

REED-CUSTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 255U  
255 COMET DRIVE  
BRAIDWOOD, IL 60408

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
May 19, 2021

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Reed-Custer Community Unit School District 255U Board of Education was held on May 19, 2021, at the Administration Center for Board Members and Superintendent Mitchell. President Boyer called the meeting to order at 5:42p.m. with the following members present: Boyer, D. Dransfeldt, Grace, Morris, Van Duyne, Cavanaugh, T. Dransfeldt.

Also Present: Mr. Mitchell, Superintendent, Mr. Hulbert, Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Mrs. Valiente, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning.

CLOSED SESSION: A motion was made by Cavanaugh and seconded by Grace to enter into closed session for discussion of employment, resignation, and assignment of personnel or pending/possible legal litigation at 5:42p.m.

The following members voted yea on a roll call vote: Boyer, D. Dransfeldt, Grace, Morris, Van Duyne, Cavanaugh, T. Dransfeldt. 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried.

CONVENE REGULAR SESSION: A motion was made by Grace and seconded by Van Duyne to return to regular session at 6:37p.m.

The following members voted yea on a roll call vote: Boyer, D. Dransfeldt, Grace, Morris, Van Duyne, Cavanaugh, T. Dransfeldt. 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried.

COMMENDATIONS:

Board President, Greg Boyer, stated that Brandon Carlo, Reed-Custer High School junior, put on an exceptional performance when playing the national anthem on his guitar opening for the Reed-Custer baseball team game on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

Superintendent, Mark Mitchell, reported that he received compliments on the beautiful appearance of the Reed-Custer High School baseball fields. Reed-Custer grounds team is doing a terrific job.

Board Vice President, Chris Cavanaugh, commended the Reed-Custer staff and community on being able to have in-person learning the entire 2020-2021 school year during the COVID-19 pandemic. Great efforts by staff, students, parents and the community on making it a success.

VISITORS:

None

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made by Van Duyne and seconded by Cavanaugh to approve the following consent agenda items:

Financial:	Treasurer/Activity Accounts Reports Bill Payable List/Payroll
Minutes:	April 21, 2021 Board Minutes

The following members voted yea on a roll call vote: Boyer, D. Dransfeldt, Grace, Morris, Van Duyne, Cavanaugh, T. Dransfeldt. 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried.

## REPORTS:

### CORRESPONDENCE:

The Illinois Association of School Board is planning for an in-person Joint Annual Conference November 19-21, 2021 in Chicago. Board members should start receiving emails regarding such.

### WILCO:

Mrs. Valiente, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, stated that the WILCO board meeting was postponed due to adding additional items on the agenda.

### SOWIC:

Superintendent Mitchell reported that Bill Roseland, Executive Director of SOWIC, sent letters to the State regarding the costs of special education. An update will be given in the future.

### BOARD GOAL/COMMITTEE UPDATE:

NONE

### SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Superintendent Mitchell provided a COVID-19 update. As of May 18th, there have been 42 positive cases with 36 students and 6 staff members. Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume in-person learning for all student attendance days. Remote instruction be made available for students who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine **and** are under a quarantine order by a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Mitchell reported on the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Grants. Part one, \$170,530 was used to purchase student devices, approximately 461 Chromebooks were purchased. Part two, propose to use all of \$574,896 to repair and upgrade projects to improve air quality in school buildings. Part three, estimated \$1,364,847 to become live on July 1, 2021 and at least 20% must be used to combat learning loss, which is \$272,969 minimum.

Mitchell reported that the budget for FY22 will be discussed in June, waiting on the outcome of the State Energy Legislation. Mitchell played a presentation presented by Exelon from Friday, May 14th. Mitchell included two letters he wrote to Governor Pritzker; one stating that the Reed-Custer CUSD 255 supports the Climate Union Jobs Act and the other regarding the energy legislation.

Mitchell reminded that Reed-Custer Middle School Promotion is Thursday, May 20 at 7:00pm with a rain date of Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm. Reed-Custer High School Graduation is Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00pm or may have a late start time of 7:00pm due to heat. Rain date of Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00pm. Both ceremonies will take place outside at the Reed-Custer High School football field. Each student will receive 4 attendance tickets. Board members, Greg Boyer and Jesse Morris, will attend the Reed-Custer High School Graduation. Board members, Kris Van Duyne and Michael Grace, will attend the Reed-Custer Middle School Promotion.

Mitchell gave recognition to the 2021 retiring Reed-Custer staff:

Joan Beaudry, Reed-Custer Director of Transportation  
Dee Elsner, Reed-Custer High School Secretary  
Cyndi Erdmann, Reed-Custer Middle School Secretary  
Deb Esparza, Reed-Custer School District Bus Driver  
Mark Hulbert, Assistant Superintendent for Operations  
Kathy Jones, Reed-Custer School District Nurse  
Don Sharper, Reed-Custer Director of Grounds

### ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING:

Mrs. Valiente, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, provided an update on

Curriculum. Summer School will offer credit recovery and enrichment opportunities for all students, kindergarten through 12th grade. Valiente stated that Jose Davis, Reed-Custer Middle School 8th grade student, placed in the top 3 in the Nuclear Powers Illinois Art Contest. Theme was Why Illinois Needs Nuclear. Her drawing earned the Reed-Custer Middle School Art Program \$1,000. This contest was across schools statewide ranging from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Valiente highlighted the assessment and reported that Reed-Custer successfully completed all state testing during the spring window. There will be three release dates of Illinois Report Card; preliminary metrics on October 29th, spring 20-21 assessment data on December 2nd and fall 20-21 assessment data on April 27th. The fall assessment data does not apply to Reed-Custer.

