

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 26, 2004

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 Dirks, Mr. John Hanson, Mrs. Janet Smith, Mrs. Millicent Roth, Mr. Uvaldo Herrera, Mr. Keith Davis and Mrs. Cheryl Jackson, Board President.

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

Ms. Linda Aschenbrener, Public Relations Facilitator, was also in attendance.

Present from the news media was Ms. Michelle Steinbacher, The Pantagraph.

Mrs. Jackson presented the Minutes for approval. It was moved by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. Hanson that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 26, 2004, and the Minutes of the Closed Meeting held on May 26, 2004 be approved. Upon a roll call vote, Mr. Hanson, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Dirks, Mrs. Roth and Mrs. Jackson voted "Aye". Mr. Davis and Mr. Herrera abstained. Motion carried.

Mr. Richard Knowles, Bloomington Junior High School (BJHS) Associate Principal introduced BJHS Track Coach Nate Culbertson and Assistant Track Coach Ron Bass. Coach Culbertson summarized the track season, introduced team members present (Kelly Steffen, Ashley Brown, Emily White, Tara Clemons, Ashley Short, Ashley Beyer, Julia Meek, Ashley Verplan, Joe Roberts, Tyler Sipes, Josh Roig, Paige Steffen and Marcus McGee), and announced the following achievements:

7th grader, Josh Roig - State Champion 800m
7th grade girls - State Champions
7th grader, Jasmine Johnson - State Champion - 100m
7th grader, Ashley Brown - State Runner Up - 200m
7th grade girls 400m relay - State Champions
8th grade boys - State Champions
8th grader, Darian Davis - State Champion - 100m
8th grader, Darian Davis - State Champion - 200m
8th grader, Marcus McGee - State Champion - 400m
8th grader, Josh Strong - State Runner Up - Pole vault
8th grade boys 400m relay - State Champions
8th grade girls - State Runners Up
8th grader, Ashley Verplank - State Champion - 400m
8th grader, Ashley Beyer - State Runner Up - 100m hurdles
8th grade girls 400m relay - State Runner Up
8th grade girls 1600m relay - State Champions

Eleven school records were broken during the season, three state records were broken and there were 39 State Qualifiers on the team.

Mrs. Jackson congratulated the team and the coaches and asked them and any parents present to come forward and receive personal congratulations from the Board.

Mrs. Jackson announced that The McLean County Community COMPACT recently honored Dr. Nielsen with the *2004 Evelyn Cobb Service Award* in appreciation for his outstanding volunteerism and commitment to the goals of the McLean County COMPACT. The Board congratulated Dr. Nielsen.

Mr. Dirks reported that the Beyond the Books Educational Foundation awarded \$22,000 worth of grants recently, \$11,000 going to District 87. Mr. Dirks stated that the grant writers did a great job.

Mr. Davis reported that he and Mr. Dirks continue to work with the Board Policy Committee on policy recommendations.

Mrs. Roth reported that she and Mr. Herrera attended the Minority Recruitment Project meeting on May 18.

Mr. Herrera reported that there were two meetings of the Minority Recruitment Project held recently. On May 11 a meeting was held in conjunction with the Bloomington-Normal Education Association (BNEA) to continue developing a strategy for recruiting more candidates from Illinois State University (ISU) and Illinois Wesleyan University (IWU) to pursue education degrees. The meeting on May 18 was to review some applications for candidates who are pursuing education degrees. One candidate was chosen. A need to create a mentoring program for those entering the program was discussed.

Mrs. Jackson reported that on May 12 she attended the Board of Directors Meeting for the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). There was a discussion regarding the inequity of dues paid by Districts that are growing and whose student enrollments continue to increase. The cap on dues was increased to catch these Districts up. District 87's dues cap was increased slightly for the next few years by \$3.00. Mrs. Jackson stated that despite her objection, the motion to change the dues cap passed.

Mrs. Roth stated that she attended the Senior Luncheon last week with Mrs. Smith and the high school administration and it was great.

Mr. Herrera stated that he attended Sheridan Elementary School's Honors night and it was an incredible opportunity. Mr. Herrera thanked Mr. Cooper for inviting him and stated he enjoyed it tremendously.

