

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 8, 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: Mrs. Janet Smith, Mr. John Dirks, Mrs. Millicent Roth, Mr. Uvaldo Herrera, Mr. John Hanson and Mrs. Cheryl Jackson, Board President. Mr. Keith Davis was absent.

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

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

Present from the news media was Ms. Sharon Wolfe, The Pantagraph and Ms. Jayme Monicelli from WJBC Radio Station.

Mr. Davis joined the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Mrs. Jackson stated "This public hearing concerning the 2004 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 Pantagraph* on November 26, 2004, stated the Levy under consideration this evening is an increase of 6.47% 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 2004 Levy, including debt service, is 6.23% 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."

Mrs. Jackson asked "Is there any discussion of the Levy from the Board?" There was no discussion.

Mrs. Jackson stated "Members of the audience are welcome to present testimony concerning the Levy at this time." There was no testimony from the audience.

Mrs. Jackson stated "The Public Hearing is now concluded."

Mrs. Jackson presented the Minutes for approval. It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mr. Hanson, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 10, 2004 and the Minutes of the Closed Meeting held on November 10, 2004 be approved. Upon a roll call vote, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Davis, Mr. Hanson, Mr. Dirks, Mrs. Roth and Mrs. Jackson voted "Aye". Mr. Herrera abstained as he did not attend the last Board Meeting. Motion carried.

Mrs. Cindy Helmers, Bloomington High School (BHS) Principal introduced, BHS Golf Coach, Mr. Rich Gordon. Mr. Gordon stated that the BHS Boys team won the Big 12, Regional and Sectional Championships and placed 9th at the IHSA State Finals. Team members included: Matt Bova, Alex Titlow, Grant Milling, Dustin Thompson and Brandon Holtz.

Mrs. Jackson congratulated the team on their accomplishments and asked the team, their parents and Mr. Gordon to come forward and receive congratulations from the Board Members.

Mrs. Helmers introduced, BHS Football Coach, Mr. Rigo Schmelzer. Mr. Schmelzer is the football coach with the most games won in BHS' 107 year history of the program. Mr. Schmelzer stated that the team finished the season as co-Big 12 Champions and placed 2nd at State. Senior players present at the meeting included: Erik Miller, Adrian Arrington, Eric Tapley, Emmanuel Jones, Derrell Nicholas and Jeremy Early.

Mrs. Jackson congratulated everyone on their accomplishments and asked the team, their parents and Mr. Schmelzer to come forward and receive congratulations from the Board Members.

Mr. Hanson reported that he attended a recent McLean County Regional Planning meeting. At the meeting, Ms. Donna Hernandez was elected Chair and Mr. Scott Lay is Vice-Chair. Two members, Mr. Dick Buchanan and Mr. Jim Rutherford, are retiring at the end of the year. Mr. Hanson stated that as of yet, they do not know who will be appointed to those positions.

Mrs. Smith reported she attended the annual Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Convention in Chicago in November and that it was a good trip.

Mr. Dirks reported that he attended a Facilities Review Committee meeting regarding the Bloomington Junior High School renovation proposal.

Mr. Dirks reported that the Beyond the Books Educational Foundation is currently gearing up for fundraising activities and is revising the grant applications that will be sent out in January.

Mr. Dirks stated he attended the IASB Conference in Chicago and offered to provide information on Board Leadership and Ethics presentations that he attended, as well as, information on the process of reviewing Board Policies to any of the Board Members who were interested.

Mrs. Jackson reported she attended the IASB Conference at which she attended two Board of Director's meetings. She stated that Mr. Ray Zimmerman of the Corn Belt division was re-elected as President of the Board of Directors. Mrs. Jackson stated at that meeting they received the report on the School Board Conference. The Conference attendance was down about 100 people. Mrs. Jackson stated that she served as a delegate to the General Assembly. All of the resolutions were passed as recommended by the committee. The good news is that the IASB is now supporting school funding reform, H.B.750.

Mrs. Jackson reported that she and Dr. Nielsen attended the Corn Belt Division Winter Governing meeting on the 7th. Upcoming workshop sessions for the Spring meeting were discussed.

Mrs. Roth reported that she attended the IASB Conference. She and Mrs. Smith received information on Public Relations skills for Board

Members. She stated that some materials will be sent to her on this topic and she will then share it with other Board Members.

Mr. Herrera reported that he attended two general sessions at the IASB Conference, one on Beyond Standards and Accountability, and he also attended two workshops, one on the skyrocketing health care costs which most districts are facing.

Mrs. Tucker, presented Terra Nova reading data. The Board of Education established the goal of having all students read proficiently at each grade level as evaluated using district assessments during the Spring of 2000.

Mrs. Tucker compared the District's demographic and low income data for 2001 and 2004 and reading data for all students, African American students and low income students in grades 1 through 8. These subgroups were chosen due to their group size and relevance to the ISAT.

Demographics:

- District wide, 2001: 68% white; 6% Hispanic; 23% African American; 3% Asian • District wide, 2004: 65% white, 7% Hispanic; 24% African American; 4% Asian • Elementary, 2001: 66% white, 6% Hispanic; 24% African American; 4% Asian • Elementary, 2004: 60% white, 8% Hispanic; 27% African American; 6% Asian • BJHS, 2001: 70% white, 3% Hispanic; 23% African American; 5% Asian • BJHS, 2004: 67% white, 5% Hispanic; 25% African American; 3% Asian

Low Income (based on Free and Reduced Lunches):

- Elementary, 2001: 46%; 2004: 41%
- BJHS, 2001: 43%; 2004: 42%

Current Low Income rates at our elementary schools range from a low of 14.5% to a high of 82.3%.

Mobility Rates:

- District wide, 2001: 20%; 2004: 19%
- Elementary, 2001: 22%; 2004: 22%
- BJHS, 2001: 14%; 2004: 18%

Current Mobility Rates at our elementary schools range from a low of 13.3% to a high of 41.1%.

2004 Terra Nova Reading Scores:

All students:

The cumulative scores for all students in grades 1 to 8 show at least 3/4 of our students reading at or above Stanine 4. Grade 1: 78% Grade 2: 84% Grade 3: 82% Grade 4: 92% (current 4th graders attending Title I schools were the 1st class to receive all day kindergarten) Grade 5: 77% Grade 6: 81% Grade 7: 81% Grade 8: 82%

- African American students:  
Data was not able to be disaggregated until 2001, when only grades 2 through 5 were tested. Grades 1 and 6, 7 and 8 have no comparable data for the years 2001 and 2004. Scores show an increase in scores at grade 2 (up 5% to 68%) and grade 4 (up 8% to 81%). More than 2/3 to 3/4 of our African American elementary and

8th grade students are reading at Stanine 4 or above (grade level).

- Low Income students:  
Again, comparable scores are only available for grades 2, 3, 4 and 5. An 11% increase was made at grade 2 (from 65% to 76%). More than 2/3 to 3/4 of our Low income students are reading at Stanine 4 or above (grade level), with the exception of grade 5.

District wide implementations since 2001 include:

- Smaller class sizes, particularly at K-3 • All- day Kindergarten at all Title I schools (Bent, Irving, Sheridan and Stevenson).
- Early Start programs implemented at Irving and Sheridan Schools and for all English Language Learners (ELL) students at Stevenson School.
- Standards Aligned Classroom project implemented • After school programs offered

Mr. Jim Cooper, Sheridan School Principal, presented Sheridan School's Plan for Success.

Steps to Success include:

1. Analyze multiple data sources including:

- Terra Nova Tests
- PALS Kindergarten Screening
- Scholastic Reading Inventory
- ISAT results
- Running Records for Title I students
- Monday Meetings

ISAT scores for 3rd and 5th grade students in reading, math and writing, over a 4-year period were presented. Data shows dramatic increases in all three subjects for both grade levels.

ISAT Results

- The percentage of 3rd grade students meeting or exceeding in reading improved over 20% from last year; math scores up 10%; and writing up 25%
- The percentage of 3rd grade students meeting or exceeding in reading improved over 25% from last year; math scores up slightly; and writing up nearly 20%
- Overall, over 60% of Sheridan students met and exceeded expectations.
- The state's achievement gap in reading for white and African American 3rd grade students is approaching 40%. At Sheridan, the gap is less than 10%. At 5th grade state's achievement gap is over 30%. At Sheridan, the gap is about 10%.

Fall Terra Nova Update

- Sheridan's Low Income students are also outperforming the state's Low Income student averages.
  - Over 73% of Sheridan students in grades 1 through 5 scored in stanine 4 or above this fall.
  - Fall Terra Nova results have helped identify 55 "bubble students" in grades 3 & 5 who are just below Stanine 4.
  - Individual students are now targeted for assistance prior to ISAT testing.
  - This year's 4th grade student class has shown increased performance. There are only 4 students in the entire 4th grade class who are not at the 4th Stanine.
2. Provide a variety of interventions
- Early Start for three years
  - Summer Bridges - Summer 2003
  - After School Small Group Intervention
  - Title I intervention during the day in early grades
  - Targeted assistance during the day and after school
  - Reading Counts

3. Take care of people

Mr. Bill Payne, from Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc. provided a status report on the Bloomington Junior High School (BJHS) Feasibility Study.

Surveys were given to staff members at BJHS to provide feedback on specific areas in which the building was deficient in terms of size and educational programs responsiveness.

Mr. Payne stated that we looked at the building in two different ways: 1. Specific programs and current enrollment, and compared that against the available classrooms. We found we were deficient in academic areas, P.E. spaces, as well as, arts for life areas. 2. We also looked at square foot per student relative to other middle schools throughout Illinois and the Midwest. That deficiency is about 30,000 to 40,000 square feet.

