

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 10, 2003

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. Marianne Clancy, Board Secretary, established a quorum and the following Members were present: Mr. John Hanson, Mr. Uvaldo Herrera, Mrs. Cheryl Jackson, Mr. John Dirks, Mrs. Millicent Roth, Mr. Keith Davis and Mrs. Janet Smith, Board President.

Present from the administrative staff were Dr. Robert Nielsen, Dr. Roger Kilpatrick, Mr. Barry Reilly and Mrs. Sally Tucker.

Present from the news media was Ms. Michele Steinbacher from The Pantagraph.

Mrs. Smith stated " This Public Hearing concerning the 2003 Tax Levy for Bloomington Public Schools is required by the Truth-in-Taxation Act as the proposed levy is an increase of more than 5% over the extension of the prior year's levy. Public notice of the proposed tax increase published in the local newspaper on December 1, 2003, stated the levy under consideration this evening is an increase of 6.95% over the levy extended for the prior year. This increase includes contingencies but may not insure the maximum rate in all funds is realized. The proposed tax increase in the 2003 levy including debt service 6.7% over the prior year. The primary reasons for the increases are to cover salary changes, benefits, increasing costs for purchased services, supplies, equipment and reductions in funding provided by the State of Illinois. Members of the audience are welcome to present testimony concerning the Levy at this time."

Dr. Kilpatrick stated that this is the maximum that we could receive from the levy. If the full amount of the tax levy is realized, it would change the tax rate less than \$.01 per \$100 Equalized Assessed Value (EAV).

Mrs. Smith asked if there were any comments from the audience? Mrs. Smith stated, "Hearing none, this hearing is over."

Mrs. Smith presented the Minutes for approval. Mr. Dirks stated that on Page 3 the second sentence should state that Mr. Dirks wanted the administration to look into increasing the requirements of core courses for graduation. It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Hanson that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 12, 2003, the Minutes of the Closed Meeting held on November 12, 2003, and the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on November 13, 2003 be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Dr. Sue Silvey, Bloomington Junior High School (BJHS) Principal, introduced BJHS Art teacher, Ms. Sandy Holt and student Jeff Lawson. Jeff is one of 40 students to represent the State of Illinois in the Illinois Art Education Association's Student Art Show. About 600 students from across the state competed for the honor of having their work represent the State at its annual conference. Mrs. Smith congratulated Jeff and asked him, his parents and Ms. Holt to come forward and receive congratulations from the Board.

Dr. Silvey introduced BJHS teachers, Ms. Mary Passini and Ms. Kathy Irvin. Both sponsored the Literary Team at the school. The team competed at the Illinois

Elementary School Association (IESA) State Speech Contest in November. All 19 students who competed received 1st place Superior Ratings. They included: Amanda Lawler (also won the Judges Choice Award), Keaton Richard, Jessica Wilcox, Paige Bolek, Lauren Lapinski, Miranda Buob, Christine Stroink-Pickering, Hamsika Santana, Ivette Bekker, Alex Kraft, Jackie Saenz, Cassandra Cox, Christine Snyder, Shannon Vilmin, Brianna Hart, Annmarie Franklin, Dustyn Bennett and Ben Johnson. Mrs. Smith congratulated everyone on their accomplishments and asked the students, their parents and the teachers to come forward and receive congratulations from the Board.

Mr. Jim Cooper, Sheridan School Principal, introduced Ms. Phyllis Pederson, 1st grade teacher at Sheridan Elementary School. Ms. Pederson was honored as the 1st ever recipient of the WMBD/RLI Excellence in Education Award. Ms. Pederson was nominated by a parent of a 1st grade student for being dedicated, professional, innovative and involved, and for also being a collaborator and a team player. Mrs. Smith congratulated Ms. Pederson and asked her to come forward and receive congratulations from the Board.

Mr. John Szabo, District 87 Athletic Director, introduced Mr. Rigo Schmelzer, BHS head football coach. The team finished the season as the 6A State Runner Up and compiled a 13-1 record. The coaches, teams and Mr. Szabo all received Sporting a Winning Attitude awards (SAWA) from the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) during the season. Mr. Schmelzer now has the 2nd highest number of wins in the program's 106 year history with an overall record of 105 wins and 23 losses in eleven years.

The team included 18 seniors. Present for recognition were: Jeremy Peden, Dan Nathan, Jeremy Byrd, Brandon Hughes, James Wade, Rod Castillo, Adam Bishop, Ryan Esch, Tanner Pachis, Justin Harrison, Dan Pettie, Arturo Salazar and Mark Spence. Mrs. Smith congratulated the coaches and team and asked everyone, including parents to come forward and receive congratulations from the Board.

Mrs. Smith stated that Board Action A, Bloomington Educational Support Personnel (BESP) Contract, will be moved to this point on the agenda. It was moved by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Dirks that the Board approve the BESP Contract. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 12-10-03/1)

Representatives of the BESP and the Board signed the contract.

Mr. Hanson attended the Beyond the Books Educational Foundation meeting on November 13, 2003 in place of Mr. Dirks. Mr. Hanson noted that contributions are down, but investment income is up. Talk of a fundraiser was diverted to committee.

Mrs. Jackson attended the Illinois School Board Association's (IASB) annual conference in Chicago in late November. Mrs. Jackson mentioned that Mr. Ray Zimmerman (from Flanagan, IL) was elected to a two year term as President of the IASB Board of Directors. Mrs. Jackson also attended a December 2, 2003 Corn Belt Division meeting with Dr. Nielsen and Mrs. Smith which addressed *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) and school funding issues.

