

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
CHANNAHON SCHOOL DISTRICT 17
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**CHANNAHON JR HIGH SCHOOL
Regular Board Meeting - 7:00pm
Monday, June 26, 2023**

President Pope entertained a motion to call the open meeting to order at 6:42pm. Motion by Derek Breen, seconded by Pat Clower. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Babilacqua, Pat Clower, and Nichole Nyalka

President Pope entertained a motion to call the executive session to order at 6:44pm. Motion by Pat Clower, seconded by Joe Pope. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

ES Roll Call: Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Babilacqua, Pat Clower, and Nichole Nyalka

Also Present: Dr. Nicholas Henkle and Mr. Jeff Grosso
Absent: Brandt Compton (Entered at 7:00pm)

President Pope entertained a motion to adjourn the executive session at 7:05pm. Motion by Pat Clower, seconded by Derek Breen. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

President Pope reminded the Board that they were still in Open Session at 7:08pm.

The Board opened the Public Hearing for the FY22 Amended Budget at 7:08 pm.

Motion by: Brandt Compton, seconded by Derek Breen
All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

The Board closed the Public Hearing for the FY22 Amended Budget at 7:14pm
Motion by: Pat Clower, seconded by Derek Breen
All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

President Pope led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Pope asked if there were any public comments.

- Nick Krakowski, 24834 S Potawatomi - Character Ed Program. Concerned about Dr. Henkle's influence on the religious programs available to district families. Also discussed Dr. Henkle's involvement in the Association of Christian Administrators.
- Michelle Graves, 25614 S. Potawatomi - Character Ed - Concerned that the District initially asked about parent operational requests with Lifewise.
- Ray McSteen, 24645 S Blackhawk - Chose not to comment.

- Maura Krakowski, 24834 S Potawatomie - Character Ed program. Concerned that the proper staff and community members were not involved in making the Character Ed program decision and that it is only research-based for grades PK-5. Expressed concern that the program does not reflect community demographics.
- Eddie Crombie, 26835 S. Eastwood Dr - Character Ed program. Concerned that parents were not involved in choosing the new Character Ed program. Expressed concerns with the relationship between the Parent Requested Release Time program and its relation to the new Character Education program.
- Dennis Papp, 24557 W. Eames - Religious Ed - Pastor of Southfield Church. Mr. Papp thanked the Board for supporting them in their early years by providing space at Channahon Jr. High School. He also stated that for parents that select the program, the release time will be a great opportunity for those families.
- Tammy Zadel, 25163 S Meadowland Dr - Camp Invention - Thanked CSD17 Board and administration for allowing 190 students to participate in Camp Invention the week of June 19.

President Pope entertained a motion to approve the amended consent agenda. Motion made by Christine Bucciarelli, seconded by Pat Clower. All ayes, nays, none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Bavalacqua, Pat Clower, Brandt Compton, and Nichole Nyalka

Consent Agenda

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve May 11, 2023 Regular Board Minutes
- Approve Treasurer's Report
- Approve Treasurer's Financial Report
- Authorize Treasurer to Pay Board Bills Listed
- Authorize Destruction of December 13, 2021 Recorded Executive Minutes

President Pope asked if there were any union comments. There were none.

President Pope turned the meeting over to Dr. Henkle.

Dr. Henkle invited the School Board to attend the Pioneer Path 100th anniversary celebration which will be held on Thursday, September 14, 2023. Board Member Clower recommended a historical marker be purchased to place in front of Pioneer Path School to not only recognize the centennial, but to recognize the building as a part of Channahon history. In addition, Board Member Clower suggested using historical arts to bring Channahon history to light through art. The event will be planned for 5-7:00pm.

Dr. Henkle inquired as to the Board's interest in purchasing a digital LED school sign at Pioneer Path due to its location on Route 6. The sign would be managed by the District Office and used exclusively for school business and activities. The price range for LED signs range from \$25,000-75,000 depending on the design and features. The Board was split as to whether the District should keep the current Pioneer Path sign or update to an electronic sign. More information will be brought to the Board for further discussion.

