



Thursday
May 6, 2021
Vol. 9, No. 11

The Weekly Post

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Elmwood welcomes new board, teacher

By **JEFF LAMPE**
For The Weekly Post

ELMWOOD – The Elmwood School Board welcomed new members, thanked outgoing members and approved a new teacher on April 28 during its monthly meeting.

Welcomed to the board were newly elected members Katie Vaughan and Kevin Windish. That pair completed their school board oath of office in an organizational meeting that followed immediately after the final business meeting for outgoing members Bill Frietsch and Rick LeHew. Frietsch (12 years) and LeHew (8 years).

Dean Cantu was re-elected as board president, with Val Ramirez voted in as vice president and Mark Davis as board secretary. Sherry Swindler was appointed to a two-year term as board treasurer with her bond set at \$1.9 million.

Committee assignments are:

- Building – Davis, Ramirez, Claude Keefer
- Education – Cantu,

Keefer, Vaughan

- Finance – Conklin, Cantu, Windish

- Negotiation – Cantu, Conkliln, Ramirez.

The board approved the hire of Tricia Little as a fifth-grade teacher for the 2021-22 school year.

The board also approved the final bill to Peoria Metro for the gym and locker room remodel project, which wound up \$138,116.71 under the \$1.25 million bonded. That money can be spent on other building projects.

Outgoing elementary principal Dimitri Almasi reported that 43 students are signed up for next year's kindergarten class following an April 27 open house. Almasi said students have completed the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) tests and spring benchmark assessments will take place May 10-20. He noted there will be no end-of-year field trips due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Junior/senior high principal Tony McCoy said jun-

ior high students have taken the IAR tests and expects assessment data to be released at the end of August. Juniors also took the SAT on April 13.

McCoy said plans are moving forward for graduation on May 16 on the football field and for Eighth Grade Promotion on May 20.

In other action, the board:

- Established an order for deposit of district funds, with the top five as fol-

lows: 1. Farmers State Bank, 2. Elmwood Community Bank, 3. Bank of Yates City, 4. F&M Bank of Brimfield and 5. Bank of Farmington.

- Approved keeping all school fees the same as for 2020-21, with the exception that lunch prices will be adjusted once the USDA releases guidelines. Costs are currently \$2.85 for high school lunch and \$2.60 for elementary.

<https://illinoisweeklies.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/TWP-5-6-21-WEB.pdf>