Mr. Dirks stated he attended the BJHS Honor Society installation and it was a great event.

Dr. Nielsen presented a "First Reading" of the following Proposed Board Policies.

- 2.040 School Board Membership
- 2.110 Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers - Mrs. Jackson asked that #4 under President, should read "May represent the Board" etc.
- 2.150 Committee Organization
- 2.200 Regular Meetings
- 2.202 Closed Meetings
- 2.210 Organizational School Board Meetings
- 2.220 School Board Meeting Procedure
- 2.222 Voting Method
- 2.224 Minutes: Regular, Special, Adjourned, Emergency, Closed - Mrs. Jackson noted that under Quorum on page three, "a" should be placed before quorum at the end of line one
- 2.250 Access to District's Public Records
- 2.260 Uniform Grievance Procedure - Mr. Davis noted that under #11 the "P.Z" should be "P.A."
- 4.010 Fiscal and Business Management

- 4.110 Transportation
- 4.140 Waiver of Student Fees
- 4.170 Safety Program

6.030 Organization of Instruction - Mrs. Jackson stated that in the second paragraph the next to the last line should read "requirements of "a" State law not "the" State law.

- 6.180 Extended Instructional Programs
- 6.240 Field Trips
- 7.030 Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer
- 7.130 Student Rights and Responsibilities
- 7.300 Extracurricular Athletics
- 7.330 Student Use of Buildings—Equal Access
- 8.020 Community Use of School Facilities
- 8.025 Advertising & Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities

Dr. Nielsen stated these proposed policies will be posted on our website and they will be brought back at the next Board Meeting for a "Second Reading".

Dr. Nielsen presented a "Second Reading" of the following Proposed Board Policies.

- 5.010 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
- 5.280 Educational Support Personnel
- 6.160 Bilingual Education
- 7.015 Student and Family Privacy Rights
- 7.100 Health Examinations, Immunizations, and Exclusion of Students

Dr. Kilpatrick presented the Tentative 2004-2005. He began his presentation with a review of the assumptions that served as the basis for the budget. Dr. Kilpatrick mentioned that this presentation was a preview for next year since many of the major factors such as state funding and new equalized assessed values have not been established. He began his review of the local, state, and federal revenue assumptions. The Tentative Budget was based on a continued improvement in the economy with an increase in the local assessed values of 3.5%-4%. In addition, student enrollment was projected to remain stable and interest rates were projected to increase slightly. The state revenue assumptions included the promised \$400 million by the Governor for education. These funds would be allocated both to General State Aid and to the categoricals such as special education. It was assumed that the Foundation Level for General State Aid would be increased by \$150 and that the categoricals would be funded at no lower pro-rations than the current year. Federal Title revenues were projected to decrease primarily from the reduced poverty count from the census. Federal IDEA funds for special education were projected to increase.

In the Tentative Budget, salaries were budgeted to increase with the current contracts, but were also reduced due to reductions of personnel as well as extra duty assignments. In addition medical insurance costs were budgeted to increase substantially. The other District insurance costs for liability and workers' compensation were projected to increase, but at lower rates than the previous couple of years. Purchased services, materials, and supplies were reduced under the budget reductions. Remaining amounts were projected to increase at an inflationary rate.

Dr. Kilpatrick then reviewed several of the revenue and expense areas graphically from an historical basis to indicate the trends that the District has seen and what is anticipated for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. In addition, he summarized the projected budgets for the other funds of the district, including the other operating funds - transportation, working cash, and operations and maintenance.

The Education Fund and the Operations and Maintenance Fund were targeted to have balanced budgets that did not rely on existing reserves.

Dr. Kilpatrick stated that the Tentative Budget would be revised over the summer as more information on revenues becomes available and will be presented to the Board in August with a targeted adoption for the second Board meeting in September.

Dr. Nielsen commended the Board for taking the steps that needed to be taken over the last two years to make \$4.1 million in reductions and helping to create a balanced budget for 2004-05.

