

## AJCHS #81

March 15, 2021

### MINUTES

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School held its regular meeting on March 15, 2021. Upon roll call at 6:04 p.m. the following members were present: Mrs. Teske, Mr. Osman, Mr. Hughey, Dr. Blakely, Mr. Partridge, Mrs. Ashby (by phone) and Mr. McGrath. Also present was Superintendent Wright and Mr. Detering.

On motion by Mr. Osman and seconded by Mr. Hughey to approve the Agenda as written and with added resignation. All members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Partridge and seconded by Mr. McGrath to approve the Consent Agenda which contained the following items: approval of board minutes on 2/8/21; approval of closed session minutes; approval of payment for bills, acceptance of financial reports and accept change of retirement date. On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Walls, and Mrs. Barkley represented the teachers. The items of interest

presented were as follows: Mrs. Stevens's Multimedia students are practicing their design skills by creating faculty posters to be displayed outside classrooms and offices. Not only does this help students practice design and creativity, it is also giving students an opportunity to get to know the faculty at A-J. Mrs. Stevens's accounting classes went on a virtual field trip to SIUC on February 26. Approximately 25 high schools and junior colleges were in attendance. All students competed in individual and group competitions. For individual events Ellie Moore won 3rd place in Accounting I receiving a \$200 scholarship. For team competitions, Nate Baggott, Carson Pengress, Keri Rendleman, and Breckstin Schaefer placed 3rd in trivia. Students in Mrs. Treece's physical education classes wanted to help their fellow classmate Tabi Smith, but didn't know how they could. After brainstorming with Mrs. Treece the students decided an online auction would be a great idea. Each class decided on a gift basket theme and students either brought specific items in or made a monetary donation to purchase items for the baskets. Community members and local businesses also donated items to be auctioned. The online auction was hosted on the AJ Physical Education Facebook page the week of February 7th-14th. The students with a little help from Mrs. Treece raised over \$2100 for Tabi and her family. Students in Spanish classes are participating in Locura de Marzo, or March Madness. Instead of basketball, students listen to two songs in Spanish and students vote on their favorite. Then they do assignments to learn common Spanish words in the songs and to learn cultural elements of different Spanish-speaking cultures. Over 50,000 students across the world participate and vote in Locura de Marzo, so it is a great opportunity for students to be part of something that is bigger than their local community. Ms. Maze has four students attending the Spring Youth Advisory Council with Senator Fowler on Monday March 15. This is a virtual conference where students will be discussing potential legislation, and Q&A with the Senator. The students attending are Bryan Williams, Katie Kirk, Jessi Riley, and Ethan Perry. Ms. Maze's civics classes have teamed up with Cobden High School and are writing letters to our representatives to discuss the unreliable and unaffordable internet services provided to those in Union County. Students researched root causes to unengaged learners during this school year and have determined that unaffordable and unreliable internet connectivity has caused an increase in student failures. Students are addressing the poverty rate, inability to complete assignments at home or at school, and the potential harm this could cause to their futures. The letters are scheduled to be sent to our legislators on Friday March 12. Students also identified a toll on one's mental health during this pandemic. Mrs. Miller will be visiting Ms. Maze's civics classes next week to discuss the mental toll many of them have struggled with, while also looking at ways to cope with these changes and when to seek help. Art students competed in the 15th Annual High School Art Competition presented by the Little Egypt Arts Association. Each teacher from the southern counties may only submit 5 student works of art or photography. Winning awards for AJ are: Lilly Evers-1st place, Special Awards: Katie Jo Kirk, Alexis Nekola, and Blake Mays. Some local businesses give out awards after the official's judge the contest to students who they feel are deserving. The ACES team placed third overall at sectional competition. The team will now advance to the state competition. The following students placed as individuals: Biology: 1st - Evan Keller 3rd - Peyton Otey English: 2nd - Connor Hallam 3rd - Peyton Otey Math: 1st - Connor Hallam Physics: 2nd - Bo Schuetz & Bryce Henry. Student Council will be holding a spirit week for Homecoming the Week of April 5-9. The theme this year is Wild Wild West. The Spirit Days are: Tuesday PJ Day, Wednesday Western Day, Thursday Blue and White Day, and Friday Class Color Day. Tabi Smith was able to return home. If you follow our school FB page then you know the PR team also opted to recognize her as our Wildcat Wednesday student of the week. Typically this recognition comes with some sort of gift card to a local restaurant for a meal or a coffee; however, given the Smith Family's circumstances, we opted to go a different route. The PR team voted to send Tabi's family a \$250 gift card to Union County Market from the A-J Faculty and Staff. The Wildcat Wednesday funds have been donated by the faculty and staff; therefore, they are used to benefit our students, their families, and our community businesses whenever possible. The PR team saw this as an opportunity to fill an empty fridge due to a long absence, help a local business owner, and remind a family we really believe the One Team, One School, One Family motto. The Blood Drive on 2/24 was a success! We had a goal of 45 units and we collected 54! Way to go AJ! A special shout-out to the students who worked the blood drive for all of their efforts and a shout-out to the student donors as well.... from the Red Cross: "I am so impressed with the students in this building. Those helping with the drive and those donating. Everyone is so polite and supportive of one another. The students working the drive are doing a great job!" Way to show others what AJ is all about! The Theatre Dept. begin rehearsals this week for UPSIDE DOWN AJ! This year's show is quite different, obviously, than previous years. Students do not have to audition this year, but attend a specified number of rehearsals to be eligible to be in the final show case to be presented over various performances (to accommodate smaller audiences). During rehearsals students will learn theatre terms and concepts, while also learning about various Broadway productions (via YouTube, DVD, etc.). Throughout the rehearsal process students will have the opportunity to learn create their own revue to present to audiences. More details will follow as they become available. Thank you!

