

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 24, 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: Mrs. Cheryl Jackson, President, Mr. John Dirks, Mrs. Janet Smith, Mr. Joe Butcher, Mr. Michael Harrison, Mrs. Millicent Roth and Dr. Steve Perry.

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

Mrs. Jackson stated that we would have a Public Hearing for the 2008-2009 Budget.

"In accordance with Section 17-1 of the School Code, the Board of Education will now hold a public hearing on the 2008-2009 budget for the Bloomington Public Schools, District #87.

The District prepared a budget in tentative form for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 which this Board reviewed at its August 13, 2008 meeting.

The tentative budget has been on file for public inspection at the Educational Services Center for District #87 for over thirty days and public notice of the availability of the budget was published in *The Pantagraph* on August 22, 2008. The tentative budget is on display in the rear of the room.

During the public hearing, David Wood, Chief Financial and Legal Officer for District #87, will summarize the budget and the Board and members of the public will be given an opportunity to discuss the budget.

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

At this time, Mr. Wood will present a summary of the budget."

Mr. Wood stated:

"The Board reviewed the Tentative 2009 Budget on August 13, 2008. The final Legal Budget has not changed with two exceptions:

- Given better information from the state, we increased the amount the state pays to TRS "on behalf of" the district from \$4.5 M to \$5.5 M. This does not affect the financial condition of the Education Fund.
- Given increased enrollment at the elementary level we added \$200,000 for new teaching positions and classroom materials. This increases the Education Fund deficit to \$529,374.

In addition to the Education Fund deficit, the Transportation and Tort Funds are estimated to have a combined deficit of approximately \$655,400. We hope to balance the Education Fund this year by spending less than the budget. Even if we do not achieve this, the district has sufficient fund balances to get through the year in the three deficit funds. Going forward,

the goal is to limit spending in all three deficit funds as much as possible and to increase the transportation and tort levy.

Beginning in October, we will present information to the Board defining the deficit and outlining a deficit reduction process and plan.

The fundamental issue we face is that revenues do not grow as fast as expenditures. Basically, salaries, benefits, and utilities, approximately 83% of our expenditures, grow more than the property tax, approximately 58% of our revenues. This is exacerbated when the economy slumps and revenues from CPPRT and Interest go down and state and federal grants are flat.

We continue to monitor our finances and the larger economy but the outlook is sobering.

At this time, given what we know, I recommend the Board approve the 2009 Legal Budget."

Mrs. Jackson asked, "Is there any discussion from the Board?"

Is there any discussion from the public?"

Peggy Dunlap, 311 Glenn Avenue, Normal, asked Mr. Wood if these figures are the same figures given to the negotiating team in the spring. Mr. Wood said they are essentially the same figures.

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

Mrs. Jackson presented the Minutes for approval. It was moved by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. Butcher that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on September 10, 2008 and the Minutes of the Closed Session on August 27, 2008, be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members voted "Aye" for the Closed Session on August 27, 2008. All members except Roth voted "Aye" for the Regular Meeting on September 10, 2008. Mrs. Roth abstained due to absence from the meeting. Motion carried.

Dr. Nielsen recognized Mrs. Janet Smith (Award of Merit) and the Achievement Gap Task Force and Mr. Willie Brown (Award of Recognition), both winners of the Illinois State Board of Education's 2008 "Those Who Excel" awards. The Board and administration congratulated Mrs. Smith, Mr. Brown and the Achievement Gap Task Force.

Dr. Perry - No report.

Mrs. Roth - No report.

Mrs. Smith - No report.

Mr. Dirks stated that the Beyond the Books Educational Foundation recently held its September organizational meeting. The major project for the next two years is a campaign to increase the endowment to \$1,000,000. With more money in the endowment, they'll be able to make more grants. The focus for the campaign will be businesses. Mr. Dirks recently attended the freshmen play at Bloomington High School; he thanked Mrs. Cortesi for a wonderful play.

Mr. Harrison recently attended the Minority Recruitment & Retention committee meeting.

Mr. Butcher - No report.

Mrs. Jackson - No report.

Dr. Sue Silvey and Dr. Teresa Hill presented BJHS Arts for Life curriculum.

