

# Construction projects dominate CPSD Board agenda

By Taylor McKay Hathorn

Board President Derek Holmes called the meeting of the Clinton Public School District's Board of Trustees to order on July 20, marking the first time that Dr. Andy Schoggin sat in the superintendent's seat at a regularly-scheduled Board meeting. Board Member Dr. Felicia Gavin was not present, but the other four Board members were present and thus constituted a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as usual, with the Board making quick work of approving the minutes and agenda.

Mark Pipper, with Baily Program Management, addressed the Board first, providing updates on the ongoing construction projects in the Clinton Public School District. Lovett Elementary School, which has undergone extensive renovations over the last year, was first on the docket, with much site clean-up left to do, along with fire alarm testing and various other safety tests. Furniture for the school's additions is expected to arrive soon, and Pipper expects to begin addressing punch-list items with contractors soon so that everything will be ready when students return to school in early August. Pipper also remarked that the District was still



Susaly Bennett

Video board installation at Arrow Field continues, after delays related to storm drains and poor soil. The project is expected to be completed well in advance of the Clinton Arrows' first home football game on September 3.

withholding \$25,000 for the Clinton Junior High School project, as the electrical maintenance items still had not been completed.

Director of Student Support Services Bo Barksdale offered an update on the projects undertaken with the District's remaining ESSER funds, which are federal dollars distribut-

ed for COVID-related needs within school districts. The Clinton Public School District elected to upgrade water fountains, which came in around \$300,000; to replace thirty-six HVAC systems, which totaled just north of \$1 million; and to install new chillers and boilers at Clinton High School, which cost around \$800,000.

Barksdale also updated the Board on the progress of the video board installation at Arrow Field, which had experienced some early delays. When attempting to install the 25-foot-deep supports for the video board, the contractors kept encountering storm drains and poor soil, resulting in an \$18,000 change order. Eventually, all four supports were installed, allowing the construction of the video board itself to continue, and Barksdale believes that the project will be completed well in advance of the Clinton Arrows' first home football game on September 3.

Ryan Hanson with WBA Architecture brought an update to the Board regarding the progress of the bidding process for the demolition and reconstruction of the Clinton High School tennis courts and the turfing of the CHS baseball and softball fields.

"We're getting a lot of good interest," Hanson said. He hopes that this interest will keep the pricing competitive and result in several low bids in the running for the Board to consider at their August meeting. Holmes asked Hanson if the existing light poles surrounding the tennis courts would have to be removed, and Hanson responded that they would, due to

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