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# School Board discusses graduation, testing, and bids for athletic and HVAC improvements

for Clinton High School's May commencement, which is being planned for May 28, 2021, on Arrow Field, though alternate dates are being discussed in the event of inclement weather. At this time, the district is planning to provide the graduates with eight to ten tickets each, and Martin said that he is hoping for an "all-together, come-together" ceremony, while still remaining socially distanced. Board members expressed their support of the plan, with Board Member Paula DeYoung saying, "I'm ecstatic, and I know a group of 2021 seniors that will be ecstatic, too."

CPSD Financial Director Libby Callegan then presented financial information, updating the Board on the CARES funding, which is designated to offset COVID-relief costs for the District. Callegan noted that the district had already spent a portion of the CARES funds on PPE for staff members and sanitization for schools and that the district was looking toward COVID-related expenditures for the second semester, particularly the proposed installation of an ionization ventilation system.

The addition of such a system would be costly, with pre-bidding estimates totaling around \$700,000. Callegan stated that this funding would still come from COVID-related grant dollars rather than district coffers, and Board Member Bernard Kines asked whether the costly system would be under warranty, to which CPSD Director of Student Support Services Bo Barksdale responded that it would. The board then voted 5-0 to begin

accepting bids for the project.

The board then entered into a lengthy discussion regarding proposed improvements and upgrades to Clinton High School's athletic facilities, including a "jumbotron"-style video board, the demolition and installation of tennis courts, an indoor practice facility to be used by multiple sports, and the conversion of the baseball and softball fields from grass to synthetic turf. After a nearly hour-long discussion, the board unanimously agreed to accept bids on the proposed projects in two groups.

The first grouping, considered independently in hopes that the project would be completed by the advent of football season, included the jumbotron addition and a pressbox upgrade, which would add a small pressbox to the visitor's side of the stadium and renovate the existing pressbox. The second grouping included the construction of a 100-yard indoor practice facility and six tennis courts, along with the turfing projects at the baseball and softball fields. Board Member Derek Holmes applauded the efforts, saying that the district was "behind the curve athletically" and that the Board had "kicked the can down the road long enough."

In other action, the Board approved a set of yearly policies, took a separate set of Booster Club policies under advisement, heard an update on future timber sales, and approved a change to the bus driver pay schedule.

The next meeting of the CPSD Board of Education will take place on Monday, April 12, at 6 p.m. in the board room at the CPSD Central Office.

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