

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 26, 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. Joe Butcher, Mr. Mike Harrison, Dr. Steve Perry, Ms. Judith Webster, Mrs. Mary Yount, Mrs. Millicent Roth, and Mr. John Dirks, Board President.

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

Mr. Dirks began the public hearing on the Bloomington Area Career Center and McLean/Dewitt Regional Vocational System for 2009-10 by stating, "In accordance with Section 17-1 of the School Code, the Board of Education will now hold a public hearing on the 2010 budgets for the Area Career Center and the Regional Vocational System.

The ACC and RVS prepared tentative budgets for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 which this Board reviewed at its June 12, 2009 meeting.

The tentative budgets have 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 budgets was published in *The Pantagraph* on June 12, 2009. The tentative budgets are on display in the rear of the room.

During the public hearing, Tom Frazier, Director of the ACC and RVS, will summarize the budgets and the Board and members of the public will be given an opportunity to discuss the budgets.

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

At this time, Mr. Frazier will present a summary of the 2010 budgets.

Is there any discussion from the Board?

Is there any discussion from the public?

The Public Hearing is now concluded."

Mr. Dirks presented the Minutes for approval. Mrs. Roth stated that the minutes should be changed to reflect that she (not Mr. Dirks) presented minutes for approval. It was moved by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Butcher, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on August 12, 2009, be approved. Upon a roll call vote, Mr. Butcher, Mr. Harrison, Ms. Webster, Mrs. Yount, Mrs. Roth and Mr. Dirks voted "Aye." Dr. Perry abstained. Motion carried.

Mr. Harrison - No report.

Dr. Perry stated that he helped volunteer at the Back to School event/backpack distribution held at Horton Field House and was impressed at this community outreach. He further stated that it has been good to see the new cafeteria at BHS.

Mrs. Yount recently met with the Facilities Committee.

Mr. Butcher attended the Planning Session for Beyond the Books Educational Foundation. Proposed changes and a fundraising effort were discussed.

Mrs. Webster - No report.

Mrs. Roth - No report.

Mr. Dirks also recently attended the Facilities Committee meeting.

Mr. Colin Manahan presented the Facilities Improvement Plan and work that was completed over the summer. This is the sixth year of major facility improvements which included the following:

- Classrooms and hallway renovations at Bent, Irving, Sheridan and Stevenson (new lights, ceilings and paint).
- District asbestos abatement in classrooms, hallways, cafeteria, kitchen and stairwells at Bent, Raymond and BHS in preparation for new floor coverings.
- District flooring replacement in classrooms and hallways at Bent, Raymond, Sheridan, Stevenson, BJHS, BHS and the ESC. This included new vinyl composition tile in all of the schools and new carpeting at the ESC.
- Paving of parking lots and driveways at Oakland and the ESC. This process began in the summer of 2004 and is now 100% complete.
- District roof replacement started in the summer of 2004. Roofs have now been replaced at Oakland, Sheridan, Stevenson, BJHS and the ESC.
- District clock system replacement process started this year and is expected to be done over the next five years. Oakland, Sheridan, and Irving's intercom systems were replaced this summer.
- District light sensor installation process started this summer and is expected to be done over the next five years. Stevenson and Washington have sensors installed in all classrooms and hallways.
- District intercom system replacement process started this summer and is expected to be done over the next five years. Oakland and Sheridan's intercom systems were replaced this summer.
- District boiler replacement process started in 2004 and is now done. This summer the boiler and associated equipment was replaced at Washington School.
- District exterior wall repairs - The west cul-de-sac south wall at Bent was tuckpointed this summer, and the north wall in the IMC at BJHS was sealed this summer.

Dr. Perry inquired as to the absence of a large tree that used to be at Bent and is now gone. There is currently a large dirt space where the tree once was, and he wondered if another tree would be planted. Mr. Manahan will check into this.

Ms. Webster asked how much asbestos is left to be abated. Mr. Manahan stated that 75% of all flooring hasn't been replaced in the district; this is all asbestos. He further stated that flooring is one of the last things done in remodeling.

Mr. Dirks thanked Mr. Manahan and his staff for all their work over the summer.

Dr. Teresa Hill presented the 2009 Summer School report.

Summer School Programs include:

- Elementary Summer School
- Extended School Year (ESY)

- BJHS Summer School
- Transition Program - Raider 101
- Early Start Program at Sheridan Elementary School

Time Frame:

Elementary Summer School, ESY and BJHS Summer School ran for five weeks beginning one week after the last day of school (June 15-July 16, 2009) (Monday - Thursday) from 8:30 am- 12:00 Noon.