Proposed changes include:

6th grade: Skills for Adolescence will be changed to Study Skills; Applied Science & Technology Modules/Computer Skills will be changed to Integrated Technology Skills and Applications.

7th grade: Applied Science & Technology Modules/Computer Skills/Health will be changed to Integrated Technology Skills and Applications. Health will be part of the physical education curriculum.

8th grade: Applied Science & Technology Modules/Computer Skills will be changed to Integrated Technology Skills and Applications. Family & Consumer Science will be changed to Career Exploration/Post Secondary Careers.

This curriculum aligns with National Educational Technology Standards:

1. Creativity and Innovation - Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology.
2. Communication and Collaboration - Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.
3. Research and Information Fluency - Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate and use formation.
4. Creative Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making - Students use critical thinking, skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources.
5. Digital Citizenship - Students understand human, cultural and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior.
6. Technology Operations and Concepts - Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems and operations.

Dr. Teresa Hill presented the 2008 Student Achievement Report (insert info from power point).

District Goals:

Through innovations in curriculum, assessment techniques and training of our professional staff, all students will be challenged to reach their full potential.

- ALL students will read proficiently at each grade level.

- ALL students will communicate proficiently verbally and in writing at each grade level.
- ALL students will acquire mathematical skills and concepts at each grade level.

Testing Overview:

- Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)
 - Grades 3 - 8 Reading, Math
 - Grades 4 & 7 Science
 - Grades 5 & 8 Writing
- Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE)
 - High School Juniors
 - ACT plus Writing and WorkKeys
- Testing Changes
 - IMAGE test for English Language Learners eliminated
- AYP
 - All 6 elementary schools and Bloomington Junior High School made Adequate Yearly Progress.
 - Bloomington High School continues to improve.

Celebration & Goals:

- Celebrations
 - Student achievement is high and continues on an upward trend.
 - The achievement gap is closing at the elementary and middle school level.
 - Improvements continue at the high school level.
- Goals
 - Continue to increase the number of students enrolled in core classes at the high school level; and
 - Establish and maintain an upward trend in all subjects at all grade levels.

Mr. Colin Manahan and Mr. Russell Francois presented an update on construction and landscaping at Bloomington High School.

Landscaping - Flowers have been planted. Perennial and annual flower beds will be planted this fall.

Interior:

- Upper Gold North Classrooms:
 - Projection units were installed last spring.
 - Marker board and bulletin board installation has started and should be completed by mid-October.
 - Painting of the classrooms will begin this winter; and
 - New student desks will follow in the near future.
- Interior Door Replacement:
 - Office doors will be placed this winter and next spring.
 - Upper and lower purple hallways doors will be replaced next spring.

- Upper Purple Restrooms:
 - Work will begin mid-October with projected finish date of January 1, 2009.
- Cafeteria Addition:
 - Construction is underway and should be completed by January 1, 2009.
- Athletic Field Reconstruction Timeline:
 - December - Project out for bid with anticipated approval by the Board of Education;
 - Spring - Visitor side bleachers and courtyard entrance;
 - Summer - Home side bleachers, perimeter fencing and track fencing; and
 - Fall/Winter/Spring - Interior space development (concessions, etc.)
- Proposed Cafeteria/Kitchen Remodel Timeline:
 - December/January - Construction documents to be developed;
 - February - Project out for bid with anticipated approval by the Board of Education;
 - Summer 2009 - Kitchen area; and
 - Summer 2010 - Cafeteria area.

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mrs. Roth, that the Consent Agenda (Human Resources Report, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Financial Summary) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, Dr. Perry, Mr. Dirks, Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Butcher and Mrs. Roth voted "Aye"; Mrs. Smith voted "Nay." Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 09-24-08/1)

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mr. Butcher, that the 2009 Budget be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 09-24-08/2)

It was moved by Dr. Perry, seconded by Mrs. Roth, that the Voluntary Vision Insurance Rates for 2009 and 2010 be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, 09-24-08/3)

It was moved by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Butcher, that the HCH Administration-Flexible Spending Plan be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, 09-24-08/4)

Rich Baldwin, 1414 N. Clinton, Bloomington, teacher at BHS, thanked the Board for the renovations to Bloomington High School. He stated that the teachers who were present at the Board meeting were there to show support for the negotiations team as they continue negotiating for a new contract.

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

President

Secretary