MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF

SPARTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #140

RANDOLPH COUNTY, ILLINOIS,

HELD AT SPARTA LINCOLN SCHOOL

IN SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT AT 7:00 P.M.

ON THE 9th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Vice President Kevin Holliday and upon the roll being called, Kevin Holliday and the following members of the Board of Education answered present: Mekalia Cooper, Howard Gallois, Ron Heinen and Jennifer Morgan. Absent: Angela Craig and Corey Rheinecker. Others present were: Recording Secretary Tina Witherby; Principals Scott Beckley, Dr. Charity Eugea and Chris Miesner; members of the staff, community and press (*County Journal*).

Board Treasurer Howard Gallois led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Gail McElroy asked who was staying on the board since there were 10 people running. Mekalia Cooper and Howard Gallois will still be seated. She also asked about Dr. Schwemmer’s contract. Mr. Holliday explained that it was on the agenda for discussion in closed session. She would also like to see where the Covid money was spent. She will be furnished with a report.

With no other public comment requests, the meeting continued.

Howard Gallois moved, Mekalia Cooper seconded to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2023, regular meeting as presented. Roll call vote. Yeas: Gallois, Cooper, Heinen, Morgan and Holliday. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Mekalia Cooper seconded to approve the Bills, Payroll, Cash Flow and Fund Balances as presented. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Cooper, Gallois, Heinen and Holliday. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2023, at Sparta Lincoln School at 7 p.m.

Dr. Charity Eugea, Principal of Evansville Attendance Center, explained that they celebrated the 100th day of school by dressing up like who they thought they would look like when they turned 100 years old. Students are involved with the American Heart Association heart challenge during P.E. Dr. Eugea wrote a grant and was awarded $5,000 to be used toward new cafeteria tables. The playground has been ordered and is in production, but will not be installed until after school starts again in the Fall.

Sparta Lincoln School Principal Chris Miesner reported that the boys’ basketball team will be playing for third place against Fairfield at State. He also recognized Mr. Norton’s work with arranging fan busses and regional/state paperwork.

Principal Scott Beckley discussed starting a hunter safety class at Sparta High School. Concerns regarding guns on campus were discussed. IDNR’s curriculum will be followed.

Mr. Beckley also reported that Sparta High School received a donation of $15,000 from the Baldwin Athletic Association.

IHSA has a program that will be an accredited class for P.E. The students would learn the rules and become actual officials. The class would cost each student $50 to take.

Co-op Football with Steeleville is being discussed again. There are only five kids at this time so it will probably not be considered. Both Boards of Education would have to approve it.

Darius Jackson would like to wait until a football game to retire his jersey.

The monument project is proceeding. They have found the rock they would like to use. They are looking at December for installation.

Mr. Beckley met with Ameren yesterday and they were talking about energy savings opportunities with a new system similar to what Trane has.

The state has waivers for teachers that want to teach dual credit programs. The teachers have to have their master’s degree in the content area in order to teach a dual credit class. The waiver will allow them to get their master’s degree within three years, but start teaching dual credit classes right away. The district offers reimbursement of $100 per credit hour, but master’s classes are $476/credit hour. Mr. Beckley suggested a commitment from the teachers that they will stay in the district for five years if the district grants them more of a reimbursement.

The practice gym is on track. There have not been many change orders.

Corey Rheinecker entered the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Corey Rheinecker moved, Jennifer Morgan seconded to approve the bid from Christ Bros. Asphalt Inc., in the amount of $298,800 for the repair of the parking lots at Sparta High School and Sparta Lincoln School, with the alternate bid in the amount of $23,000 for the area by the track. Roll call vote. Yeas: Rheinecker, Morgan, Cooper, Gallois, Heinen and Holliday. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Howard Gallois moved, Jennifer Morgan seconded to approve the overnight trip for Sparta High School Science Club to Shaw Nature Reserve on March 24-25, 2023. Roll call vote. Yeas: Gallois, Morgan, Heinen, Rheinecker, Cooper and Holliday. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mekalia Cooper moved, Jennifer Morgan seconded to enter into closed session at 7:29 p.m. to discuss items related to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. Roll call vote. Yeas: Cooper, Morgan, Gallois, Heinen, Rheinecker and Holliday. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Corey Rheinecker left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Howard Gallois moved, Ron Heinen seconded to come out of closed session at 8:30 p.m. Roll call vote. Yeas: Gallois, Heinen, Morgan, Cooper and Holliday. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mekalia Cooper moved, Jennifer Morgan seconded to approve the executive session minutes of the January 12, 2023, meeting as presented. Roll call vote. Yeas: Cooper, Morgan, Gallois, Heinen and Holliday. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Howard Gallois moved, Jennifer Morgan seconded to accept the resignation of Shanell Roberts as Assistant Softball Coach at Sparta High School effective January 23, 2023. Roll call vote. Yeas: Gallois, Morgan, Heinen, Cooper and Holliday. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Mekalia Cooper seconded to accept the resignation of Dwayne Ross as Girls’ Basketball Head Coach at Sparta Lincoln School effective March 15, 2023. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Cooper, Gallois, Heinen and Holliday. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Howard Gallois seconded to approve Amanda Orella as a Volunteer Assistant Coach for Volleyball at Evansville Attendance Center for the 2022-2023 school year. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Gallois, Heinen, Cooper and Holliday. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mekalia Cooper moved, Howard Gallois seconded to approve Jennifer Rheinecker as the Softball Head Coach for Sparta High School for the 2022-2023 school year. Roll call vote. Yeas: Cooper, Gallois, Heinen, Morgan and Holliday. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mekalia Cooper moved, Ron Heinen seconded to approve Taylor Harbaugh as the Assistant Coach for Softball at Sparta High School for the 2022-2023 school year. Roll call vote. Yeas: Cooper, Heinen, Gallois, Morgan and Holliday. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Morgan moved, Howard Gallois seconded to approve Kerry Harris as a Volunteer Assistant Track Coach at Sparta High School for the 2022-2023 school year. Roll call vote. Yeas: Morgan, Gallois, Cooper, Heinen and Holliday. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Howard Gallois moved, Jennifer Morgan seconded to approve a leave-of-absence for Faith Argus as Paraprofessional at Evansville Attendance Center from approximately April 25, 2023 through the end of the 2022-2023 school year. Roll call vote. Yeas: Gallois, Morgan, Heinen, Cooper and Holliday. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mekalia Cooper moved, Ron Heinen seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Roll call vote: Yeas: Cooper, Heinen, Gallois, Morgan and Holliday. Nays: none. Motion carried.

MARCH 9, 2023 PRES.

APPROVED

 SEC.