Program Summary:

- Served 321 students
- 90% attendance rate for Summer School
- 87% attendance rate for ESY
- 81% of parents rated the program as "Good" or "Excellent" (first time for a parent survey)
- Approximately 80% of students improved in reading or math based on pre and post assessments.

5th to 6th grade Transition Program:

Program Components:

- Learning about BJHS and meeting teachers and administrators.
- Introduction to middle school study and organizational skills.
- Middle School "survival skills"

8th to 9th grade Transition Program - Raider 101

Program Components:

- Introduction to BHS including meeting teachers and administrators.
- High school "survival" skills
- Mentoring
- Tuition free to recommended students

Dr. Hill stated that the administration has seen a need for more communication with parents.

Mrs. Roth commended the Administration for making the Summer School programs so accessible. She hears often about people who come into District 87 and aren't used to their children having these programs available.

Brian, an audience member, who lives at 1008 E. Grove Street, inquired whether students can volunteer for summer school in conjunction with educator recommendations. Dr. Hill stated that this does not currently happen. She further stated that there is a great deal of interest for summer school programs which are grant funded. There is a limit on the number of students we can serve. Principals are contacted and asked for recommendations of students who need extra help. If recommended students don't attend, the district will then open enrollment up for other students.

Mrs. Roth asked if students could approach principals about attending summer school; Mrs. Hill stated that this does happen.

Dr. Nielsen stated that the enthusiasm of the teachers and students in the Raider 101 program is a true system-wide effort to make this a success. The teachers deserve a lot of credit for the success of this program.

Dr. Teresa Hill and Mrs. Connie Mueller presented the district's Wellness Policy Overview. The wellness committee consists of teachers, parents, administrators, community agency representatives, and Mrs. Mueller. This is an attempt to have a wellness policy that affects our students and staff members.

The District 87 Wellness Committee was created in 2005 as a result of a state mandate. The Policy was adopted in 2006, and wellness surveys were conducted in 2007.

General Schedule & Curriculum:

Elementary:

- Physical Education 3 days/week
- Recess period 5 days/week
- Health topics in science curriculum

Middle School:

- Physical Education 5 days/week
- 9-week Health course in Grade 7
- Body systems units in science curriculum

High School:

- Physical Education 5 days/week
- 1-semester Health course
- Body systems and nutrition instruction in Biology

The point of the Wellness Policy and Committee is to move wellness beyond just something that's studied and into students' everyday lives. The Committee adopted some goals as follows:

- Goal: Provide nutrition education opportunities across the district at all levels with an emphasis on impacting children, parents, faculty, staff and administration in District 87.

Outcome 1: District stakeholders will have the opportunity to participate in an increased number of nutrition education-related activities.

Outcome 2: Develop appropriate and relevant resources and disseminate them among a percentage of faculty, parents and children.

Outcome 3: Identify optimal participation rates by gathering relevant data.

- Goal: Provide PE opportunities across the district at all levels, with an emphasis on impacting children, parents, faculty, staff and administration in District 87.

Outcome 1: "My PE Initiative" will be expanded to include all schools within the district.

Outcome 2: Develop appropriate and relevant resources and disseminate them among a percentage of faculty, parents and children.

Outcome 3: Identify optimal participation rates by gathering relevant data.

- Goal: Provide breakfast and lunch selections that contribute to a well-balanced diet based on the USDA guidelines for the National School Lunch Program.

Outcome 1: Increase availability of nutrient information of school meals in the serving line.

Outcome 2: Increase fruit and vegetable consumption in school meals.

Outcome 3: Expand the variety of fruit and vegetables offered.

- Goal: Create wellness promotions and offer extra-curricular school activities.

Outcome 1: Plan and implement one family activity that contains a wellness component each year at each school.

Outcome 2: Provide staff with a resource guide for planning extra-curricular school activities which includes suggestions for incorporating wellness components.

Dr. Hill stated that the district will continue to work on the goals, look at the questions in the 2007 survey and evaluate the wellness program. There were several areas in which improvement was needed (ex.: more students being able to identify different fruits and vegetables to eat; the favorite food was pizza, etc.)

Mr. Dirks asked Mrs. Mueller about the new equipment in the cafeteria. Mrs. Mueller stated all new equipment was purchased; however, there are no fryers (things that were fried are now baked). One of the eight lines serve baked French fries. Fryers are still being used one day a week at BJHS. More whole grains have been added to the menus in each school. Fruit, vegetable and milk consumption have increased in the district. Dr. Perry asked how consumption is measured. Mrs. Muller stated that students are choosing these items as opposed to having them placed on their plates. In order for the State to reimburse a meal, students must take three of the five offered foods. Cashiers are encouraged to "nudge" the students to try new things.

Dr. Perry stated that he has concerns about the length of time students have to eat their lunch. He has seen that students sometimes do not have time to eat; Mrs. Mueller said this has been discussed at the elementary level. Some students eat slower than others; some are more social. If students need longer to eat, the principals will allow them the opportunity to stay longer to eat. Mrs. Yount stated that at Oakland there are tables set aside for students who haven't finished and who want to finish; that way they are not in the way of the next class coming in.

Ms. Webster asked if there is any discussion of more 1:1 personal teaching of wellness. Dr. Hill stated that if a problem seems to arise or if school staff members see that a particular student is having issues with physical activity, weight issues, etc., this is something which is handled on a case by case basis with the principal/parent, nurse, PE teacher, etc. As students get into the middle school program, they are taught how to monitor themselves and their lifestyles.

Ms. Webster stated that her experience with the university has shown that they also look at spiritual and emotional well-being (mental health issues). Dr. Hill stated that most of what is done in all of our schools is clearly related to wellness but isn't necessarily categorized under the wellness policy; such work is done with counselors and social workers. Our elementary schools teach the "Second Step" program, teaching children to

express when they're upset, concerned, stressed out, etc. This work is done with students but is not part of the wellness program.

It was moved by Mrs. Yount, seconded by Dr. Perry, that the Consent Agenda (Human Resources Report, Bills, Payroll, Treasurer's Report, Financial Summary, BACC Construction Trades Contract w/Habitat for Humanity, Workers Comp Bank Resolution) be approved. Mr. Dirks asked that the Workers Comp Bank Resolution be moved to Board Action. Upon a roll call vote, Mr. Dirks, Mr. Butcher, Mr. Harrison, Dr. Perry, Ms. Webster and Mrs. Yount voted "Aye". Mrs. Roth abstained. Motion carried.

Dr. Nielsen stated that the Back to School Parade at Sheridan is Friday, September 4th, at 9:30 a.m. If Board members are going to walk in the parade, please arrive at 9:00 a.m.

Dr. Nielsen stated that the administration is continuing to monitor enrollments. Several schools' enrollments, as well as the bilingual enrollments, are up this year over last. Mr. Dirks thanked the Human Resource Department for responding to enrollment issues and hiring additional staff members.

Dr. Nielsen stated that Bent is overcapacity at certain grade levels. The district is reconfiguring a current classroom to make two classrooms for the bilingual population and is looking long-term at reconfiguring space at Bent. Dr. Nielsen further stated that as additional students come into register for some of the classrooms that are at capacity, they will transfer in-district. Our Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades significantly outnumber our enrollments in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades.

Ms. Webster asked if the district should look at redistricting. Dr. Nielsen stated that the district has the ability to create additional classrooms at Bent and Washington and is not looking at redistricting.

It was moved by Mr. Butcher, seconded by Mrs. Roth, that the Legal 2010 RVS/ACC Budgets be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

It was moved by Ms. Webster, seconded by Mr. Harrison, that the Consideration and Action on a Resolution Providing for the Issuance of General Obligation School Bonds for the School District be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

It was moved by Dr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Harrison, that the BEA Letter of Understanding- Skills USA Schedule B be approved. Dr. Perry asked for clarification on Skills USA. Dr. Nielsen stated that the Skills USA Advisor is paid an extra duty stipend. Salary Schedule B is for coaches, sponsors, etc. who earn extra duty stipends. Skills USA is part of the Area Career Center and is part of the national group, "Lead the Way" and is related to workplace skills. This sponsor has been paid on an hourly basis in the past, and the district has monitored those hours to understand the time put into this group. As a result of that, this stipend was created. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Mr. Wood explained that a year ago the Board decided to go self-insured for workers compensation. Rimco was selected, and in addition to paying them Third Party Administrator (TPA) fees, funds were set aside to pay claims and for reserves for claims. Rimco established accounts at Busey Bank in their name held in trust for District 87. Last May when Rimco ceased to do business, the district worked with Rimco and Busey Bank to move those accounts back to District 87's name. The district's new TPA doesn't want accounts such as this; therefore, the district planned to leave these funds in CD's until they mature. Busey Bank needs this form signed in order to do so. In May or June, Mr. Dirks, President, and Mrs. Roth, Vice President,

signed the forms presented by Busey Bank. Busey Bank has now informed us they gave us corporate forms to sign instead of the non-profit forms needed.

It was moved by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Roth, that the Workers Comp Bank Resolution be approved. Dr. Perry stated that this confusing because the forms don't say Busey Bank. Ms. Webster asked why there aren't Board members' names on the form. Mr. Wood stated that we put names on the form of those individuals who do the district's financial transactions (Mr. Wood and Mrs. Beverly Keller). Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Butcher, seconded by Ms. Webster, 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. 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:

President

Secretary