Valiente reported that Professional Development is having remote learning planning and prep days on May 24th, 25th and 26th. Professional Development will work with the following consultants: SeeSaw at the Reed-Custer Elementary School, MAP for the Reed-Custer Middle School and District Interventionists, Riverside Mental Health First Aid Training for the Reed-Custer District Social Emotional Team and Naviance at the Reed-Custer High School, EdTechTeacher at the Reed-Custer Middle School and High School. EdTechTeacher is new and will help aid in expanding technology use in classrooms.

Valiente stated that there are options during the summer with the Joliet Professional Development Alliance and also virtual sessions through various organizations to help close any academic gaps, improve the use of instructional technology and meet student social emotional needs.

Valiente also reported that the 2021-2022 Title I Application, Consolidated District Plan will be presented as an action item at the June 16th, 2021 board meeting.

#### ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR OPERATIONS:

Mr. Mark Hulbert, Assistant Superintendent for Operations reported that at the Reed-Custer High School is installing new auditorium curtains. Installation began on May 19th with an estimated completion date of May 21st. An AED (Automated External Defibrillator) was added to the new cafeteria at the High School. Replaced the inverter battery for the emergency lights that are used during power failures at the High School. A cracked window in classroom 409 at the Middle School was replaced. A section of vent pipe in a teacher's restroom at the Middle School was cracked and was replaced. Locker room exit doors in the fieldhouse were replaced. The inverter battery for the emergency lights in the fieldhouse was replaced as well.

Hulbert provided a technology update that Duane Dubbert obtained his certification to operate the Genetec camera software system.

Hulbert provided a registration update as of May 19th, 725 students have registered for FY2022 school year.

Hulbert reported that 288 students have registered for the summer breakfast/lunch program. Reed-Custer food service team has done an amazing job organizing this program.

ACTION ITEMS: A motion was made by Grace and seconded by Morris to approve the following action items:

#### A. Personnel

- Accept the resignation under the VERP agreement of Joanne Leveille, Reed-Custer High School Science Teacher, effective end of 2024-2025 school year.
- Accept the resignation of Tara Sweeney, Reed-Custer Middle School Panther Press Sponsor, effective end of 2020-2021 school year.

- Accept the resignation of Erin Lehman, Reed-Custer Social Worker, effective end of 2020-2021 school year.
  - Accept the resignation of Amanda Middleton, Reed-Custer Middle School Language Arts, effective May 27th, 2021.
  - Accept the resignation of Lucia Dela Cruz, Reed-Custer High School Custodian, effective June 25, 2021.
  - Accept the resignation of Kimberly Johnson, Reed-Custer High School 4.5-hour Food Service, effective May 27, 2021.
  - Accept the resignation of Shannon Alessi, Reed-Custer Color Guard Instructor, effective end of 2020-2021 school year.
  - Accept the resignation of Mary Miller, Reed-Custer Elementary School 4th Grade Teacher, effective end of 2020-2021 school year.
  - Accept the resignation of Tyler Schoonover, Reed-Custer Middle School Assistant Baseball and Reed-Custer High School Assistant Boys Basketball Coach.
  - Accept the resignation of Jessica Johnston, Reed-Custer High School Assistant Girls Basketball Coach.
  - Approve the maternity/child care leave for Kristen Cann, anticipated leave time August 12th - October 15, 2021.
  - Approve the employment of Brooke Gleixner, Reed-Custer Middle School Panther Press Sponsor, \$780 non-graduating stipend.
  - Approve the employment of James Matsko, Reed-Custer Middle School Head Track Coach, Level 3: \$3,084.
  - Approve the employment of Yale Davis, Reed-Custer High School Head Wrestling Coach, Level 9: \$5,433.
  - Approve the employment of Paige Mueller, Reed-Custer Color Guard Instructor, Level 4: \$1,487.
  - Approve the one-year Administrative Contract for Jeff Sukley, RCES Assistant Principal.
  - Approve the employment of Cynthia Ewers, Reed-Custer School Substitute Food Service.
  - Approve the employment of Sheryl Carr, Reed-Custer Substitute Custodian.
  - Approve the employment of Fawn Ames, Reed-Custer High School Science Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year, Masters Level 8: \$48,150.
  - Approve the employment of Katie Hulbert, Reed-Custer High School Special Education Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year, MS 8, Level 19: \$65,092.
  - Approve the employment of Danielle Sanders, Reed-Custer Elementary School EC Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year, BS, Level 2: \$37,834.
  - Approve the employment of Kirk Houchin, Reed-Custer High School Learning Loss Interventionist, Temporary Full Time, DB MS, Level 1, \$48,160.
  - Approve the employment of Alyssa Tiangco, Reed-Custer Elementary School Social Worker for the 2021-2022 school year, MS Level 1: \$42,872.
- B. Building Usage Requests – NONE
- C. Renewal of 2-year Intergovernmental Agreement (Boys and Girls Soccer) between Reed-Custer School District 255U and Gardner South Wilmington High School District #73.

The following members voted yea on a roll call vote: Boyer, D. Dransfeldt, Grace, Morris, Van Duyne, Cavanaugh, T. Dransfeldt. 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION ITEM:**

A guest attended the board meeting. Property taxes increased and he was curious as to how his tax dollars were used within the Reed-Custer School District. He was very pleased with what he had heard at the board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Grace and seconded by Van Duyne to adjourn the

regular session meeting at 7:19pm.

The following members voted yea on a roll call vote: Boyer, D. Dransfeldt, Grace, Morris, Van Duyne, Cavanaugh, T. Dransfeldt. 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried.