

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 14, 2007 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. Joseph Butcher, Mr. John Dirks, Mrs. Millicent Roth, Mr. Mike Harrison, Mrs. Cheryl Jackson, and Mr. Steve Perry.

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

Present from the media was Ms. Sharon Wolfe, The Pantagraph.

Mrs. Jackson presented the October 24, 2007, Minutes for approval and verified that the minutes of the Closed Executive Session on October 24, 2007, were correct. It was moved by Mr. Butcher, seconded by Mr. Dirks that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on October 24, 2007, and the Minutes of the Closed Executive Session on October 24, 2007, be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Dr. Silvey, Principal at Bloomington Jr. High School, introduced Debben Pettie, a 7th grader at BJHS, who entered the "Got Milk" essay contest along with hundreds of entries and won \$1000 for BJHS. Debben will be involved in deciding how the money is spent. The Administration and Board congratulated her on her initiative, efforts, and winning the award for the school.

Mr. Dirks attended a Beyond the Books Directors' meeting. As of October 2007, \$15,000 has been raised. He also reported that the facilities committee recently met at BHS and Sheridan to review proposed construction work. The Achievement Gap Task Force committee recently met and are making strides to allow teachers to have information at their fingertips that hasn't been so readily accessible before by the end of the 2008-09 school year.

Mrs. Jackson reported, as the District 87 Board Delegate to the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) at the Annual Conference in November, on the following proposed resolutions and asked for any comments on the Resolutions Committee recommendations:

- Requirement for the State to fund gifted education; Resolutions Committee recommends that this be adopted.
- Requirement to use at least part of a state mandated exam in a district's graduation requirements; Resolutions Committee recommends that this not be adopted.
- Promote the consolidation of all Illinois school districts into Unit districts; Resolutions Committee recommends that this not be adopted.
- Requirement to require full funding of early childhood programs; Resolutions Committee recommends that this be adopted.
- Requirement to change the words "school term" in language regarding non-resident student tuition. Currently, the law says that if you start a school term in a district, you can finish that term. The use of the words "school term" has been interpreted as the school year.

The proposal is to change the wording to state that a student will have free tuition and may remain at the district until the end of the grading period with an exception for seniors who would be allowed to finish the school year; Resolutions Committee recommends that this be adopted. Dr. Perry stated that he opposes it because of the continuity of the curriculum during the school year, not the middle of the year; all others are in favor.

- Proposal to require IASB to support state aid legislation prior to June 30th; Resolutions Committee recommends that this not be adopted.
- Current tax cap legislation has no ending date. If a county adopts tax caps, there's never an end. In the past, IASB has lobbied to require a sunset of those laws (4 years after they're passed). Proposal is that the current legislation continue (no end to tax caps); Resolutions Committee recommends that this not be adopted (keep with current position seeking a sunset provision). Dr. Perry agrees with the current legislation; all others agree with Resolutions Committee. Dr. Perry abstains as he stated he doesn't know enough about the tax cap legislation.
- Illinois School Code puts restrictions on when school bus strobe lights may be used (vehicle speed, occupancy, weather conditions or locale). Proposal to allow buses to use strobe lights at all times; Resolutions Committee recommends that this be adopted.
- Proposal regarding residency (according to custody) to change the law to allow a district who is losing one or more students to another district to appeal residency question to the Regional Superintendent who would then investigate the situation and make a ruling in 30 days; Resolutions Committee recommends that this not be adopted.
- Promote the consolidation of all Illinois school districts into Unit districts; Resolutions Committee recommends that this not be adopted.
- Promote legislation to prohibit a person from serving on a school board where they're enrolled as a student due to conflict of interest; Resolutions Committee recommends that this be adopted.
- Promote legislation to change election days from Tuesdays to Saturdays due to security concerns on school days; Resolutions Committee recommends that this not be adopted.
- Proposal that IASB shall support staffing and infrastructure costs for early childhood programs with new monies; Resolutions Committee recommends that this be adopted.

Mr. Butcher reported that he attended the regional planning commission meeting last week and was impressed with what they do.

Dr. Perry attended the memorial service for Mrs. Ellen Smith at Sheridan, and stated that, after hearing what teachers, students, colleagues, etc., had to say about her, everyone would want Mrs. Smith as their teacher. He also reported that he dropped in on the state chess tournament and we had several students who did very well.

Mrs. Roth again commended the Board and the Administration for the decisions made regarding landscaping, school facades, etc., and how important a role they play when people are deciding where to send their children to school. She feels the appearance of a building/district gives a first impression.

Mr. Wood, Chief Financial and Legal Officer, presented the 2007 Levy Report to explain the assumptions behind the property tax levy which will fund the 2009 budget. Mr. Wood pointed out that property tax revenues are approximately 60% of total education fund revenues and they arrive early in the year and can be invested. Mr. Wood explained that the levy is the maximum amount the Board estimates it needs from the property tax in 2009. He stated that the County will ultimately calculate a lower amount to extend in tax bills once it knows the actual Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) of the district. He noted that the Board must estimate this amount well before the budget year in which it will be used and must make many assumptions and estimates of expenditures and revenues from other sources to calculate the levy amount. The fiscal outlook for state and federal funds is bleak and the District is likely to become increasingly reliant on the property tax. Mr. Wood estimated that the District needed a minimum of \$26M from the property tax in 2009. He noted that the levy assumes 6% EAV growth but actual growth will probably be closer to 3%, the amount it grew in the current year. At 6% EAV growth, the District will receive approximately \$27M for the education fund and the tax rate will go down a few cents. At 3% EAV growth, the District will receive approximately \$26.5M and the tax rate will remain the same as this year.

Dr. Nielsen presented the following Board of Education Policies for First Reading: 1.20 (District Organization, Operations and Cooperative Agreements), 2.125 (Board Member Expenses), 4.180 (Pandemic Preparedness), 5.130 (Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information), 5.186 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity), and 7.090 (Release During School Hours).

Mr. Tim Moore, BHS Principal, proposed the following curriculum changes at BHS for the 2008-09 school year:

New Courses proposed include:

- Senior English Workshop - This course is designed as a year-long integration and sequencing of reading and writing skill work for students performing below grade level.
- ESL Workshop - This course is designed to focus on reading strategies, content area vocabulary and study skills that students can implement in content area courses. This is along with receiving assistance with projects, assignments and assessments in content area classes.
- 9th Grade Algebra I - The implementation of Algebra I-Part I for 8th graders at the Junior High has created the need for the class to cover the second semester of the Algebra curriculum. Students successfully completing the course will receive high school credit for Algebra I.
 - Course description changes as follows:
 - ✓ AVC Name Changes:
 - Graphic Arts Occupations I & II to Digital Media/Graphic Arts I & II

- Computer Servicing I & II to A+ Computer Repair/Digital Electronics Cisco Networking
- ✓ AVC courses now offering dual credit with Heartland Community College:
 - Employment Prep/Internship I & II
 - Cisco Networking
 - Computerized Architectural Design
 - Construction Trades I
 - Digital Media/Graphic Arts I
 - Metalworking Occupations I & II

These course recommendations will be brought back for Board consideration in December.

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mr. Perry, that the Consent Agenda (Human Resource Report, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Payroll, and Health/Life Safety Statements of Completion) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted "Aye." Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 11-14-07/1)

Dr. Nielsen wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He also stated that Board Action D will be a recommendation to cancel the November 28th board meeting. Traditionally, there is only one Board meeting in November. Due to the calendar this year, there was a second one scheduled.

It was moved by Mrs. Roth, seconded by Mr. Harrison, that the Resolution to Estimate Necessary Property Tax Revenues (2007 Levy/2009 Budget) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted "Aye." Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 11-14-07/2)

It was moved by Dr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Butcher that the Resolution to Amend Board of Education Policy 7.110 (Student Transfers) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted "Aye." Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 11-14-07/3)

It was moved by Mrs. Roth, seconded by Mr. Dirks that the HMO Insurance Rates for 2008-09 be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted "Aye." Motion carried. See with Original Minutes, Attachment 11-14-07/4)

It was moved by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Dr. Perry that the Regular Session of the Board of Education Meeting scheduled for November 28, 2007 be cancelled. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted "Aye." Motion carried.

There was no public comment.

The Board congratulated Dr. Reilly on earning his PhD.

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

Approved:

Attest:

President

Secretary