Dr. Henkle mentioned that the community can request to add messages on the Village's electronic sign located on Route 6. The Board suggested that we request that the Village add a message advertising the upcoming Pioneer Path 100 Year Celebration.

Dr. Henkle reminded the Board of the discussion at the May meeting of an opportunity to participate in a litigation with Frantz Law Group against the four big social media companies for the psychological damages to our youth caused by their social media. There will be no up-front fee to participate and any monetary damages received would be used to help students with mental health issues. The lawsuit will be seeking to increase the recommended age from the current age of 13. The Board recommended that we write to our state representatives on the issue. Board Member Clower questioned whether the District can participate since the majority of our students are under the age of 13. Dr. Henkle mentioned that age 13 is a user agreement. The Board asked for additional time to consider.

Dr. Henkle presented the Board with three quotes for window security film to increase security of the exterior doors and locked vestibules on all four school buildings. Security film is proven to provide a barrier that significantly reduces the ability of an active shooter to breach secured spaces providing additional time for law enforcement and first responders to arrive at the scene. Of the three quotes, it is recommended that the Board accept and approve the quote from Perfection Window Films for the cost of \$32,485. Perfection Window Films' bid was slightly higher than MGT Films, but MGT has not been responsive to multiple requests to remove some windows from their bid.

The Board would like to include all of the glass at the Galloway cafeteria and completely cover the glass at the JH cafeteria. Since the Board asked for additional windows to be covered, Administration will bring it back for Board approval if the cost exceeds \$40,000.

President Pope recommended a motion to accept and approve the proposal of Perfection Window Films at a cost not to exceed \$40,000 for the installation of Security Window Film at our four campuses. Motion by: Brooke Baviacqua, seconded by Christine Bucciarelli. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Baviacqua, Pat Clower, Brandt Compton, Nichole Nyalka, and Joe Pope

Dr. Henkle presented the Board with the District's research and review of research-based Character Education resources. Administration recommended the adoption of the Positive Action curriculum in grades PK-8 for 40-60 minutes per week (based on what is appropriate for the grade level) to support students' mental health and decision-making skills. Positive Action is supported by over 40 years of evidence-based research, including randomized control trials, and has been used in all 50 states. The cost to purchase the Positive Action program for grades PK-8 is a one-time cost of \$19,414.50. Dr. Henkle mentioned that this has been discussed far before Lifewise was brought to our attention and that this is not a faith-based program. In addition, the program is Castle-approved.

President Pope recommended a motion to approve the Positive Action Character Education Curriculum at a cost of \$19,414.50. Motion by: Derek Breen, seconded by Brandt Compton. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Bavalacqua, Pat Clower, Brandt Compton, Nichole Nyalka, Joe Pope, and Derek Breen

Dr. Henkle presented to the Board the third and final read of Policy 7:60: Residency. President Pope recommended a motion to approve Policy 7:60 for final read. Motion by: Pat Clower, seconded by Joe Pope. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Brooke Bavalacqua, Pat Clower, Brandt Compton, Nichole Nyalka, Joe Pope, Derek Breen, and Christine Bucciarelli

Dr. Henkle recommended the Board approve the First Read of Press Plus Issue 112 including the following policies: 2:170 Procurement of Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Services, 4:45 Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery; 4:100 Insurance Management, 5:230 Maintaining Student Discipline, 7:305 Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries, 2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct, 6:10 Educational Philosophy and Objectives, 6:190 Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities, 6:240 Field Trips, 8:25 Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities, 8:95 Parental Involvement.

