

BOARD OF EDUCATION
The School District of Independence

12062

The Board of Education met in regular session Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Board of Education Office, 201 North Forest Avenue, Independence, Missouri.

Members Present: Mr. Eric Knipp, Vice President
Dr. Matt Mallinson, Treasurer
Mrs. Jill Esry, Director
Mr. Greg Finke, Director
Mr. Blake Roberson, Director
Mrs. Carrie Dixon, Director

Member Absent: Mrs. Denise Fears, President

Also Present: Dr. Dale Herl, Superintendent
Dr. Lance Stout, Dr. Cindy Grant, Dr. Pam Boatright, Dr. Randy Maglinger,
Dr. Prissy LeMay, Dr. Janet Richards, Mr. Dean Katt, Mrs. Sherry Potter,
Mr. Todd Theen, Mr. Salum Stutzer, PTA, INEA, interested patrons, staff,
and Ms. Annette Miller.

The meeting was called to order by the Vice President, Mr. Eric Knipp, and minutes of the meeting were recorded by the secretary, Ms. Annette Miller. Mr. Knipp welcomed those in attendance.

Jill Esry made the motion to approve the January 12, 2021 Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Blake Roberson and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Herl stated the Bills List totaling \$6,403,592.48 is below the typical amount as the District stays mindful of the financial issues due to the pandemic

Matt Mallinson made the motion that the Board of Education approves the January 12, 2021 Consent Agenda as printed.

1. Minutes – December 8, 2020
2. Approval of January 12, 2021 List of Bills totaling \$6,403,592.48
3. Approval of Personnel Recommendation #9
 - A. Employment of Certificated Teaching Staff for the 2020-2021 School Year Effective January 4, 2021.
 1. Maria Lutes, Elementary Teacher
 2. Falisha Jones, Elementary Teacher
 3. Abigail Mishler, Music Teacher
 - B. Request to Resign (Certificated Staff) Effective June 30, 2021.
 1. Kamela Becker, Music/Mill Creek Elementary School
 2. Kathleen Corley, Library Media Specialist/Santa Fe Trail Elementary School
 3. Brad Jones, Math/Truman High School
 4. Evan Pennington, English/Truman high School

The motion was seconded by Carrie Dixon and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Herl reported the Legislative Session has started in Jefferson City and that education reform is going to be a hot topic. He said that almost 200 Bills have already been pre-filed and the focus is on school choice, charter school expansion, open enrollment, and tax vouchers. HB 592 is regarding MOVA and removing school districts' authority to state where the student will receive instruction. He said that COVID cases are not going up as quickly as expected and compared the current numbers to the December 28 numbers and they are lower. Dr. Herl said that local hospital had contacted the District regarding participation in the COVID vaccinations. He stated that administration of the vaccine will go to those in group 1A first (first responders, healthcare providers, etc.) then group 1B will be done. He is hopeful that the vaccine will be available to the school district employees as soon as possible after that.

Several items under New Business were presented for the Board of Education's consideration.

Dr. Herl discussed the 2021 ISD Legislative Priority Position Platform and said this is an annual item that the Board of Education develops and that it will be shared with area legislators.

Greg Finke made the motion that the Board of Education approves the ISD Legislative Priority Platform for 2021 as presented. The motion was seconded by Blake Roberson and unanimously approved by the Board of Education. (Page 12063)

Dr. Herl reviewed the School District's proposed calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. Students would start on August 24, 2021 and their last day would be May 20, 2022. He discussed that if DESE should change and allow school districts to start earlier than 14 days before Labor Day, that he would request the Board of Education's approval to consider revising the 2021-2022 school calendar.

Carrie Dixon made the motion that the Board of Education approves the School District Calendar for the 2021-2022 School Year as presented. The motion was seconded by Matt Mallinson and unanimously approved by the Board of Education. (Page 12064)

Dr. Stout shared information on the Z Pass Student Ridership Tool. He said the tool will allow dispatchers to: access information immediately, they will be able to have contact tracing on the bus routes, and it will eliminate printing and distributing weekly route sheets meaning a huge reduction in the use of copy paper. The cost of \$66,000 would be paid from the CARES Act money earmarked for transportation.

The motion was made by Matt Mallinson, second by Jill Esry, that the Board of Education approves the quote from Zonar Systems for the Z Pass Student Ridership Tool for school buses at a cost of \$66,000 utilizing the Transportation Supplement through the CARES Act as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Herl presented the 2020 Audit for the Board of Education's approval. He said he was very proud to say this is the cleanest audit that he has received for the ISD. He thanked Molly Johnson and Mardie Gardner for their hard work. He said there are two kinds of issues that can be cited in an Audit - material weaknesses (which is the worst kind) and significant deficiencies. The District has received a significant deficiency due to the Phil Roberts Scholarship Fund which is through TVA Bonds that mature in 2056, which is a greater annuity date than the 5 year recommendation.

Blake Roberson made the motion that the Board of Education approves the FY20 Audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Carrie Dixon and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Herl said that he is excited to place the proposed Bond Issue for \$43,000,000 on the April 6, 2021 election ballot. He stated that it is a no tax increase for patrons. The Bond Issue focuses on safety and security at the school buildings; enhancing the fine arts areas and updating the auditoriums at all three high schools, and new playground equip at the elementary schools. Dr. Herl said the process for selecting projects is based on the CSIP plan and this list touches every aspect of the District. He said he is not sure how the Bond campaign will be conducted due to social distancing requirements.

The motion was made by Blake Roberson, second by Matt Mallinson, that the Board of Education approves the Resolution to place a \$43,000,000 General Obligation Bond Issue on the April 6, 2021 ballot for the purpose of safety and security improvements at school buildings, fine arts and auditorium renovations at Truman, Van Horn, and William Chrisman High Schools, playground upgrades at elementary schools, and facility maintenance and improvement projects throughout the School District. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education. (Pages 12065-12066)

There being no further information to come before the Board of Education, Greg Finke made the motion, second by Jill Esry, to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session for legal, real estate, and personnel issues at 6:25 p.m. The motion was approved as follows:

Ayes: Eric Knipp
Matt Mallinson
Jill Esry
Blake Roberson
Greg Finke
Carrie Dixon

Absent: Denise Fears


Secretary


Vice President

**Independence Board of Education
2021 Legislative Session**

Legislative Priority Positions

In the interest of public education in the Independence School District, we ask members of the Missouri General Assembly to:

1. Support the full funding of state mandates in accordance with the Missouri Constitution.
2. Support maintaining the integrity and full funding of the current Foundation Formula and avoid adjustments that would significantly alter the manner in which the Formula is distributed.
3. Oppose legislation that would divert revenue to non-public educational entities.
4. Support local school district authority to make the decisions about matters such as: open enrollment; employee compensation and working conditions; class sizes; educational placement, curriculum and instruction materials; professional development; program and employee evaluation; school calendar; and Board member election terms and dates.
5. Support current legislation that grants the local education agenda (LEA) the ability to determine the best educational placement of a student including the impacts of virtual school participation.
6. Support a consistent set of standards and tools to measure the progress of students and meet their educational needs while allowing districts to respond and implement these changes without further disruption to state standards or tests.
7. Support deadlines for certification of Assessed Valuation to allow school districts to be more accurate in setting levies.
8. Strengthen laws that control tax abatement programs.
9. Support funding for Early Childhood expansion.
10. Support a change in the bonding capacity for school districts from 15% to 20% of the district's assessment valuation.
11. Oppose charter school expansion as law currently exists. All local tax funds should be under the control of a publicly elected board.

**INDEPENDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2021-2022 CALENDAR**

Final Draft

JULY 2021					AUGUST 2021					SEPTEMBER 2021					OCTOBER 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F		
			1	2	2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3					1		
5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8		
12	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15		
19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22		
26	27	28	29	30	30	31				27	28	29	30		25	26	27	28	29		
Student Attendance					Student Attendance					Student Attendance					Student Attendance						
Teacher Contract					Teacher Contract					Teacher Contract					Teacher Contract						
					7						20						20				
					11						21						21				
NOVEMBER 2021					DECEMBER 2021					JANUARY 2022					FEBRUARY 2022						
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F		
1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3	3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4		
8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11		
15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18		
22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25		
29	30				27	28	29	30	31	31					28						
Student Attendance					Student Attendance					Student Attendance					Student Attendance						
Teacher Contract					Teacher Contract					Teacher Contract					Teacher Contract						
					18						18						18				
					19						20						19				
MARCH 2022					APRIL 2022					MAY 2022					JUNE 2022						
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F		
	1	2	3	4					1	2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3		
7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	6	7	8	9	10		
14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17		
21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	20	21	22	23	24		
28	29	30	31		25	26	27	28	29	30	31				27	28	29	30			
Student Attendance					Student Attendance					Student Attendance											
Teacher Contract					Teacher Contract					Teacher Contract											
					19						15										
					21						15										

A. Contract Days

July		Jan	20
August	11	Feb	19
Sept	21	March	21
Oct	21	April	20
Nov	19	May	15
Dec	15	June	

182

Weather Make Up Days

Snow Days # 1-6 May 23-27 and May 31
Snow Day #7 March 23

All Attendance and Contract Days that are postponed due to inclement weather will be added at the discretion of the Board of Education

Required Student Contact Days 170
Required Teacher Contract Days 182

11/20/2020

No School / Non Contract

Professional Development - No School / Contract

Spring Break - No School / Non Contract

First Day of School/Last Day of School

Teacher Work Day

End of PT Conferences - No School / Contract Day

**RESOLUTION CALLING AN ELECTION ON THE QUESTION
OF ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE,
MISSOURI**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. The Board of Education finds it necessary and hereby declares its intent to borrow \$43,000,000 for the purpose of constructing, improving, renovating, furnishing and equipping school facilities, including safety and security improvements at school buildings, fine arts and auditorium renovations at Truman High School, Van Horn High School and William Chrisman High School, playground upgrades at elementary schools and facility maintenance and improvement projects throughout the District (the "Project") and to evidence such borrowing by the issuance of general obligation bonds (the "Bonds") of The School District of the City of Independence, Missouri (the "District") in the amount of \$43,000,000.

Section 2. An election is hereby ordered to be held in the District on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, on the following question:

Shall The School District of the City of Independence, Missouri issue its general obligation bonds in the amount of \$43,000,000, for the purpose of constructing, improving, renovating, furnishing and equipping school facilities, including:

- safety and security improvements at school buildings
- fine arts and auditorium renovations at Truman High School, Van Horn High School and William Chrisman High School
- playground upgrades at elementary schools
- facility maintenance and improvement projects throughout the District?

Approval of this question is expected to result in zero increase to the District's debt service tax levy of \$1.2145 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

The authorization of the bonds will authorize the levy and collection of an annual tax in addition to the other taxes provided for by law on all taxable tangible property in the District sufficient to pay the interest and principal of the Bonds as they fall due.

Section 3. The form of Notice of Election showing said question, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, is hereby approved.

Section 4. The Secretary of the Board of Education is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Jackson County Board of Election Commissioners and the Kansas City Board of Election Commissioners, of the adoption of this Resolution no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, and to include in said notification all of the terms and provisions required by Chapter 115, R.S.Mo., as amended.

Section 5. The District expects to make expenditures on and after the date of adoption of this Resolution in connection with the Project, and the District intends to reimburse itself for such expenditures with the proceeds of the Bonds. The maximum principal amount of bonds expected to be issued for the Project is \$43,000,000.

Section 6. The District hereby selects the firm of Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated, Kansas City, Missouri, as underwriter of the Bonds and the firm of Gilmore & Bell, P.C., Kansas City, Missouri, as bond counsel.

Section 7. The officers and representatives of the District are hereby authorized and directed to take such other action as may be necessary in connection with calling an election for the issuance of bonds, including execution of a letter from Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated acknowledging the receipt by the District of certain disclosures regarding the role of such firm and other matters relating to an underwriting of bonds as required by Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board Rule G-17.

Section 8. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

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