

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 9, 2008 6:30 P.M. Educational Services Center

The Board of Education of the Bloomington Public Schools, School District 87, McLean County, Illinois, met in Regular Session.

Ms. Wilma Gleason, Board Secretary, established a quorum and the following members were present: Mr. Joseph Butcher, Mr. John Dirks, Mrs. Millicent Roth, Mr. Mike Harrison, Mrs. Cheryl Jackson, Mr. Steve Perry, and Mrs. Janet Smith.

Present from the administrative staff were Dr. Robert Nielsen, Mrs. Teresa Hill, Dr. Barry Reilly, and Mr. David Wood.

Present from the media was Ms. Sharon Wolfe, The Pantagraph, and Mr. Jim Fitzpatrick, WJBC.

Mrs. Smith stated that we would have a Public Hearing for the School Fire Prevention & Safety Bonds. She stated that, "In accordance with Section 105 ILCS 5/17-2.11 of the Illinois School Code, the Board of Education will now hold a public hearing to receive public comments on the proposed issuance of \$8,500,000 of School Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds for the Bloomington Public Schools, District 87.

Public notice of the proposed issuance and this public hearing was published in The Pantagraph on December 21, 2007.

The District proposes to issue bonds for the purpose of conforming existing facilities that house students to the building code promulgated by the State Board of Education by altering, reconstructing and repairing said facilities and having equipment purchased and installed therein.

When all discussion has concluded, the public hearing will be adjourned.

Is there any discussion from the Board?

Is there any discussion from the public?

The Public Hearing is now concluded."

Mrs. Smith presented the December 12, 2007, Minutes for approval. It was moved by Dr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Butcher that the Minutes be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Dr. Silvey, Principal at Bloomington Jr. High School, introduced Dominique Whitney, a BJHS Honors Studio student, and Ms. Cinkovich, the Art Department Chair. Dominique was one of 500 students who competed in the IEA Fall Art Show in Chicago, and her entry was chosen as one of the top 40 entries. The Board and Administration congratulated Dominique on her work and the award.

Mr. Dirks reported that he attended the Achievement Gap Task Force meeting. A number of events have been held encouraging parental involvement. The data strategy and modeling team have been working on producing a tool for teachers to use, hopefully by August 2008. This is a collaborative effort

between District 87 and Unit 5 which will prove to be cost effective and will provide sharing of technology facilities. Mr. Dirks distributed Achievement Matters t-shirts and window decals which were provided by State Farm and the Chamber of Commerce to all Board members. Mr. Dirks also stated that the school districts have paid for two Achievement Matters billboards (one on Clinton Street and one on College Avenue).

Mr. Harrison reported that he attended the Minority Teacher Recruitment social in December. He also reported that State Farm is hosting a presentation on February 14th at BHS. Willie Brown and Tim Moore will be presenting information regarding academic excellence and Achievement Matters. Mr. Harrison will send an e-mail inviting Board members to this event.

Mrs. Jackson - No report.

Mr. Butcher reported that he attended the December 13th meeting of Beyond the Books Foundation in Mr. Dirks' absence.

Dr. Perry - No report.

Mrs. Roth - No report.

Mrs. Smith - No report.

Mr. David Wood presented the transportation survey which was conducted in October and its results. Approximately 4,300 surveys were mailed to parents. The student's name, address, school and bus number were included on each survey. Approximately 10% of the 4,300 surveys were returned. Results were as follows:

- 97% reported that District 87 personnel are courteous and helpful.
- 96% reported that First Student personnel are courteous and helpful.
- 91% reported that they are able to resolve bus issues quickly and easily.
- 89% reported that driver is able to control student behavior.
- 86% reported that their child likes to ride the bus.
- 81% feel that students behave appropriately on the bus.

There do not appear to be any systemic or significant problems. Individual issues have been shared with First Student and Principals.

Issues needing attention are:

- Communication between substitute and regular drivers;
- Bus stop location and driver safety;
- Punctuality, particularly at the start of the school year; and
- Student behavior.

Mrs. Roth stated that if we do the survey again, we might consider handing them out at parent teacher conferences.

Dr. Barry Reilly presented the proposed 2008-09 academic calendar. Dr. Reilly will meet with regional office personnel in the near future to coordinate calendars between school districts. Dr. Reilly will also meet with the teachers' union President to present the proposed calendar. A final

proposal will be presented at the next Board meeting with approval in February. Mrs. Jackson asked about feedback regarding having semester exams before the holiday break. She feels there is a concern that because of the unbalanced semesters, it was somewhat difficult to get all of the 1st semester work completed. Dr. Reilly stated that parents and students expressed satisfaction in having the exams before the holidays. Mr. Dirks stated that he also had a lot of positive feedback from parents and students. Dr. Perry asked why spring break isn't held immediately at the end of the 3rd quarter as the winter break is held at the end of the 2nd quarter (1st semester). Dr. Reilly stated that the end of the quarter isn't the same as the end of the semester.

Mrs. Smith moved the Human Resources Report from Consent Agenda A to Board Action H.

It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Dirks, that the Consent Agenda (Bills, Payroll, Treasurer's Report and Financial Summary) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted "Aye." Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 1-9-08/1)

Dr. Nielsen stated that District 87 is now housing Unit 5's servers at BHS's data center. These servers operate Unit 5's student data management system, payroll, etc. District 87 and Unit 5 have come to an agreement on a monthly lease arrangement. The two districts are also exploring long-term cost benefits of having the two districts collaborate to purchase hardware and software applications. Dr. Nielsen feels that this is the greatest level of cooperation between the districts of which he's aware. Every teacher in both districts will receive Achievement matters window decals and printed materials. T-shirts have been distributed throughout the district.

It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Harrison, that the contract with Ventures for Excellence be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted "Aye." Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 1-9-08/2)

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mrs. Jackson that the district appoint Mr. Harris as District 87's representative to the Public Building Commission of McLean County. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted "Aye." Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 1-9-08/3)

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mr. Butcher that the BJHS/BHS foreign language proposal for 7th and 8th grades be approved ([See "Foreign Language Proposal"](#)). Upon a roll call vote, all members voted "Aye." Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 1-9-08/4)

It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Butcher that the proposed 2008-09 special education changes be approved ([See Special Education Changes](#)). Upon a roll call vote, all members voted "Aye." Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 1-9-08/5)

It was moved by Mr. Butcher, seconded by Mrs. Jackson that Board of Education Policies 1.20 (District Organization, Operations and Cooperative Agreements), 2.125 (Board Member Expenses), 4.180 (Pandemic Preparedness), 5.130 (Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information), 5.186 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity), and 7.090 (Release During School Hours) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted "Aye." Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 1-9-08/6)

It was moved by Dr. Perry that WJBC's request to move meeting dates be approved. Upon no second to the motion, motion failed.

Mr. Reilly recommended that the Board uphold SHOR Report 07-08-2. It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Dirks, that this suspension be upheld. Upon a roll vote, all Members present, voted "Aye." Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 1-9-08/7)

It was moved by Dirks, seconded by Mr. Harrison, that the Human Resources Report, with proper adjustments as described by Dr. Reilly, be approved. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 1-0-08/8)

There was no public comment.

It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Butcher, to go into Closed Session for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of district 87, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mrs. Smith adjourned the meeting.

Approved:

Attest:

President

Secretary