Mr. Reilly and Mr. Rich Gordon, Bloomington High School Business & Technical teacher, presented a new training level proposal for the Office and Technical Employees (OTE). Mr. Gordon summarized the current OTE training program:

- All Levels consist of the employee learning Microsoft Office 2000 for Windows including PowerPoint, Access, Excel and Word
- Training for OTE Employees on the Office Programs is done by using the Skill Assessment Manager (SAM) Training Program.
- The SAM Program is a testing program which is the educational version of the Microsoft Office User Specialist (MOUS) Testing Program.
- Using SAM, the four MOUS programs are tested at two levels.... Core and Expert.
- To pass a Core Test requires the employee to get 90% of the 40-50 tasks correct. To pass the Expert Test requires a score of at least 70%.
- 63 employees have taken at least the first test at the first level.
- 61 employees out of the 63 have passed the first level and have received their certificates.
- 38 out of the 63 employees have completed all 5 levels

The New Training Proposal in summary:

- It would result in one more pay increment of \$.30 for each employee completing the new level.
- It would allow for direct increase in on the job productivity.
- It would review all 4 Basic MOUS programs
- It would have employee apply all 4 programs by completing a variety of application problems
- It would have employee learn new program including Front Page and Possibly Outlook.
- It would have employee setup their own web page
- It would have employee work directly at improving their productivity on the job.
- Entire OTE Level 6 program can be accessed online at:
<http://www.district87.org/staff/gordonr/Ote%20training%20files.htm>

Mr. Reilly stated that this will be brought back at the next Board Meeting for Board consideration.

Dr. Nielsen presented the Group Medical Plan and HMO insurance rates changes. He stated that beginning July 1, 2004 the monthly rate for those covered under the Group Medical Plan will increase from \$330 to \$416.44. The monthly rate of \$348 for the HMO will remain in effect through the end of the calendar year however, it is proposed that beginning July 1, 2004 the Board pay the full monthly rate (\$348) for those employees covered under the HMO Plan. Currently employees under the HMO Plan pay \$18 due to the fact that the Group Medial Plan cost less per employee (\$330

compared to \$348). Dr. Nielsen stated that this will be brought back at the next Board meeting for Board consideration.

Mrs. Jackson presented the Consent Agenda for consideration. Dr. Nielsen asked that the Personnel Report be moved to Board Action F. Mrs. Jackson asked that Proposed Board Policy 2.105, Ethics and Gift Ban and Proposed Board Policy 5.120, Ethics, be pulled from Item E, Resolution: Amending Board of Education Policies Manual and be brought back at the next Board Meeting for "Second Reading". Mrs. Smith had a question about the Personnel Report and asked to go into Closed Session to discuss it.

It was moved by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Jackson that the Board go into Closed Session to consider 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. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mrs. Smith that the Board return to the Regular Meeting. Upon a roll call vote all members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mr. Herrera that the Consent Agenda (Bills, Treasurer's Report, Financial Summary, Resolution: Amending Board of Education Policies Manual (minus Proposed Board Policies 2.105 and 5.120), Bread Bid and Stevenson Walk In Cooler) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 05-26-04/1)

Dr. Nielsen reminded the Board that the BHS Commencement is a week from tonight, June 2, 2004 and that they should be at the high school at 6:30 p.m. that evening. He also stated that there is a 76 year old graduate this year, Mrs. Ada Oesch Peasley, who is returning to Bloomington, from her home in Iowa, to participate in the graduation activities. She finished the one class she needed for graduation, American Government, earlier this year.

Dr. Nielsen also asked that the Board consider canceling the July, 2004 Board meetings. He stated that we will put this on the June 9, 2004 Board agenda for consideration.

Mrs. Jackson presented SHOR0304-3 for consideration. It was moved by Mr. Hanson to approve SHOR0304-3. There was no second. Motion failed. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 05-26-04/2)

Dr. Nielsen stated that Ms. Anna Cunningham's name should be omitted from the Personnel Report as she has accepted another teaching position in another District.

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mrs. Roth that the Board approve the Personnel Report. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 05-26-04/3)

Mr. Kim Smith, BJHS parent, stated that he and nine other parents met with Dr. Nielsen regarding events at BJHS. He stated that he and several others are offering to help address the issue of bullying at BJHS.

It was moved by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Dirks that the Board go into Closed Session to consider 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; and to

consider litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Hanson, seconded by Mrs. Roth that the Board return to the Regular Meeting. Upon a roll call vote all members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

President

Secretary