

BOARD MINUTES
Rising Sun-Ohio County Community School Corporation
March 9, 2021

The regular session of the Board of School Trustees was held as advertised on March 9, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. in the administration building. Members present were Gary Kinnett, Connie Smith, Andrea Kirkpatrick, Renee Cole, and Superintendent Branden Roeder. Also present were Andrea Halloran, Jenny Bovard, Sonja Southard, Ruby Thompson, Meghan Bovard, Sidney Halloran, Ella Eldridge, Lillian Akin, Maddy Meyer, Ani Edwards, Kinzie Bailey, Madelyn Fisher, Connor Southard, David LaFollette, and Isabel Siekman.

Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board began by recognizing Rising Sun High School's first ever swim team and coaches. The swim team had a successful season and were very competitive. On behalf of the Board, Gary Kinnett congratulated the team on its first season and wished them more success in the future.

Upon motion by Andrea Kirkpatrick and seconded by Renee Cole to approve the agenda as presented, members voted as follows: Aye – Connie Smith, Gary Kinnett, Renee Cole, and Andrea Kirkpatrick.

The Board of Finance minutes and the regular meeting minutes for January 12, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Upon motion by Andrea Kirkpatrick and seconded by Renee Cole to approve the minutes as presented, members voted as follows: Aye – Andrea Kirkpatrick, Renee Cole, Gary Kinnett, and Connie Smith.

Claims were reviewed. Upon motion by Connie Smith and seconded by Andrea Kirkpatrick to approve the claims as presented, members voted as follows: Aye – Andrea Kirkpatrick, Gary Kinnett, Renee Cole, and Connie Smith.

Mr. Roeder recommended the following OCEMS Athletic Coaches for the spring/summer:

Aryn Webster-Girls' Track
Jennifer Parsons-Boys' Track
Chad Russell-Boys' Baseball
Tiffany Vinup/Nick Levi-Girls' Softball (Shared)
Brady Russell-Volunteer Baseball
Tim Phelps – Summer Program Director

Upon motion by Renee Cole and seconded by Andrea Kirkpatrick to approve the recommendation, members voted as follows: Aye – Renee Cole, Andrea Kirkpatrick, Connie Smith, and Gary Kinnett.

Mr. Roeder recommended accepting the retirements of Tresa Patz and Patty Huff effective at the end of this school year. The Board thanked them for their service to our school corporation. Upon motion by Connie Smith and seconded by Andrea Kirkpatrick to accept the retirement letters, members voted as follows: Aye – Connie Smith, Andrea Kirkpatrick, Renee Cole, and Gary Kinnett.

Mr. Roeder recommended Angelica Hopkins as a DLI paraprofessional replacing Abby Rimstidt. Upon motion by Andrea Kirkpatrick and seconded by Renee Cole to accept the recommendation, members voted as follows: Aye – Andrea Kirkpatrick, Renee Cole, Connie Smith, and Gary Kinnett.

Mr. Roeder requested permission to post a social work position. The school has received a \$90,000 Lilly Endowment Grant for this purpose. If the social worker is able to bill Medicaid for services, the position could become permanent after the grant is spent. Upon motion by Connie Smith and seconded by Renee Cole to approve the request, members voted as follows: Aye – Connie Smith, Renee Cole, Andrea Kirkpatrick, and Gary Kinnett.

Mr. Roeder presented a maternity leave request from Emily Warner. Upon motion by Andrea Kirkpatrick and seconded by Connie Smith to approve the request, members voted as follows: Aye – Andrea Kirkpatrick, Connie Smith, Renee Cole, and Gary Kinnett.

Mr. Roeder requested a change in the Senior Trip to Washington D.C. to April 22-26 due to many attractions being closed at this time. Upon motion by Connie Smith and seconded by Renee Cole to approve the change, members voted as follows: Aye – Connie Smith, Renee Cole, Andrea Kirkpatrick, and Gary Kinnett.

Mr. Roeder stated that a new playground for grades PreK-7th has been chosen by the students. He recommends approval of Resolution 2021-4 which gives permission to secure a loan from First Financial Bank at an interest rate of 2.71% with no penalty for early re-payment. Upon motion by Connie Smith and seconded by Andrea Kirkpatrick to approve Resolution 2021-4, members voted as follows: Aye – Connie Smith, Andrea Kirkpatrick, Renee Cole, and Gary Kinnett.

Mr. Roeder recommended approval of the Dual Credit Tuition Agreement between the School and Ana Neves and the School and Christina Rumsey. Ms. Neves and Ms. Rumsey are the first employees who have taken classes to expand the corporation's dual credit offerings. The school has grant money to pay for their classes. Upon motion by Connie Smith and seconded by Andrea Kirkpatrick to approve the recommendation, members voted as follows: Aye – Connie Smith, Andrea Kirkpatrick, Renee Cole, and Gary Kinnett.

Mr. Roeder recommended approval of Resolution 2021-3. (Attached) This resolution allows the school to move forward with PreK-4 for the 2021-2022 school year at no cost to the students. Upon motion by Andrea Kirkpatrick and seconded by Renee Cole to approve Resolution 2021-3, members voted as follows: Aye – Andrea Kirkpatrick, Renee Cole, Connie Smith, and Gary Kinnett.

Mr. Roeder recommended approval of Resolution 2021-5. (Attached) This resolution states that the Board is opposed to House Bill 1005 which would expand vouchers and add Education Savings Accounts for homeschool students. This bill would take money away from public schools' budgets. Many boards across the state are approving this and notifying their representatives and newspapers. Upon motion by Connie Smith and seconded by Renee Cole to approve the recommendation to oppose HB 1005, members voted as follows: Aye – Connie Smith, Renee Cole, Andrea Kirkpatrick, and Gary Kinnett.

Mr. Roeder discussed CARES Act funding. We are already approved for CARES Act II funding which will be approximately \$382,000. CARES Act III Funding is still in the legislative process and could be significantly higher than the CARES Act II funding. This is funding due to COVID 19.

Mr. Roeder discussed different state bills that could impact schools including HB1367. HB 1367 would allow school corporations to annex part of another school corporation's tax base which would lower the affected school's assessed valuation and ultimately cost the affected school some of its revenue.

Mr. Roeder discussed the preliminary draft of a Code of Conduct for students. The Code of Contact would ensure that all students are treated the same. The administration is meeting on Friday to modify as needed. No action was taken as this was the first reading.

Mr. Roeder discussed our high school as an Early College. In April, we will have the final evaluation of our program. We will be the second smallest school in the state of Indiana to be declared an early college.

Mr. Roeder discussed the possibility of adding a PreK-3 class with the Board. The class would be held in the Senior Center. The Park Board will meet on March 23 and will discuss the price for rental of the building space. Mr. Roeder would like the Board's blessing to move forward with the project if the rent is acceptable. By consensus, the Board agreed.

Mr. Roeder reviewed the Annual Performance Report with the Board.

Mr. Roeder discussed a Bipolar Ionization System which is an upgrade to classroom HVAC units. The upgrade would add a system that kills viruses when they enter the HVAC unit. The system would cost \$25,000 for the OCEMS and parts of the high school. If we decide to move forward with the project, we may be able to use CARES Act funding.

The Board of School Trustees of the Rising Sun-Ohio County Community School Corporation did not discuss any subject matter in executive session other than the topic specified in the public notice.

Upon motion by Andrea Kirkpatrick and seconded by Renee Cole to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 P.M., members voted as follows: Aye – Connie Smith, Gary Kinnett, Renee Cole, and Andrea Kirkpatrick.
