



Tri County Area Schools
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TRI COUNTY AREA SCHOOLS

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: President Fennessy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with all members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. President Fennessy also welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Ford, second by Princer to approve the agenda as presented. Motion CARRIED (7-0-0)

GOOD THINGS: Superintendent Cumings shared good things to start the new school year. To date, Tri County has hired 16 new staff (teachers/paraprofessionals/secretaries) and purchased new ELA and Science resources. The district also received a \$15,00 grant to be used for K-5 classroom libraries. With help from Melissa Clegg, Special Education Director, we were able to secure the use of Moby Max for free for all virtual students this year. Good things have also taken place in our facilities, with the high school gym floor done and the middle school bathrooms updated. And it is so exciting to see the progress on the new elementary. Mr. Cumings also commented that we have enough buses to begin the year and should have the 3 new buses by August 30th. Sports practice also started today.

PRESENTATIONS

MOWER PURCHASE & ROTATION SCHEDULE. Director of Operations, Tom Phinney, provided information to the board regarding the condition of the mower fleet. The district is down two mowers right now, with the only working mower being the new mower purchased last year. Mr. Phinney offered that MI Deal offers deals for mower purchases, with a 21% discount and a three-year warranty. We had budgeted for the purchase of one mower, but with repairs costing upward to \$6,000, it would be best to put the money towards a new mower and set up a rotation schedule like the truck/van rotation. He shared that the resale value on these mowers is close to the purchase price. He then reviewed the rotation schedule with the board.

ATHLETIC FIELD MAINTENANCE – BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELD MOUNDS:

Mr. Phinney then provided information regarding the cost of repairs and maintenance to our baseball and softball fields. He indicated that these fields need preventative maintenance each year. At the baseball field, the pitcher's mound is gone, and home plate is caving in. This creates safety issues for our athletes. He received a quote for \$19,450 to rebuild the mound at the baseball field, add to the infield, and replace the sod around the mound. Similar repairs to the softball field were quoted at \$11,275. Recommendation is to complete the baseball field repairs this fall, and possibly the softball field, to be determined by the Superintendent once the state budget is released or allocated the necessary funds now to complete all repairs. Work approved will be completed by a company that specializes in athletic fields.

NON-UNION GUIDELINES: Superintendent Cumings reviewed updated guidelines for non-union groups, including Administration, Educational Service Center Staff, and Clerical Staff. He

noted that some language needed to be amended in the dismissal/suspension sections of the guidelines and regarding 403 or 457 payout clauses. Mr. Cumings also shared that for clerical staff, the probation pay rate was removed, but probation period remains 90 workdays. The ESC staff was separated from the Administration guidelines, as some aspects did not align for hourly staff. In all guidelines, vacation days were clarified, an increased retirement benefit/EOY incentive was added after 10 years of service. Also reviewed were the pay increases for 2021-2022, which followed along the line as union group

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Superintendent Cumings provided updates on the state budget, health department updates, which include a layered approach to keeping students and staff safe. Mr. Cumings shared that we would begin the year as stated in a letter sent to parents in July. Parents need to keep in mind that things could change as determined by the Health Dept.

Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee: No report available – committee did not meet.

Operations/Facilities Committee: Member Princer reported that the committee met on August 4th, that began with a tour of the high school gym and the middle school bathroom remodel. The gym floor looks amazing, and the pictures don't do it justice. Looks like a floor you would want in your home. The middle school bathrooms are beautiful and light. She also reported that building cleaning is nearly complete, repairs were completed on one of the high school boilers, lights have been replaced with LED bulbs thanks to a grant rebate through Consumers Energy, and the roof at the bus garage is completed. The committee also reviewed information regarding the mower purchase and the baseball/softball field repairs. No information was available on the delivery of new vehicles ordered. The next meeting is scheduled for September 8th.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda items Only: No one spoke to this.

ACTION ITEM # 1 - Consent Agenda. Motion by Princer, second by Ford to approve the consent agenda as presented, which included minutes from the July 12, 2021 Special Meeting, July 12, 2021 Regular meeting and Closed Session, Retirement of Connie Butler-HS Administrative Assistant, Resignations of: Ann Takken-HS Spanish, New Hires: Erica Taylor-Preschool Teacher, Chera Krontz-Paraprofessional, Nicole Duffy-Paraprofessional, Michelle Heiss-HS Administrative Assistant, and Accounts Payable of: \$1,899,730,83. Motion CARRIED (7-0-0)

ACTION ITEM #2 – MOWER PURCHASE & ROTATION SCHEDULE. Motion by Campbell, second by Princer to approve the purchase of a John Deere mower and to begin rotation schedule as presented and recommended. Motion CARRIED (7-0-0)

ACTION ITEM #3 – BASEBALL/SOFTBALL MOUNDS REBUILD. Motion by Princer, second by Ford to approve the funds to repair the baseball and softball mounds as recommended, with authority given to Superintendent Cumings to approve funds when available. Motions CARRIED (7-0-0)

ACTION ITEM #4 – NON-UNION GUIDELINES. Motion by Campbell, second by Gould to approve the Non-Union Guidelines as presented. Motion CARRIED (7-0-0)

Public Comment – General Comments

Several members of the audience provided public comment. One member spoke on topics related to reading, writing, and math, and focusing on every child. Other members of the audience provided comments related to masks, vaccination, covid testing, having a choice, and the mental impact on kids, wanting Tri County to be the district that stands up to keep kids normal.

BOARD COMMENTS

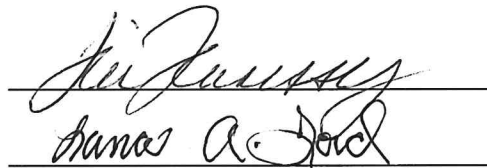
Member Fennessy shared that the Board would be out in the community at various events and home football games to be able for community members to talk with. She also commented that the board was represented during planning for the school year. She shared that a lot of districts stayed closed, but TC opened our doors and will continue to work to keep this possible.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Powell, second by Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.
Motion CARRIED (7-0-0)

Approved by:

Jill Fennessy, President

Lana Ford, Secretary



The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive script. The first signature is 'Jill Fennessy' and the second is 'Lana A. Ford'. Each signature is written over a solid horizontal line.