

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 22, 2009                      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. Michael Harrison, Mr. Joseph Butcher, Mrs. Janet Smith, Mrs. Millicent Roth, Dr. Steve Perry, Mr. John Dirks, and Mrs. Cheryl Jackson, Board President.

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

It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Dr. Perry that Joe Butcher be appointed Temporary Chairman. Upon a roll call vote, all Members voted "Aye." Motion carried.

It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Butcher that the Regular Meeting adjourn sine die. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Mr. Dirks presented gifts to Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Smith upon their departure and thanked them for their twelve years of service each to District 87.

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Ms. Wilma Gleason, Board Secretary, established a quorum and the following Members were present: Mr. John Dirks, Mrs. Millicent Roth, Mr. Michael Harrison, Mr. Joseph Butcher and Dr. Steve Perry.

It was moved by Dr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Dirks that Ms. Gleason be appointed Temporary Secretary. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Ms. Judith Webster and Mrs. Mary Yount took their seats as new Board Members.

Mr. Dirks, Mrs. Roth, Ms. Webster and Mrs. Yount, as newly elected Board Members, read the following oath:

I, (name), do solemnly swear that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of member of the Board of Education of the Bloomington Public Schools, District #87, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws of the State of Illinois, to the best of my ability.

I further swear that:

~ I shall respect taxpayer interests by serving as a faithful protector of the school district's assets;

~ I shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow board members and others who seek a hearing before the board, while respecting the privacy of students and employees;

~ I shall recognize that a board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a public board meeting; and

~ I shall abide by majority decisions of the board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels.

It was moved by Mrs. Roth, seconded by Mr. Harrison, that Mr. Dirks be elected President of the Board of Education for a one-year term. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Butcher, that Mrs. Roth be elected Vice-President of the Board of Education for a one-year term. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

It was moved by Dr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Butcher that Ms. Gleason be appointed Secretary of the Board of Education. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Butcher, seconded by Mrs. Roth, that Mr. Wood be appointed Treasurer of the Board of Education. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Mr. Dirks recommended that the Ad Hoc Committees and Other Appointments remain the same with the exception of someone requesting a change. Mr. Dirks asked Mrs. Yount and Ms. Webster to let him know which committees they would like to serve on. The board unanimously agreed with this recommendation.

It was moved by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Roth that the Board approve the Calendar of Regular Board Meetings from May 13, 2009 to April 28, 2010. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Butcher, seconded by Dr. Perry, that the Board approve all Existing Contracts and current Board of Education Policies. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Mr. Dirks presented the Minutes for approval. It was moved by Mrs. Roth, seconded by Mr. Butcher, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on April 8, 2009 be approved. Dr. Perry asked that on page 2, Congresswoman Halverson's comments be corrected to reflect that she stated that she can't imagine No Child Left Behind being changed so that she would support the policy. Dr. Perry further stated that the Congresswoman doesn't think it's been a good policy and changes to it have been discussed. Upon a roll call vote, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Dirks, Dr. Perry, Mr. Butcher, and Mrs. Roth voted "Aye". Ms. Webster and Mrs. Yount abstained as they had not been sworn in as official Members of the Board at that time. Motion carried.

Mrs. Roth- No report.

Mr. Butcher - No report.

Mr. Harrison - No report.

Dr. Perry - No report

Mrs. Yount - No report.

Mrs. Webster - No report.

Mr. Dirks stated that the Facilities Committee is continuing to meet to discuss long-term planning at Bloomington High School. He further stated that the Prom was a great success.

Dr. Nielsen presented Board Policy 3.090 - Life and Death and Dismemberment Policy for second reading. Dr. Perry stated that the policy states that "the employer paid life insurance would continue for five years after a person retires." He stated that an administrator may be hired for only a short time before retirement, and he suggested that an administrator would have to be employed with District 87 for five years or, if employed less than five years, the benefit would continue after retirement for the length of time in which the administrator was employed in District 87, whichever was shorter.

Dr. Nielsen stated that Board Policy 3.093 defines the eligibility for this benefit, which is ten years as an employee of District 87.

Dr. Teresa Hill and Mr. Tim Moore presented proposed changes to the BHS semester grading policy.

- Students currently receive a letter grade for each quarter.
- The semester grade is determined by combining the two quarter grades and the final exam grade.
- Each quarter grade is worth 40% and the final exam is worth 20%.
- The semester grade is the only grade included on the transcript.

The proposal is as follows:

- Maintain a running average of student grades throughout the semester.
- Base the semester grade on 80% Semester Work (assignments, projects, quizzes, tests, etc.), and 20% on the final exam.
- Replace quarter grades with a 9-week progress report.
- Provide progress reports at 4-1/2 week intervals.

The 80/20 option:

- Recognizes student effort/improvement.
- Communicates the importance of learning the entire curriculum for the semester.
- Provides a more accurate representation of the student's knowledge.
- Provides an incentive to work hard throughout the semester.
- Better prepares students for post-secondary education.

Ms. Webster questioned why we still give cumulative exams. Mr. Moore explained that seniors can be exempted if they meet certain criteria. He further stated that the next step in reviewing semester exams will be to look at them and evaluate how much weight they're given in the final grade.

