



“Soar to Excellence.”

**LIBERTY COMMUNITY UNIT #2
SCHOOL**

505 N. PARK ST. LIBERTY, IL 62347

www.libertyschool.net

Board of Education

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*Liberty School District will equip the whole student with knowledge,
skills, and character to achieve personal success as they “Soar to
Excellence.”*

Board Meeting Agenda for February 21, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the Chorus Room.

1. Routine Consent Agenda:
 - A. Approval of the Agenda
 - B. Approval of the following Minutes:
Regular board meeting on January 22, 2018
 - C. Approval of the Bills, Payroll, Treasurer's Report, and Additional Bills presented at the meeting
 - D. Approval of the Financial Summary Report
 - E. Approval of the Food Service Report
 - F. Approval of the Activity Report

2. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Approve the FFA Test Plot Contract 2018.
 - B. Discuss and approve Finance Committee's Recommendation.
 - C. Approve the ASUS Agreement to repair our Chromebooks.

3. Personnel Report:
 - A. Approve the resignation of Shawn Bunch as the Head Coach for High School Volleyball.
 - B. Approve the resignation of Amanda Bunch as the JV Coach for High School Volleyball.
 - C. Approve Reed Haubrich as the Assistant Coach for High School Boys Track for the 2018 season.
 - D. Approve Levi Obert as the Assistant Coach for Junior High Boys Track for the 2018 season.
 - E. Approve Jason Anderson as the Assistant Coach for High School Girls Softball for the 2018 season.
 - F. Approve James Rob Young as the Assistant Coach for High School Boys Baseball for the 2018 season.
 - G. Approve Janet Henry as the Kitchen Helper for 2.5 hours per day effective February 22, 2018.

Superintendent's Comments:

Changes at the State-level

Many changes are taking place at the State-level. First, there is a new Evidence Based Model (EBM) that has three levels of calculation. It is very detailed

with many components. This is why it is taking the State of Illinois a long time to let school districts know what they will receive for funding. I have been reading and attending as many trainings/meetings as possible to know how to calculate this and what information will need to be provided, so that our District can receive the maximum funding available to us.

Another initiative is the ESSA Plan where school districts will be rated on one of four categories. Tier 1: Exemplary School, which is in the top 10% of all schools with a graduation rate above 67%. Tier 2: Commendable School, which is in the top 10% of all schools but the graduation rate is 67% or less. Tier 3: Underperforming School, which has a sub-group performing at or below the level of the ALL students group of schools in Tier four. Tier 4: Lowest Performing School, which has a sub-group performing at or below the level of the ALL students group of schools in Tier four and is the lowest 5% of schools or has a graduation rate of 67% or less. Complicated, right? The 2-page matrix that gets us to these tier ratings is very cumbersome as well. A lot of meetings and trainings are taking place to help school administrators understand how they will be rated. All the while we are trying to complete teacher evaluations, which is required by law to be done by the March board meeting. Yikes!

Also, there is the great possibility of schools having to take over paying for teacher retirements, as proposed by the Governor. So, as we are supposed to receive more funding through EBM, we will then have to dish out even more money to cover pensions. So how did we gain???? In the end, we will not, if this is approved.

School Safety

In the mist of new funding, tier ratings, and pension cost shift, we are also dealing with the safety of schools. No longer can doors be left open and everyone welcomed into the schools. You have to have a purpose for being on campus, go through a background check, and you must be “buzzed” in with your picture on camera and checked before entering. But is that enough in light of the Florida incident? First of all, communication is key. ***If you hear something, say something.*** Let the administration know and act upon inappropriate comments or behavior, and keep people informed of unusual events. Unfortunately, schools are no longer allowed to have Zero Tolerance, as that is a violation of school code. However, we do not have to tolerate anything that jeopardizes the safety of our

students and staff.

Also, it is important for people to understand that they are NOT privy to details of any incident or identifying information about a student. This confidentiality piece is law! Many people have expressed to me that they do not like it. Your issue is not with school personnel, but with legislators who propose the law. School leaders do not create the law, but they must follow the law. One must always keep in mind that there are many instances where students who are young and not fully developed make mistakes, sometimes resulting from poor judgement. While we must aggressively address issues and take a tough stand on many occasions, we also have been charged to protect all parties involved and find strategic ways to educate all students. This results in school districts mandated by law to educate all students, and provide the transportation for that education.

Finally, just because details are not discussed, which should never occur by school personnel or board members, that does not mean nothing is being done to address safety. Safety is a top priority at Liberty CUSD2! It always has been and will continue to be a focus. Rather than explaining or in some cases, it feels like defending, against assumptions, I would hope our school community is patient, trusting, and supportive in knowing that everything is being done to keep our kids safe. It is not only our job, but our commitment to our school community.

Stay tuned for future information on some enhancements being made to secure our campus from the threat of violence and drug abuse, both of which are plaguing our children, even while they are trying to be the best they can be. "Soar to excellence, in both academics and safety; every student, every day!"