Mr. Finders written report presented information about Wildcat Academy Credit Recovery Program, Summer Credit Recovery, State Testing, Grants, and Teacher of the Month.

Principal Detering presented information on Failing Grade Reports, Discipline, Academic Intervention, and Spanish Vacancy Update.

Superintendent Wright presented his administrative report. He reported on the financial projections with ISBE, the 2021-2022 school year, guidelines for outdoor events, and CDC recommendations of no longer conducting temperature checks.

On motion by Dr. Blakely and seconded by Mr. Osman for the Board to enter into closed session at 7:27 p.m. for the following reasons (1) the purpose of appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employee of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public to determine its validity. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3) Roll Call Vote: On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Hughey and seconded by Mr. Osman to return to regular session at 8:24 p.m. On roll call all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Partridge and seconded by Mr. Osman to approve the renewal of Scott Finders (Curriculum Director) contract as presented. On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Hughey and seconded by Mr. McGrath to approve the renewal of Brian Meyer (Technology Coordinator) contract as presented. On roll call, 6 Yeas (Teske, Hughey, Blakely, Partridge, McGrath, Ashby) 1 Nay (Osman). Motion carried.

On motion by Dr. Blakely and seconded by Dr. Teske to approve the extensions of Memorandum of Understanding in Regards to Personnel. On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Hughey and seconded by Mr. Osman to approve the Memorandum of Understanding in Regards to Personnel. On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Dr. Teske and seconded by Mr. Partridge to approve Memorandum of Understanding in Regards to Paid Administration Leave. On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Partridge and seconded by Mr. Osman to refund all 2021 athletic fees to students account. On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Hughey and seconded by Dr. Blakely to grant tenure for Melody Thomas. All members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. McGrath and seconded by Mr. Osman to approve Dalton Goddard as a volunteer baseball coach pending all necessary requirements. All members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Partridge and seconded by Mr. McGrath to hire Tom Wright as a Sub Bus Driver. On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Hughey and seconded by Mr. McGrath to approve Jake Parr as assistant coach and Ben Godinez as volunteer coach for boys soccer. On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Osman and seconded by Mr. McGrath to purchase a paint sprayer. On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Osman and seconded by Mrs. Ashby to accept letter of resignation from Leslie Neitzer effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. All members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Osman and seconded by Mr. McGrath to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:07 p.m. All members present voting yes. Motion carried.

Next regularly scheduled Meeting is Monday, April 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Library.

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President

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Secretary