Dr. Hill stated that the reason we give final exams is to have a culminating activity to show that students can utilize the knowledge they've learned in the class.

Mr. Dirks thanked those teachers and administrators who worked on these proposed changes. Mr. Dirks also asked how students will be given this information besides what will be printed in the handbook. Mr. Moore said a letter will be sent to parents, and when students return to school in the fall, they will meet with administrators as they do each year and address the grading policy, which will include examples of grades, at that time.

Dr. Perry asked about valedictorian status as it relates to these changes. Mr. Moore and Dr. Hill said the proposed changes won't have any effect on a student's transcript.

Mr. Tim Moore presented proposed curricular materials for BHS' Business & Applied Technology's Computer Applications 1 and 2 courses. These materials are grant (not district) funded.

Dr. Teresa Hill presented the 2009 Summer School Program information as follows:

- Elementary Summer School
- Extended School Year
- BJHS Summer School
- BHS Summer School
- Transition Program - Raider 101
- Early Start Program
  
- The Elementary Summer School, Extended School Year Program, BJHS Summer School and BHS Summer School will be held from June 14- July 16, 2009, from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm on Mondays through Thursdays.
  
- The Transition Programs and Early Start will run for 1-3 weeks in August 2009.
  
- Instructional supports for the Elementary Summer School and Extended School Year will include instructional supports for teachers.
  
- Student supports include breakfast, daily transportation, tuition free for eligible students with free/reduced lunch, and is open to other recommended students for \$200 tuition.
  
- BJHS' program will focus on reading, writing and math. Tuition will cost \$200.
  
- BHS' program will include English Literature/Composition and Algebra. Tuition will cost \$200.
  
- The 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade transition program will focus on learning about BJHS, meeting teachers and administrators, introduction to middle school study and organizational skills, and "survival" skills. Transportation, breakfast or lunch, and school supplies are provided. Tuition is free to recommended students.
  
- The 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade transition program (Raider 101) will focus on meeting teachers and administrators, "survival" skills, and mentoring. Transportation, breakfast or lunch, and school supplies are provided. Tuition is free to recommended students.

Funding Sources for the programs are Title I, IDEA, Tuition, and District 87 Funds. Transition Programs and Early Start are funded through corporate grants this year (\$34,500).

Mr. Dirks asked when the transition program will be held, and Dr. Hill stated that they are held at the end of the summer (late July/early August). She explained that the programs are typically held so that students are in a transition program for a week or two and then have a week off before school starts. We anticipate having 75-100 students this year.

Mrs. Roth asked how many students attend summer school at BJHS. Dr. Hill stated that we have 20-40 depending on the year. Mrs. Roth asked if tuition is a problem. Dr. Hill stated that generally it is not. When tuition was recently added back after budget cuts a few years ago, more students passed the courses so as to not repeat them in summer school.

Mrs. Webster asked if we ever have summer enrichment classes (Arts, language intensive, etc.). Dr. Hill stated that we don't offer those types of courses on-site summer school. She further stated that some students participate in the Virtual High School offered on-line. We also have a summer band camp program, but we don't have enrichment programs due to funding constraints.

Dr. Nielsen stated that there used to be a summer enrichment program at Illinois State University which was offered through various high schools in the area.

Mr. Harrison asked about the number of summer school students enrolled verses the number who completed summer school. Dr. Hill stated that last year, we had 98% of our elementary students complete the program. She further stated that when we eliminated Fridays from the summer school program, it eliminated a lot of our absences. She stated that we also offer breakfast and lunch which helps attendance.

It was moved by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Butcher, that the Consent Agenda (Human Resources Report, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Financial Summary, Integrity Contract, 2009 BHS Classroom Renovations Bid Recommendation) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Dr. Nielsen welcomed Mrs. Yount and Ms. Webster to the Board. Dr. Nielsen stated that all of our schools will recognize a number of achievements (years of service, academic, etc.) this spring. The years of service awards are given at the buildings, and Dr. Nielsen will send these dates/times to the Board and asked that they please plan to attend as their schedules allow.

It was moved by Dr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Harrison, that the Transportation Bids be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Butcher, seconded by Mrs. Roth, that the BHS band trip to Orlando, Florida in November 2009 be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Butcher, that the Reduction in Force be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Mr. Samuel Graham, 817 W. Oakland Avenue, Bloomington, stated that he hopes Illinois Central Bus Company will meet with the current bus drivers.

Mr. Norman Mars, Regional Manager for First Student, thanked the Board, Superintendent and Mr. Wood for the many years that District 87 has entrusted First Student with the safety of the students in District 87. Mr. Mars committed that he will help with the transition from First Student to Illinois Central Bus Company and will provide the best service possible for the remainder of First Student's contract with District 87.

Mr. John Hoefer, 1207 Zeta Street, Bloomington, stated that he feels that seniors being exempt from taking final exams seems contradictory since they will be taking them in college. He feels that having them take their finals would be most beneficial for them. He also suggested weighting different grade levels for final exams (9<sup>th</sup> grade - 10%; 10<sup>th</sup> grade - 15%, etc.)

It was moved by Mr. Butcher, seconded by Mrs. Roth, that the Board 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. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Dirks adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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President

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Secretary