Mr. Payne stated that we asked staff to give feedback on those specific areas. We met with several groups of staff after they returned their surveys to us. As a result of these meetings we have looked at a couple of different ways to address the space deficiencies which were noted in the surveys. Then we met with district level administrators and building administrators and Board representatives.

Listed below are the combinations of building addition options along with associated construction costs for BJHS. (G1 includes a multipurpose room similar to the existing small gym, 2 health classrooms, locker rooms and auxiliary space; G2 includes a gym similar to the existing big gym, 2 health classrooms, locker rooms and auxiliary space (seats 800); G3 includes a gym seating approximately 1500, 2 health classrooms, locker rooms and auxiliary space.) Arts for Life

space will include one music room and will renovate existing space which is a conference room and a discipline office.

Classroom Options:	<u>Cost Option #1</u>	<u>Cost Option #2</u>	<u>Cost Option #3</u>
(8) Classrooms (A1)	\$1,858,500	\$1,858,500	\$1,858,500
• 12,600 square feet			
Gym (G1)	\$2,824,920		
• 13,300 square feet			
Gym (G2)		\$3,138,800	
• 15,200 square feet			
Gym (G3)			\$4,914,700
• 24,500 square feet			
Arts for Life	\$268,946	\$268,946	\$268,946
Discipline Office	\$185,260	\$185,260	\$185,260
Total	\$5,137,626	\$5,451,506	\$7,227,406

Classroom Options:	<u>Cost Option #4</u>	<u>Cost Option #5</u>	<u>Cost Option #6</u>
(10) Classrooms (A2)	\$2,235,156	\$2,235,156	\$2,235,156
• 15,400 square feet			
Gym (G1)	\$2,824,920		
• 13,300 square feet			
Gym (G2)		\$3,138,800	
• 15,200 square feet			
Gym (G3)			\$4,914,700
• 24,500 square feet			
Arts for Life	\$268,946	\$268,946	\$268,946
Discipline Office	\$185,260	\$185,260	\$185,260

Classroom Options:	<u>Cost Option #7</u>	<u>Cost Option #8</u>	<u>Cost Option #9</u>
(12) Classrooms (A3)	\$2,548,800	\$2,548,800	\$2,548,800
• 18,000 square feet			
Gym (G1)	\$2,824,920		
• 13,300 square feet			
Gym (G2)		\$3,138,800	
• 15,200 square feet			
Gym (G3)			\$4,914,700
• 24,500 square feet			
Arts for Life	\$268,946	\$268,946	\$268,946
Discipline Office	\$185,260	\$185,260	\$185,260

Construction management and general conditions are not included in these cost summaries and may be 7% to 8% of the construction costs. Financing costs are also not included.

Mr. Payne will be presenting another report on this study at the January 12, 2005 Board Meeting.

It was moved by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Roth, that the Consent Agenda (Personnel Report, Bills, Payroll, Financial Summary, Treasurer's Report, Resolution Updating List of Depositories and District Security Camera Equipment Bid Recommendation) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 12-8-04/1

Dr. Nielsen requested the media to announce that District 87 is forming a Sesquicentennial Committee. The year 2007 will mark our 150<sup>th</sup> year in existence. The committee will work towards celebrating the 150 years over the course of the school year. Dr. Nielsen stated that anyone who is interested should contact Marianne Clancy and we'll start putting this together after the holidays.

Dr. Nielsen announced that District 87 has six new National Board Certified Teachers. (BJHS teachers, Mr. Doug Fillmore (Gr.6), Mr. Bill Wetzel (Gr. 8) and Mr. Matt Willey (P.E.), Stevenson teacher, Ms. Amanda White (Grade 4) and BHS teachers Mr. Mike Gebhard (Science) and Ms. Nancy Powell (Math)) He extended his congratulations to these teachers and stated that they will be at the January 12, 2005 Board Meeting for recognition.

Dr. Nielsen stated that the Illinois State Report Cards generally, by law, are supposed to be distributed and released to the public by October 31 of each year. But with the problems at the State level with the data, that timeline is no longer in effect. The State is now saying that the School Report Card information will be released on December 15. Dr. Nielsen stated that we will bring our Report Cards information to you in January.

Dr. Nielsen wished everyone a happy holiday season.

It was moved by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Dirks that the Board approve the Tax Levy 2004 Resolution. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 12-8-04/2)

It was moved by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mrs. Smith, that the Board approve the SHOR 0405-2. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 12-8-04/3)

Ms. Willie Halbert, community member, asked that the "Bubble Kids" program that Mr. Cooper spoke about this evening be a full year program. Dr. Nielsen stated that it was a funding issue and urged Mrs. Halbert to contact the Governor and local legislatures to improve school funding.

Mrs. Halbert also commented that it would be wonderful to have a foreign language program in the District for grades K-8.

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary