

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 14, 2010

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. Joe Butcher, Mr. Michael Harrison, Mrs. Millicent Roth, Ms. Judith Webster, Mrs. Mary Yount, and Mr. John Dirks, Board President.

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

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

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6:33 P.M.

Educational Services Center

Ms. Wilma Gleason, Board Secretary, established a quorum and the following Members were present: Mr. Joseph Butcher, Mr. Michael Harrison, Mrs. Millicent Roth, Ms. Judith Webster, Mrs. Mary Yount, and Mr. John Dirks.

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

It was moved by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Ms. Webster, that Mrs. Roth 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.

Mrs. Roth presented Mr. Dirks with an engraved pen and thanked him for his service as Board President the past twelve months.

It was moved by Mr. Butcher, seconded by Mrs. Yount, that Mr. Harrison 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 Mrs. Yount, seconded by Mr. Dirks, 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 Ms. Webster, 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 Mrs. Roth appoint Board members to serve on Ad Hoc Committees and other appointments as necessary. Board Members agreed with this recommendation. Mrs. Roth asked Board members to notify her by April 28, 2010, of their interest in serving on committees.

It was moved by Mrs. Yount, seconded by Mr. Harrison, that the Board approve the Calendar of Regular Board Meetings from April 28, 2010 to April 27, 2011. Ms. Webster asked that some Board meetings be held in the schools.

Mrs. Roth stated that meeting locations can be changed when necessary. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mr. Butcher, 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.

Mrs. Roth presented the Minutes for approval. It was moved by Ms. Webster, seconded by Mrs. Yount, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on March 10, 2010, and the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Board of Education held on March 10, 2010, be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Mr. Tim Moore, Bloomington High School Principal, introduced Mr. John Szabo, BHS Athletic Director. The Board and Administration congratulated Mr. Szabo for being named the State of Illinois Athletic Director Association's High School Athletic Director of the Year.

Mr. Tom Frazier, Director of the Area Career Center, introduced Mr. Mark Anderson, Area Career Center and BHS Industrial Technology Teacher. Mr. Anderson introduced two students, Cole Ritter from Clinton High School and Leo Marquardt from Bloomington High School. They were asked to design buildings for Uptown Normal to make it more family friendly. Cole and Leo gave a presentation of their designs.

Dr. Nielsen stated that students in these classes are engaged in real life activities, and Mr. Anderson brings in experts to work with the students. Dr. Nielsen further stated that this is a great program for students.

The Board and Administration congratulated Mr. Anderson and the students for their work.

Mr. Butcher attended the Regional Planning Commission on April 7, 2010. He attended the Beyond the Books meeting on April 8, 2010; readings have begun on grant applications. Awards will be given later this month.

Ms. Webster attended the production of "*Thoroughly Modern Millie*" at BHS and was very impressed with the performance. Ms. Webster also attended the Washington School Carnival.

Mrs. Roth attended "*Thoroughly Modern Millie*" at BHS; the performance was excellent.

Mrs. Yount attended the Band Extravaganza at BHS for students in Grades 5-12, as well as the production of "*Thoroughly Modern Millie*". Both of these were excellent performances.

Mr. Harrison thanked Dr. Nielsen, Dr. Reilly and Mr. Moore for the recent meeting in preparing for a mentoring session he will be involved with on Saturday, April 17th. This will be a great help in ensuring that our students meet graduation requirements.

Mr. Dirks attended the Band Extravaganza at BHS and stated that this was a great concert.

Mr. David Wood presented proposed changes for the Student/Parent Handbooks and fees for 2010-11.

I. Fees

Breakfast	
Elementary	\$ 1.50
Jr. High	\$ 1.75
High School	\$ 1.75
Adult	\$ 2.00
Lunch	
Elementary	\$ 2.00
Jr. High	\$ 2.50
High School	\$ 2.50
Adult Elementary	\$ 3.00
Adult Secondary	\$ 3.25

II. Amend the "Building Security, Safety and Emergencies" Section to Make the "Automatic Phone System" Statement a Stand-Alone Paragraph:

The District may use an automated phone system to call parents with important information, particularly during an emergency or the cancellation of school due to weather. The District will use phone numbers provided during registration. To insure you receive such telephone calls, please make sure your child's school has your current phone numbers on record.

III. Elementary Handbook

A. Amend the "Student Information" Section Regarding the "Admission and Age Requirements" Paragraph

Admission and Age Requirements

Any child whose fifth (5th) birthday occurs on or before September 1 may enter Kindergarten at the opening of school. Any child whose sixth (6th) birthday occurs on or before December 31st may enter first grade at the opening of school provided they meet the following requirements:

- Attended pre-school and Kindergarten.
- Pre-school and Kindergarten program was taught by a certified teacher.
- Demonstrate readiness for the first grade curriculum.

Children ages 3 to 21 years with exceptional needs who qualify for special education services are eligible for admission.

Students enrolling in the District for the first time or re-enrolling must present a Certified Birth Certificate, as well as proof of residency within District 87, immunization from disease as required by state law, and the required physical examination.

B. Amend the "Attendance and Absences" Section Regarding the "Absences" Paragraph

Absences

The District considers the following three categories of absences:

- Excused
- Official
- Unexcused

Excused Absences

Excused absences include make-up privileges with full credit, including a reasonable amount of help from teachers. District 87 considers the following circumstances to be valid causes for a student's absence.

- Illness of the student. However, a student reported absent and seen about the community, after being reported sick, will be declared unexcused. Students may be required to present medical documentation upon return to school.
- Illness or death in the student's family.
- Early dismissal for medical appointments.
- Court appearances of student.
- Observance of a religious holiday.
- Situations which cause reasonable concern to the parent(s), guardian(s), or other persons having custody or control of an enrolled student for the safety or health of the student.
- Other situations beyond the control of the student as approved by the Board of Education, the Superintendent, or by the building's principal.

Any requests for make-up work should be made 24 hours in advance and can be picked up in the office after 3:00 p.m. the following day.

Students who are absent from school for any reason other than an official or excused (except illness) absence may not attend any school function for the remainder of the absence date.

Special request for early dismissal, such as dentist or doctor appointment, should be made in writing by the parent and/or legal guardians.

- The note should be presented to the teacher before class begins.
- Students must check out at the main office before leaving.
- If a student returns to the building after checking out, he/she must be checked in at the main office by an adult.

Failure to follow the above procedures will result in the absence being classified as unapproved.

Official Absences

If a student is absent from school as a member of a school team, organization, or other representation of the school, arrangements for make-up procedures shall be made in advance of the absence.

Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences will be absences not mentioned in the preceding groups. Absences for reasons that can normally be completed outside the school hours will be unapproved. Work must be made-up for all absences, and

it is the student's responsibility to gather the work and hand to the teacher. The following are listed as examples of unapproved absences:

- Truancy from school or class
- Leaving school without permission from any school official
- Shopping, babysitting, being out-of-town, and/or vacations
- Leaving class without permission from the teacher
- Suspension (out-of-school)
- Missing the bus
- Parent appointments

Teachers ~~will not be~~ are not expected to provide assignments in advance for anticipated absences.

III. BJHS Handbook - No changes

IV. BHS Handbook

A. Amend the "Removal from School-Sponsored Events and/or Extra-Curricular Activities" Form

One of the major objectives of formal education is to teach the principles of good citizenship and of taking responsibility for one's actions **at all times**.

- Students who display unacceptable behavior at any time, whether ~~or~~ not such behavior is on school property, or at a school sponsored event or activity, or when school is not in session, should not be entitled to the privilege ~~of being able to engage~~ participating in activities designed to promote the image of the District 87 student body and prepare students for good citizenship. Therefore, students who display unacceptable conduct ~~at any time~~ may be declared by the School Administration to be ineligible to participate in school-sponsored events and/or extra-curricular activities ~~for a period not to exceed three (3) school months. The committee may schedule the starting date of the ineligibility. In the case of a subsequent infraction, or conviction, (or juvenile adjudication) of a serious crime, the committee may impose a longer penalty, which may include permanent ineligibility.~~
- ~~Prior to taking such action,~~ A committee consisting of the activity's head coach or sponsor, the immediate supervisor, the Assistant Principal, and the Principal will meet to discuss and consider the facts, circumstances, type of offense and possible ineligibility. Three (3) of the four committee members must agree that ineligibility is appropriate and the length of the ineligibility. The standard period of ineligibility shall be three (3) months; however, the committee may reduce the length of ineligibility for a first offense in exchange for approved community service or increase the length of ineligibility for subsequent infractions, conviction (or juvenile adjudication) of a crime, or the serious nature of the infraction. The committee will schedule the starting date of the ineligibility.
- ~~A student declared ineligible may appeal the decision, in writing, to the Superintendent of Schools within five (5) calendar days of the committee's decision.~~

- The Principal and Athletic Director may exclude a student charged with a serious crime pending completion of a legal investigation or conclusion of a trial.
- Individual teams, activities, and clubs may have more stringent rules. These will shall be communicated to athletes in writing the first day of tryout or at the organizational meeting and will shall be returned signed by the parent before the student is allowed to attend the third day of tryouts or become an active participant.