President Pope recommended a motion to approve Press Plus Issue 112 for first read. Motion by: Brandt Compton, seconded by Nichole Nyalka. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Pat Clower, Brandt Compton, Nichole Nyalka, Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, and Brooke Bavalacqua

Dr. Henkle recommended the Board approve an increase in athletic officials' pay as represented below due to a shortage in officials and to remain competitive with other school districts.

| | Baseball | Softball | 6th Basketball | 7/8 Basketball | 6th Volleyball | 7/8 Volleyball | Track | Wrestling (Dual) | Wrestling (Tri) | Soccer | Soccer (just 1 official) |
|----------|----------|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------|--------------------------|
| Current | \$60 | \$60 | \$70 | \$70 | \$70 | \$70 | \$80 + shells (\$14) | \$65 | \$90 | \$75 | \$75 |
| Proposed | \$70 | \$70 | \$85 | \$85 | \$85 | \$85 | \$130 w/o shells | \$85 | \$125 | \$75 | \$100 |

President Pope recommended a motion to approve the pay chart above to increase FY24 event pay rates for athletic officials. Motion by: Joe Pope, seconded by Derek Breen. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Brandt Compton, Nichole Nyalk, Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Bavalacqua, and Pat Clower

Dr. Henkle presented the following Booster Clubs and PTO fundraising requests for approval:

- PTO
 - Scavenger Hunt (October)
 - Santa's Secret Shop/Vendor Fair (December)
 - School Supply Kits (May/June)
 - Calendar Event
 - Online School Spirit Store (CSD17 website, ongoing and joint venture)
 - Catalog Fundraiser (pending)
- Music Boosters
 - Forte 5K (Fall 2023)
 - Italian Pasta Night (Spring 2024)

President Pope recommended a motion to approve the FY24 PTO and Music Booster fundraising requests. Motion by: Pat Clower, seconded by Christine Bucciarelli. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Nichole Nyalka, Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Babilacqua, Pat Clower, and Brandt Compton

President Pope entertained a motion to approve the non-release of the last 6 months of executive session written minutes which include the following meeting dates: January 23, February 27, March 21, and April 24, 2023. Motion by Brandt Compton seconded by Pat Clower. All ayes nays none motion passes.

Roll Call: Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Babilacqua, Pat Clower, Brandt Compton, and Nichole Nyalka

President Pope turned the meeting over to Mr. Grosso for the Business Office Report.

Mr. Grosso informed the Board that Scott Duenser from WIPFLI will be conducting our audit this year. The Board members should expect to receive a brief questionnaire in July via email from WIPFLI as part of the District's annual audit.

Mr. Grosso discussed Section 5/29-3 of the Illinois School Code which requires the school Board to annually review all serious safety hazards that have previously been approved by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and recertify that hazard conditions remain unchanged. It was recommended the Board recertify the IDOT- approved serious safety hazard findings: 17-92-01 through 17-92-06, and 17-06-01 through 17-06-08. This recertification is for the 2023-24 school year.

President Pope recommended a motion to recertify the IDOT-approved serious safety hazard findings for the 2023-24 school year. Motion by: Nichole Nyalka, seconded by Brandt Compton. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Babilacqua, Pat Clower, Brandt Compton, Nichole Nyalka, and Joe Pope

In accordance with Board Policy 4:30 (Revenue and Investments), Mr. Grosso recommended the Board approve the following current depositories for deposit of Channahon School District 17 funds:

- BMO Harris Bank - Accounts Payable
- Illinois School District Agency Liquid Asset Fund Plus - Investments & Cash Flow
- Merchants and Manufacturers Bank - Imprest
- CIBC - Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce - Payroll

Board Member Clower requested that the District seek another depository to replace BMO Harris Bank or move the Imprest to BMO Harris Bank. Mr. Grosso explained that to be in compliance, the Board would need to make a decision as presented today and discuss replacing any of the depositories at a later meeting.

President Pope recommended a motion to approve the depositories listed above for deposit of Channahon School District 17 funds. Motion by: Joe Pope, seconded by Derek Breen. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Bavalacqua, Pat Clower, Brandt Compton, Nichole Nyalka, Joe Pope, and Derek Breen

The Board had questions on what the Board is to reauthorize on an annual basis.