Mrs. Smith stated she also attended the IASB conference in Chicago. Mrs. Smith, along with Mrs. Roth, attended a session on bullying, which raised Mrs. Smith's awareness on the issue.

Mrs. Roth stated she attended the IASB conference and sat in on sessions regarding legislation and bullying.

Mrs. Smith introduced a letter she plans to send to The Pantagraph clarifying the downtown arena and District 87 funding issues.

Dr. Nielsen presented Programmatic Changes and Deficit Reductions for 2004-2005.

Guiding principles include:

- Maintaining direct instructional services to students will be of the highest priority
- Reductions in programs are preferable to the elimination of programs
- Reductions should be equitable across the K-12 program
- The safety of our students and staff will not be jeopardized as a result of our reductions
- Grant funds will be used to pay teacher salaries the greatest extent possible

Reductions (District):

Administrative \$120,000

OTE/Supervisory: \$20,000

Instructional materials: \$45,000

Reduce O&M costs: \$50,000

Reduce Schedule B: (extra curricular positions) \$25,000

Reduce Schedule C: (salaries for additional assignments such as committee work) \$50,000

Technology equipment: \$50,000

Contracted Services (Xerox restructuring): \$30,000

Revise District testing program: \$20,000

Retirement savings (3@ \$35,000 each): \$105,000

Attrition: \$40,000

Reductions (Elementary):

6 FTE's @ \$35,000 each \$210,000

Suspend full day kindergarten at Oakland and Washington (Bent, Irving, Sheridan and Stevenson will continue to provide full day because their schools are funded by Title I monies). \$105,000

Projected Average Class Size for 04-05

	Gr.	Bent	Irving	Oakland	Sheridan	Stev.	Wash.	Dist. Ave.
K	21.0	19.7	16.3	19.8	18.4	19.7	19.0	
1	20.3	20.0	23.3	18.8	23.3	22.7	21.4	
2	26.5	20.3	21.0	25.0	21.8	24.0	22.7	
3	22.5	18.7	26.0	20.7	23.8	22.0	22.3	
4	24.5	20.7	24.7	24.3	25.3	24.0	23.9	
5	23.5	24.5	23.7	23.7	25.3	23.7	24.1	

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Reductions (BJHS):  
5 FTE's @ \$35,000 each \$175,000

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5 FTE's @ \$35,000 each \$175,000

Total Reductions  
\$1,220,000.00

Increases (District):  
Levy increase (\$.03) \$225,000  
Technology lease costs  
Liability and Workers Compensation Insurance increases

Increases (BHS):  
Drivers Ed. (from \$50.00 to \$200.00) This amount is comparable to Unit 5 and Olympia)  
\$52,500

Total Increases  
\$277,500.00  
Combined total  
\$1,497,500

Timeline:

January 14, 2004 - Discussion and input  
January 28, 2004 - Discussion and input  
February 11, 2004 - Administrative Reports on Five Year Maintenance Plan, Curriculum Summary, Technology Summary, Life Safety, Spring Supplies Order and Special Projects along with the Bid Matrix will be presented.  
February 25, 2004 - Final recommendations to the Board on reductions and revenue enhancements; approval of Administrative Reports presented at February 11th meeting.  
March 10, 2004 - Reduction in Force  
April 14, 2004 - Draft budget for 2004-2005

Dr. Kilpatrick presented a Risk Management Plan Update. This plan provides detail in the support for the tort levy, including the type of items that are covered for the tax levy such as: our liability insurances, our workers' compensation and insurances, some of the safety and security programs we have within the schools. The revisions pertain to job descriptions for some of the people who are partially covered under the Risk Management Plan and also provides for the continuation of the types of insurances covered in the tax levy.

Mrs. Smith presented the Consent Agenda for consideration. Mrs. Smith stated that Item A, Personnel Report, is being pulled and moved to Board Action G. It was moved by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mrs. Jackson that the Consent Agenda (Bills, Payroll, Treasurer's Report, Financial Summary, Group Medical Plan Recommendations, Letter of Understanding: Elementary After School Reading Program, Letter of Understanding: BJHS Outdoor Education, and Letter of Understanding: Substitutes for Head Custodians) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 12-10-03/2)

Dr. Nielsen wished everyone a happy holiday season and expressed his appreciation of the staff of District 87 for the work that they do everyday.

It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Dirks that the Board approve the Salary Adjustments for Non-Bargaining Unit Staff. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 12-10-03/3)

It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mrs. Roth that the Board approve the Superintendent's Contract. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 12-10-03/4)

It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Hanson that the Board approve the Chapman Cutler Contract. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 12-10-03/5)

It was moved by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Dirks that the Board approve the First Mid-State Contract. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 12-10-03/6)

It was moved by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mrs. Jackson that the Board approve the 2003 Tax Levy. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 12-10-03/7)

Mr. Reilly stated that Ms. Stephanie Ferguson's name should be pulled from the Personnel Report. The contract does not reflect an 80% contract and should be corrected and brought back in January.

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mr. Hanson that the Board approve the amended Personnel Report. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 12-10-03/8)

Mrs. Vickie Slagell, Stevenson School Principal, acknowledged the appreciation the administrators in our district have for Dr. Nielsen, the Assistant Superintendents and the Board members for treating them professionally, for listening to their ideas and for acting on those ideas.

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

APPROVED:

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President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary