

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 28, 2010

6:30 P.M.

Educational Services Center

Ms. Wilma Gleason, Board Secretary, established a quorum and the following Members were present: Mr. John Dirks, Dr. Steve Perry, Ms. Judith Webster, Mrs. Mary Yount, and Mr. Michael Harrison, Board Vice President.

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

Mr. Harrison presented the Minutes for approval. It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mrs. Yount, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on April 14, 2010, be approved. Upon a roll call vote, Mr. Dirks, Ms. Webster, Mrs. Yount and Mr. Harrison voted "Aye." Dr. Perry abstained. Motion carried.

The Board and Administration congratulated the Bloomington Jr. High School Wrestling Team and Coaches Phillip March and Denny Herald for their recent Illinois Elementary School Association's State Wrestling Championship. BJHS' wrestling team is undefeated the past two years.

Ms. Webster - No report.

Mrs. Yount attended the Administrative Assistant luncheon on April 22nd, and the BHS National Honor Society induction on April 27th; forty-six students were inducted.

Dr. Perry attended the Administrative Assistant luncheon and the BHS National Honor Society induction. He also attended Bent Elementary School's book exhibition. Every student in the school wrote and illustrated their own book, and parents were invited to the exhibition.

BHS' school newspaper class will become an extra-curricular activity next year, and a student contacted the Board regarding this change. Dr. Perry emailed the teacher and volunteered to speak to the newspaper class at BHS; to date, he hasn't heard back from the teacher.

Mr. Dirks attended the BHS National Honor Society induction and stated this is one of the most enjoyable events of the school year.

Mr. Harrison reminded Board members to email Mrs. Roth regarding committee assignments.

Mr. Harrison attended the BHS National Honor Society induction and the Administrative Assistant luncheon. Mr. Harrison suggested that the administration look at ways to recognize BHS students in the Student Center (as we do athletes) who are not always in the spotlight.

Mrs. Rebecca Francois presented the Special Education Workload Planning for 2010-11 as follows:

The Illinois special education regulations state that each district shall adopt a plan which establishes limits on the work load of special education educators so that all of the services on a student's individualized education plan (IEP) can be provided at the level specified on the IEP.

The workload of special education educators is based upon an analysis of the activities for which the District's special education personnel are responsible.

1. Individualized instruction is special designed so that it meets the unique needs of the student that result from the student's disability and ensures access to the general education curriculum and provides educational benefit for the student. The individualized instruction is delineated on the student's IEP. The amount of instruction varies based upon the severity of the student's disability.
2. Special education educators consult, collaborate, and problem solve with numerous groups including, but not limited to, general education teachers, administration, program assistants, parents, private service providers, and other special education instructional and support personnel.
3. Attendance at IEP meetings is required for special educators. The IEP delineates all specially designed instruction and support services and provides the foundation for free appropriate public education for students with disabilities.
4. Special education educators are often required to complete paperwork and reporting related to the IEP and student instruction.

The Bloomington Education Association (BEA) and the District agree to the following plan related to workload of special educators.

1. District will work to ensure that there is sufficient staff available so that all services required under students' IEPs can be provided at the requisite level of intensity.
2. District will not exceed class sizes established by the Illinois State Board of Education.
3. District will review its targeted staffing patterns annually.
4. District will conduct a survey annually of the workload of all special educators.
5. District will maintain a district workload committee whose membership will consist of a special education teacher, related service provider, Director of Human Resources, building principal and Director of Special Education. The special educator will be appointed by the BEA. The committee will meet on an as-needed basis and will assist in monitoring district work.
6. Each semester, special education case managers will review all his/her students' IEPs and ensure that IEP services are in place and all regular education staff have signed acknowledgements on IlliniData that they have reviewed and will implement the student's IEP's modifications and adaptations.
7. All concerns regarding workload must be made on the basis that the special educator is unable to ensure that the students with IEPs, for whom the special educator is responsible, are being provided the free, appropriate education to which they are entitled. If a special educator has concerns regarding his/her schedule and ability to meet their workload, the following will occur:
 - Step 1 - The special educator will schedule a meeting with his/her building principal to discuss the concerns.
 - Step 2 - If the concerns cannot be resolved at the building level, the special educator should request a meeting with the Director of Special Education. The special educator may be

requested to bring samples of schedules including service minutes, consultation time and other requirements that gives the special educator concern regarding his/her workload. Related Service Personnel begin at this Step.

- Step 3 - The special education administrator will review the workload information and make changes which, in the opinion and discretion of the administrator, are necessary.
- Step 4 - If the above steps leave the problem unresolved, the concern will go to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

Special Education Teachers in Settings that are 100% Special Education

	Class Size Limit with Teacher Only	Class Size Limit with Teacher and a Classroom Paraprofessional
Early Childhood Education	5	10
Students with 20% or less Special Ed Services	15	17
Students with 21-60% Special Education Services	10	15
Students with 60% or more Special Education Services	8	13

Related Service Providers Guidelines

Position	Typical # of students serviced	Recommendation of Professional Organizations
Speech and Language Therapist	1:50-60	1:60
Occupational Therapist	Determined annually based on location and program needs	
Physical Therapist	Determined annually based on location and program needs	
School Social Worker	1:806-1:1025	1:400-1:900
School Psychologists	1:11128	1:1000

Dr. Perry asked about the size limits for special education classrooms. Ms. Francois stated that limits are established by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Ms. Webster asked if there are expectations for special education teachers, i.e., how many hours they spend teaching, planning, etc. Mrs. Francois stated that in the past, resource teachers could not have more than twenty students per class, and instructional teachers would have fifteen students per class. Illinois now looks at the amount of services students have rather than the number of students a teacher serves. That is the reason there are class size regulations. Students with more than 60% of their day in special education have to be in smaller classes. The focus has changed, and the workload for teachers went into effect to make sure there are sufficient levels of staff so teachers can deliver services to the students.

Ms. Webster asked if this will be done for non-special education teachers. Dr. Reilly stated that there are procedures in place that determine teachers'

workloads.

Mr. David Wood presented proposed changes for the Student/Parent Handbooks and fees for 2010-11. Mr. Wood explained that the administration would bring back comparative fee information in the fall, that high school graduation requirements would be added to the BHS and BJHS Handbook, and that changes recommended by the Board were made to the BHS Extra-curricular Code of Conduct. Specifically, the appeal process to the Superintendent was restored, the Athletic Director was made a permanent member of the committee and parents were authorized to participate in the committee process.

Dr. Perry and Ms. Webster asked several questions about the unacceptable behavior that triggers this policy. For instance, they wondered whether there is a list of unacceptable behaviors so students know what is considered unacceptable and whether this gives leeway to the administration to select types of unacceptable behaviors (speeding, reckless driving, vandalism, etc.). Dr. Reilly said there is no such list; however, the Assistant Principals meet with all students each year and, in reviewing this policy, provide verbal examples. Coaches also provide specific guidelines.

Mr. Wood said the change is an attempt to allow the committee to be more lenient in allowing students to perform community service as opposed to the current policy of excluding a student from extra-curricular activities for one-third of a season. The BHS administration is working on language for this policy.

Dr. Reilly said it is the administration's goal to provide opportunities for students who make mistakes. If a student is willing to perform community service, a reduction in suspension from extra-curricular activities may be considered.

Ms. Webster asked that language be added to state that students involved in extra-curricular activities were held to a higher standard.

Dr. Perry asked about changes made to the elementary handbook regarding why absences, specifically why an absence is considered unexcused if students are reported ill but then are seen in the community. He gave the example of a child with a fever at night who could not go to school for 24 hours after the fever breaks but who might feel well enough the next day to go out into the community (i.e., grocery store, pharmacy, etc.). Dr. Reilly stated that we can change the language from "will" to "may." Dr. Hill stated that this is mostly an issue at the high school.

Dr. Perry also suggested that there be flexibility for absences due to parent appointments. Mr. Wood stated that the ultimate goal is to have children in school, and that a parental appointment should not generally excuse a child from school. Dr. Hill stated that in the excused portion of the policy, there are provisions for a principal to excuse a student in the case of a parental appointment.

Dr. Reilly stated that, in his experience, administrators use judgment and look at things on a case-by-case basis and take into account a student's prior attendance record when determining absences. The overall goal is to have students be in class.

Dr. Perry also asked about the requirement for a child to attend pre-school and Kindergarten before entering the district at 1st grade. Mr. Wood

explained that this change was to reflect state law and Dr. Hill explained that this applied to students who come to us as 1st graders and who did not attend public school pre-school or Kindergarten.

Dr. Nielsen recommended that this discussion be tabled until the next Board meeting when Mr. Tim Moore, BHS Principal, and Mr. John Szabo, Athletic Director, can be in attendance.

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

- 2.200 (School Board Meetings)
- 4.110 (Transportation)
- 4.120 (Food Services)
- 4.130 (Free and Reduced-Price Food Services)

Dr. Perry asked for a definition of informational media. He also asked for clarification as to "all school newsletters" and if this means all newsletters sent throughout the year. Dr. Nielsen said the intent is to disseminate the information in various forms of media at the beginning of the school year.

- 4.150 (Facility Management and Building Programs)
- 4.160 (Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds)
- 4.170 (Safety Program)

At the bottom of page 2, language states that "...the student is covered under a family health insurance plan." Dr. Perry would like the language changed to read "...the student is covered under another health insurance plan."

- 6.050 (School Wellness)

Dr. Perry stated that under "Goals for Physical Activity", it states that "Unless otherwise exempted, all students will be required to engage daily during the school day in physical activity." Dr. Perry does not feel that this is happening now in all schools in that there is encouragement at some schools to join "recess readers" instead of physical activity. Dr. Hill will see how often recess readers meets each week. She further stated that "Unless otherwise exempted..." covers recess readers.

Dr. Perry stated that he feels that the portion of the policy under "Nutrition Guidelines" reiterates policy 4.120. Dr. Nielsen stated that this policy is trying to restrict outside vendors from competing with District 87's Food Service.

- 8.070 (Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities)

Illinois State Representative Dan Brady addressed the Board regarding the State's funding and budget. Leaders continue to meet and are considering a number of different scenarios. Lawmakers are keenly aware of the money currently owed to District 87 as well as others across the state. Two general state aid payments are due; Brady does not know if they will be paid this year or rolled over into next year.

The Human Resources Report was removed from the Consent Agenda and added to Board Action.

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Dr. Perry, that the Consent Agenda (Bills, FOIA Report, Payroll, Treasurer's Report, Financial Summary) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 04-28-10/1)

Dr. Nielsen stated that an end-of-the-year calendar will be distributed to Board Members in the next few days. He encouraged Board Members to attend events as their schedules allow.

It was moved by Dr. Perry, seconded by Ms. Webster, that the Judge John M. Scott Education Trust Annual Report 2009 be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 04-28-10/2)

It was moved by Mrs. Yount, seconded by Mr. Dirks, that Ms. Fehrenbacher be appointed Director of Food Service beginning July 1, 2010. Ms. Fehrenbacher will replace Mrs. Connie Mueller who is retiring on June 30, 2010. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

It was moved by Dr. Perry, seconded by Mrs. Yount, that the Human Resources Report be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 04-28-10-3)

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

President

Secretary