



*“Soar to Excellence.”*

# **LIBERTY COMMUNITY UNIT #2 SCHOOL**

**505 N. PARK ST. LIBERTY, IL 62347**

[www.libertyschool.net](http://www.libertyschool.net)

## **Board of Education**

**Rod Barry, President**

**Don McCleary, Vice President**

**Matt Schmidt, Secretary**

**E. John Clark**

**Rebecca Hedrick**

**Jeanne Krutmeier**

**Joel Mixer**

## **Administration**

**Kelle Bunch, Superintendent**

**Jody Obert, PreK-6 Principal**

**Justin Edgar, 7-12 Principal**

*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 January 23, 2019, 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 December 19, 2019
    - Special board meeting on January 16, 2019
  - 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. Review keeping closed session minutes closed.
  - B. Authorize the Superintendent to destroy closed session verbatim recordings that have reached the expiration date for keeping on file.
  - C. Approve the second reading of and adopt PRESS Policy.
3. Board Discussion and Action:
  - A. Approve the Senior trip for 2018-19.
  - B. Approve the purchase of a new phone system.
4. Personnel Report:
  - Approve the resignation of Adam Hocking as Night Custodian, effective December 21, 2018.
  - Approve Josh Weisenberger as the Night Custodian at \$9.25 per hour, effective January 3, 2019.

“Soar to Excellence. Every student, Every day!”

### **Superintendent's Comments:**

#### **Bad Weather Days**

Calling off school for bad weather can be very tricky. This process begins in the afternoon to early evening if it is likely to be called off the night before or it begins about 3:30 a.m. in the morning. Communication takes place between the Superintendent and the Transportation Director, along with Road Commissioners and area Superintendents. Once the decision is made, which is solely based on the safety of all, that is busses traveling gravel roads, students driving to school, heavy snow, icy conditions, drifting, freezing rain, people having their gravel roads thoroughly plowed, etc.; then a Schoolmessenger is initiated right away. The Technology Coordinator does a great job displaying the information on Facebook and on the website. The Athletic Director has to make contacts to decide about games and practices. Many times the Maintenance Director and Transportation Director are working over the weekends sometimes to plow, salt the parking lot, or move snow to get everything ready for school. Sometimes the decision is downright difficult, as one area of the District is fine, but another area is not. Remember, decisions are based on the safety of ALL. We try very hard to decide the night

before in order to give people proper notice, but once in a while something occurs throughout the night that make the morning challenging to drive. One thing that everyone must realize is that a bus load of children cannot maneuver one lane as well as a car or 4-wheel drive truck. Sometimes the turn-around for a bus is impossible or just driving straight ahead is dicey. We thank everyone for their patience and understanding during these bad weather days. Please know many staff members are trying to do their best to help make the decision as quickly and strategically as possible!

### **Keeping up the Bus Fleet**

On the agenda it was listed for the school board to approve the purchase of one bus. However, we are putting this on hold until next month to gather more information. In the past, the District has always purchased at least a bus or two or three, depending on the availability of funds, on a regular basis. However, for a few years we stopped to try to build up funds and address the budget deficit. Now, we are financially in a better place and have gotten back to the routine of purchasing one bus per year, without taking out a bond. Our buses travel many miles on rough terrain and even with proper maintenance, have only so long of a life span. We always take bids from bus companies when purchasing a new bus to make sure we receive the best price on a quality vehicle.

### **Senior Trip**

A package of information was shared on the seniors taking a trip this year to Nashville, Tennessee. This is quite a distance, but the students have raised enough money to manage most of the cost. Plus, they still have a fundraiser left to earn more money. In the past few years, the students have been coming to the school board meeting to make presentations. What a great way to promote public speaking and leadership! This year the darn weather got in the way, so a paper copy will have to do.

### **PRESS Policy**

PRESS Policy comes out four times a year. Each school district has the ability to adopt it as it is or make changes appropriate for their district. These policies come from the Illinois School Board Association. They have been looked at by legal counsel and aligned with recent court cases or laws passed. Most districts accept them as is, with some minor changes pertinent to their schools and community. PRESS always provides exhibits of forms to use and administrative procedures to follow. These policies are available on our website under Policy Book.

### **New Phone System**

Liberty School district is in need of a new phone system. We do not want to sink any more money into an antiquated system. This expenditure can be acquired with Tort Funds, as communication is key to safety and security of our facilities. We are very lucky to have a Technology Coordinator who has spent a lot of time researching the right system for us, at a reasonable cost. This system will be run through our network and be managed over by the computer. It will have a voice mail feature, which is beneficial to staff and parents.