leave of absence for Nichole Spurgeon, KRP Teacher, from tentatively April 7, 2022 until the beginning of the school year in August, 2022. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

VOLUNTEERS

Motion by Reavis, second by Simmonds, to approve the following volunteers with background check complete: Dakota Driemeyer, Ashley Goodson, Rebecca Graves, Kaitlyn Gullo, Katie McCall, Michelle McCasland-Walker. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS OF BOARD
COMMITTEES

Policy and Curriculum Committee items were presented to the Board. BCCU #2 High School Principal Kara Harris shared information regarding changing the name of the Social Studies IV class to Psychology. It is also being proposed to add a second year of Dual Credit English and an additional section of Applied English III. Board President Workman thanked Mrs. Harris for all the curriculum improvements being made at the high school level. The next Policy and Curriculum Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Facilities and Transportation Committee items were shared with the Board. Facilities Director Mike Wilhite gave an update on the GES additions. Dr. Olson commented on the Athletic Fundraising Program. The next Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

The Bills to Date for December and the Treasurer's Report for November were provided to the Board for review for the Finance Committee. Dr. Olson discussed the Tax Levy Fact Sheet that shows a comparison of previous years. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Superintendent Olson recommended posting some certified positions after the end of the year but before the board will meet again. All positions would be for the FY23 school year, starting in August. The positions included an Ag teacher, High School Guidance Counselor, Special Education Director, Business Manager, School Social Worker, Behavior Specialist, Reading Interventionist, and School Psychologist. These positions are available either through retirements or new positions being created to help students. He asked if there were any comments from the board before posting. The board was in agreeance with posting those positions.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda items were presented to the board for its approval:

- A. Open Minutes of the November 17, 2021, Regular Board Meeting
- B. Minutes of the December 15, 2021, Public Hearing
- C. Minutes of the December 15, 2021, Special Board Meeting
- D. Minutes of the December 16, 2021, Public Hearing
- E. December Expense Reimbursements
- F. Treasurer's Bond

Motion by Simmonds, second by Frey, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

BILLS

Motion by Frey, second by Reavis, that the bills for the month of December, 2021 in the amount of \$380,329.90 be approved as listed. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Motion by Reavis, second by Frey, that the financial report for the month of November 2021, be approved as presented. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

2021 LEVY ADOPTION

Motion by Frey, second by Reavis, to approve the Resolution to adopt the 2021 Tax Levy based on a 10% increase in EAV, an additional \$100,000 in Tort Levy, and an additional \$25,000 in SS/IMRF Levy, as presented. Discussion: Board Member Prater said the county's funding to the school district is based on the EAV. Passing this tax levy does not mean that we are raising taxes by 10%. But if we ask for 5% and the EAV is set at 8%, our district would lose out on 3% of money owed to us. Board President Workman replied to the previous comment made regarding the TIF Extension approval. The board's decision to approve that was not taken lightly. We negotiated and met with city officials numerous times, held a number of public meetings which were open to the public before a decision was made. The school district was the last taxing body to give

support to that extension. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, no; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 5-1.

2021-2022 RISK
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Motion by Simmonds, second by Frey, to approve the 2021-2022 Risk Management Plan as presented. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

TRS SUPPLEMENT
SAVINGS PLAN

Motion by Gerl, second by Reavis, to approve the Resolution to enter into an Employer Participation Agreement and the TRS Supplemental Saving Plan. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS
OF HIGH SCHOOL
CLASSES

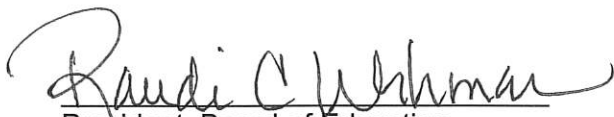
Motion by Frey, second by Simmonds, to approve the change and additions of classes at BCCU #2 High School as proposed. Roll call vote: Frey, yes; Gerl, yes; Prater, yes; Reavis, yes; Simmonds, yes; Workman, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

COMMENTS FROM
THE BOARD

Board Member Prater thanked all teachers and administrators for their work and said we are half way through this year. Thank you the public who have been at these hearings. You have been cordial and the board appreciates it. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and safe travels going home.

ADJOURN

Motion by Frey, second by Simmonds, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:33 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried 6-0.



President, Board of Education
Bond County Community Unit No. 2
Bond and Montgomery Counties



Secretary, Board of Education
Bond County Community Unit No. 2
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