

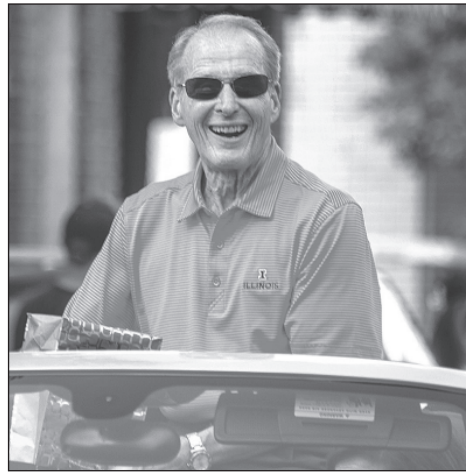


NEWLY CROWNED Tuscola Homecoming King Brayden Gough and Queen Alyx Gardner surrounded by previous King and Queen Chris Boyd and Brogan Rennert and crown bearers Koooper and Kenzie Jeffers. On the left, attendants from left to right, front to back, Brynlee Ring, Ava Whitson, Phoebe Wilkins, Chloe Fowler, Belle Notaro, Evan Englehardt, Dylan Graves, Brody Thomas. On the right, homecoming court from left to right, front to back, Zoey Thomason, Sydney Moss, Addyson Ring, Braidy Stahler, Addisyn Pettry, Jordan Quinn, Ty Thomason, Josiah Hortin, Jackson Barrett, Austin Cummings. Photo by Rachel Ray.

Hall of Fame Inductees at the Homecoming Parade



Dr. Brian Harris



Dr. Richard Burns



Greg Hastings



Steve Hilgendorf



TUSCOLA KIWANIS AND K-KIDS wave to the crowd while throwing candy during the Sept. 22 Homecoming Parade. Photo by Dominik Stallings.



TUSCOLA HOMECOMING CROWN BEARERS Koooper Jeffers (left) and Kenzie Jeffers (right) throw candy at the crowd during the Sept. 22 Homecoming Parade. Photo by Dominik Stallings.



TUSCOLA HIGH SCHOOL BAND performs the "Star Spangled Banner" Sept. 22 before the start of the homecoming football game against the Central A&M Raiders. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

Board

From page 1

"What's the remedy?" he asked.

Wienke said architects, engineers and project managers should never sign off on a project until it's right.

Devlin said, "We had all of that done. So, you disagree?" He thanked Wienke for "bringing your concerns."

Alexander then read a letter from Kim Martin, branch manager of Trust Bank, expressing her satisfaction with the content that was produced on the new scoreboard for the football game.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Board held a budget hearing. Alexander said there were several changes to the budget including

a \$10,000 increase for supplies at North Ward, moving capital improvements for next year into this year's budget, and funding for a new project with RISE, the county's mental health facility. All schools in the county are participating in the project, which will provide training for high school students to be able to help their peers with mental health issues.

The budget was passed during the regular meeting.

Alexander said the education fund has grown substantially since the COVID-19 pandemic due to increased federal funding and an increase in the equalized assessed valuation since the city's primary tax increment financing (TIF) district expired. He said the fund has grown from \$3.7 million to \$11.1 million.

He told the Board to not get too excited because there is talk in Springfield again about pushing some of the teacher's retirement obligations onto the local districts. If that were to happen, the education fund would take a hit, he indicated.

He also addressed ongoing problems with North Ward's heating and cooling system. The school has two systems, he said. One serves the office and library with the idea that those rooms are used more in the summer

He said, however, that in reality, the whole building is used throughout the summer, so both systems are usually on. He said the district is looking at putting the office and library on the larger system. Board member Chris Rennels, who works in that industry, said there is plenty of capacity with the larger system to add the offices and library to it

The Board also approved a new job description for para-professionals. Alexander said the changes were made to align the duties with the union contract.

The Board also approved an agreement with the county health department, which will provide a counselor mainly at East Prairie Middle School two days a week. Alexander said it is "more resources for students."

During principal's reports, Jason Wallace, principal at

North Ward, discussed plans to add local field trips early in the school year. He said the trips would be less expensive than traveling out of town and can provide valuable lessons across all curriculum standards.

Jeri Michael, music teacher at the high school showed off a mini keyboard that will work with student devices. She wrote and received a \$750 grant from the Illinois Retired Teacher's Association to pay for 16 keyboards.

For the high school, Justin Bozarth announced that the fall musical will be held at Iron Horse Golf Club Nov. 11-12. The show is Winter Wonderettes.

Alexander also said the December Board meeting will need to be moved due to the Christmas holiday. He suggested Saturday, Dec. 16, or Monday, Dec. 18. He said the Board could make that decision next month.

The Board accepted \$80,500 in advertising donations toward the new scoreboards. Other donations accepted were \$275 from Tropical Sno for North Ward, \$300 from the Janet Boyer Trust for North Ward backpack buddies, \$825 from Lamb's for T Club, \$1,000 from Dairy Queen for T Club, and \$1,456.50 from Wade Wilcox and Pfizer for football.



JUNIOR MISS WOOLLY WORM 2023 ALYSSA ADKINS and Little Miss Woolly Worm 2023 Charlotte Franklin during the Sept. 22 Homecoming Parade. Photo by Dominik Stallings.



MISS WOOLLY WORM 2023 ADDISYN WILSON throws candy to the crowd during the Sept. 22 Homecoming parade. Photo by Dominik Stallings.



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Caleb Englehardt CFP®, CRPC®, CRPS®

Senior Vice President

Financial Advisor

1806 Fox Dr

Champaign, IL 61820

(217) 351-3624

Caleb.Englehardt@morganstanley.com

NMLS # 1265096

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