STUDENT SIGNATURE

DATE

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

Routine changes to names, dates, picture and other facts; changes to correct spelling and grammar; and editorial changes for non-policy purposes are being made but are not specifically described above.

Ms. Webster asked why a proposal is being made to eliminate the appeal process for extra-curricular activities. Dr. Nielsen stated that in his tenure as Superintendent, there has never been an appeal. It is the Administration's feeling that the coaches, principal and Athletic Director have the information and ability to make the necessary decisions.

Mrs. Roth said even though the appeal process has not been used in the past, she feels that there should be someone at the next level of authority (outside the school) as a possible independent third party.

Ms. Webster asked about the student and parent/guardian being part of the committee. Mr. Wood said they are not members of the committee but do attend the meeting.

Mr. Harrison stated that if there has not been an appeal, he understands why the Administration would propose to eliminate the appeal language.

The Board unanimously agreed to leave the current appeal language in the handbook. The Board wants the Athletic Director included on the committee if the infraction involves an athlete, and they want the parent to be part of the process if they so choose.

Mr. Harrison stated that since the handbook is a tool that all parents see regarding the school year, he would like to see something added to the BHS and BJHS handbook regarding graduation requirements and the fact that jr. high students can earn credits toward high school graduation requirements. Mr. Wood stated that the requirements are in the handbook but more language can be added.

Ms. Webster stated that fees have not been raised for the past five years and asked why, in light of the budget deficit, we are not raising fees for 2010-11. Mr. Wood explained the process for free/reduced fees and stated that families are already stretched thin. He further stated that given our 50% free/reduced lunch recipients, raising fees would not generate that much income.

Dr. Nielsen suggested that the Board look at other districts' fees.

Ms. Webster asked for an explanation of the September 1st birthday cutoff date for Kindergarten students.

Dr. Hill stated that the law requires a child to be five (5) by September 1st of a given year to enroll in Kindergarten for that school year. If a child goes to a private school for Kindergarten and then comes to public school for 1st grade, we follow certain guidelines to determine if the child is ready for 1st grade. In some cases, the child will go to 1st grade; in other cases, the child will repeat Kindergarten.

Dr. Nielsen presented the following Board Policies for first reading:

- 2.200 (School Board Meetings)
- 4.110 (Transportation) Mrs. Roth stated that there should be a hyphen between "pre" and "trip" on page 2.
- 4.120 (Food Services)
- 4.130 (Free and Reduced-Price Food Services) Mr. Dirks stated that in the notification section, there should be a comma after informational media.
- 4.150 (Facility Management and Building Programs)
- 4.160 (Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds)
- 4.170 (Safety Program) Mr. Butcher stated that the second sentence in the paragraph should be stricken (redundant with the first sentence).
- 6.050 (School Wellness) Ms. Webster asked about nutrition guidelines and language pertaining to healthy weight. Dr. Hill stated that the Curriculum Content Mandates will include that language.
- 8.070 (Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities)

It was moved by Mr. Butcher, seconded by Mr. Harrison that the Consent Agenda (Human Resources Report, Bills, FOIA Report, Payroll, Treasurer's Report, Financial Summary, WAVES Contract, Bent Elementary School Renovations Bid Recommendation, District Custodial Supplies Bid Recommendation) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 04-14-10/1)

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Ms. Webster, that Board Policy 2.250 (Access to District Public Records) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 04-14-10/2)

It was moved by Mr. Butcher, seconded by Ms. Webster, that the Amended 2009-10 Calendar be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 04-14-10/3)

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Ms. Webster, that Jeff Geringer be appointed Principal for Bent Elementary School beginning August 1, 2010. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

It was moved by Ms. Webster, seconded by Mrs. Yount, that Leslie Alappattu be appointed Assistant Principal for Bloomington Jr. High School

beginning August 1, 2010. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mr. Harrison, that BHS' membership in the Illinois High School Association be renewed. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

President

Secretary