Mr. Grosso brought to the Board proposals from three reputable, authorized Motorola vendors to replace our current, obsolete VHF radio system with a high coverage, UHF digital two-way radio system. Each vendor conducted a 3-4 hour site survey prior to issuing the following proposals:

- Chicago Communications - \$164,634.60
- Communications Direct - \$120,405.00
- United Radio Communications - \$131,134.95

Installation on the buses will take 2-3 days and will be planned on a non-student attendance day. District administration recommended the proposal from Communications Direct in the amount of \$120,405.

President Pope recommended a motion to approve the proposal from Communications Direct for a total amount not to exceed \$120,405 to replace the District's two-way radio system. Motion by: Derek Breen, seconded by Brandt Compton. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Brooke Bavalacqua, Pat Clower, Brandt Compton, Nichole Nyalka, Joe Pope, Derek Breen, and Christine Bucciarelli

Mr. Grosso reminded the Board of previous discussions and authorization for ARCON Assoc. to determine the extent of repairs needed to the support bases of the front entrance canopy at Galloway School (NBG). In addition to the NBG canopy supports, there is a need to do some preventative care on the bases on four of the steel support columns on the west canopy of Pioneer Path (gym entrance from Tryon). F.H. Paschen will complete all site work with steel fabrication work completed by M&I Steel of Channahon. It was recommended that the Board approve the proposal submitted from F.H. Paschen Associates (inclusive of steel fabrication from M&I Steel) in the amount of \$44,000.

President Pope recommended a motion to approve the proposal from F.H. Paschen, as recommended by administration and ARCON Assoc. in the amount of \$44,000. Motion by: Pat Clower, seconded by Nichole Nyalka. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Pat Clower, Brandt Compton, Nichole Nyalka, Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, and Brooke Babilacqua

Mr. Grosso requested Board approval for the additional asbestos abatement that is needed in areas of Pioneer Path and Three Rivers, which is an added cost to the original bid amount approved by the Board in April. EHC is the contractor performing the current asbestos removal with ESI Chicago as the District's environmental consultant and project manager. EHC has submitted a proposal for added asbestos removal in the amount of \$18,665.

President Pope recommended a motion to approve the proposal from EHC in the amount of \$18,665 to perform additional asbestos abatement at Pioneer Path and Three Rivers. Motion by: Joe Pope, seconded by Pat Clower. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Brandt Compton, Nichole Nyalka, Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Babilacqua, and Pat Clower

Mr. Grosso brought forth and recommended the Board adopt a tentative amended budget for FY23 (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023). President Pope recommended a motion to adopt the Channahon School District 17 Amended Budget. Motion by: Derek Breen, seconded by Christine Bucciarelli. Six ayes, one nay, motion passes.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Nichole Nyalka, Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Babilacqua, and Brandt Compton

Nays: Pat Clower

Mr. Grosso reminded the Board of their approval last year of a one-year agreement with Symmetry Energy to supply gas to the District using the strategy of bulk purchasing. In the past year, the District saved \$14,653.22 by using Symmetry Energy as our gas supplier.

Recently Nicor Gas supply costs have stabilized and are closer aligned with the competitive market. Therefore, purchasing all of our gas for another 12 months may be a disadvantage if market rates increase over Nicor rates during non-winter months. Midwest Energy, the District's energy broker, and the District recommend bulk purchasing gas from Symmetry at market rates for 35% of the District's gas supply for November through April at the market rate effective Tuesday, June 27, 2023, with the rest of our gas supply coming from Nicor for the remaining months.

The Board requested that administration re-evaluate gas prices in the spring. Mr. Grosso explained that we can purchase in bulk for additional months if it benefits the District.

President Pope recommended a motion to give authorization to District administration to sign a one-year agreement with Symmetry Energy to purchase 35% of the District's gas supply, in bulk, for the months of November 2023 through April 2024 at the market price set on Tuesday, June 27, 2023. Motion by: Pat Clower, seconded by Brandt Compton. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Babilacqua, Pat Clower, Brandt Compton, and Nichole Nyalka

Mr. Grosso recommended the Board approve Titan Technologies proposal of \$322,970 to install the necessary network/low voltage cabling for the District's new security camera system as well as the required cabling infrastructure ahead of next year's wireless access point/switch replacement project. Of the seven qualified firms who were sought to provide proposals, Titan Technologies, out of Itasca, Illinois, was the only firm who was able to submit a proposal. Substantial completion of this project is set for late October 2023. Project was exempt from public bidding per the data communications exemption.

President Pope recommended a motion to approve the qualifying proposal from Titan Technologies for the amount of \$322,970. Motion by: Pat Clower, seconded by Christine Bucciarelli. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Babilacqua, Pat Clower, Brandt Compton, Nichole Nyalka, and Joe Pope

Mr. Grosso informed the Board of the need to replace the current dishwasher at Three Rivers School. The current dishwasher has been in place since the building opened. It has outlived its useful life and replacement parts are obsolete. The current machine leaks and presents a slip/fall hazard to staff. Additionally, the current machine does not accommodate full-size baking pans. An upgraded dish machine with a larger capacity for full-size baking pans would be much more efficient and ensure sanitary standards are met. Proposals for dish machine replacement are being secured. An initial estimate for replacement (equipment only) would be approximately \$16,000. Proposals will be brought forth at the July meeting.

Mr. Grosso reminded the Board of discussions at the May meeting regarding the Village of Channahon looking to update the Dedication of Park Lands and School Site ordinance that established the improved land per acre value. This value is currently at \$45,000/acre. The Ordinance requires subdividers and developers to make cash contributions to school districts in the event a District opts to choose a cash contribution from a developer in lieu of land. This occurs in the event of new residential development.

Administration brought options to the Board to consider, which included acquiring the services of an MAI-Certified land valuation appraiser to generate a report to support a value, as well as compiling a list of comparable acreage values from surrounding school district communities. The District has been in discussions with an appraiser with experience in this field. We are waiting to receive a letter of engagement with scope of services and cost.

The Board recommended we ask Minooka 201 and Minooka High School District 111 to contract together with an appraiser to increase the chance of receiving a higher value. Mr. Grosso will reach out to both Minooka districts.

Mr. Grosso discussed the current 5-year EAV agreement establishing the values of four high-value parcels at the ExxonMobil refinery which are set to expire at the end of 2023. The established EAV values were unilaterally set with a 4.5% decrease in the refinery's value in each of the 5 years of the agreement. This EAV reduction has caused an annual tax burden shift to the rest of the tax payers in the District. To help increase the chances for a successful agreement for all, District administration is recommending the Board approve the letter of engagement with Whitt Law. As with past EAV agreements between Will County, JTHS/CSD17 Districts, and ExxonMobil, Whitt Law has provided legal counsel and specialized expertise in commercial property valuation law specifically to CSD17 during the duration of valuation discussions amongst the parties listed.

District administration has been in communication with Dale Butalla, the new Will County Supervisor of Assessments. Mr. Butalla informed the District that the process will begin in August 2023 with official notices from the County to affect taxing bodies. The Board directed administration to bring this item back at the July meeting to approve a letter of engagement from Whitt Law. Board Member Clower expressed reservations in using Whitt Law.

On June 7, 2023, Districts received notice from ISBE's Department of Funding and Disbursements about a calculation error on their part which resulted in an overpayment of regular education transportation dollars for Funding Year 22 (FY21). The overpayment amount for CSD17 is \$76,268.03. A total amount of \$302,255.59 was received for regular education transportation reimbursement for funding year 2022 (FY21 bus services). The District was expecting to receive \$225,987.56. This overpayment must be recaptured through future reimbursements by ISBE within three years. Mr. Grosso recommended we spread it out over two years.

New Business - None

Other Board Matters - None

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, July 31, 2023 – 7:00pm School Board Meeting

Adjournment - President Pope entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:01pm. Motion made by: Pat Clower, seconded by Nichole Nyalka. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Submitted by: Susan Sprouse

Joe Pope, President

Christine Bucciarelli, Secretary