

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

October 14, 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. Michael Harrison, Dr. Steve Perry, 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.

Mr. Dirks presented the Minutes for approval. It was moved by Ms. Webster, seconded by Mr. Butcher, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on September 23, 2009, be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Dr. Nielsen introduced Mr. John Szabo, BHS Athletic Director, and Mr. Bob Loy, National Federation of State High School Association's Illinois 2008-09 Boys' Swim Coach of the Year. Mr. Loy has coached at BHS for 31 years and has had 39 boys and girls win state swim meet medals individually or on relays; of those, 23 were also All-Americans. The Board and administration thanked and congratulated Mr. Loy for his years of dedicated teaching and coaching.

Mr. Butcher - No report.

Ms. Webster attended the community-wide open house and the Homecoming Dance at Bloomington High School and was impressed with the students' behavior.

Mrs. Roth asked Board members to bring proposed Illinois Association of School Board policy changes on October 28th for discussion regarding District 87's position and how the Board prefers to vote. She attended the Hall of Fame Dinner, the Academic Monogram Award Ceremony, and the football game during Homecoming week. She and Dr. Nielsen attended the NAACP forum on October 8, 2009; she felt it was a good forum and provided an opportunity to answer questions from community members in trying to build relationships. One thing that stood out to her was that the Superintendents in our community spend a lot of time educating the community on the happenings in the school districts. She commended Dr. Nielsen and Dr. Niehaus for the work they put in; it is very much appreciated. She encouraged Board members to tell others the "good news" in District 87.

Mr. Harrison - No report.

Dr. Perry recently attended the Corn Belt Regional School Board meeting. He informed the Board that there have been proposals at the state level for transferring pension liability for teachers (\$800,000,000) to school districts. There was also discussion regarding a law proposed for students of military personnel transferring into a district. The proposed policy would require students to be placed in classes that are the same as those they came from if they are available. This could include transporting

students to another school district if another district has the course(s). There was discussion regarding the federal stimulus money; states must meet many requirements to qualify for the funds. Dr. Perry also attended a lengthy session on the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). There are a lot of potential costs to school districts when complying with FOIA. Dr. Perry attended the academic monogram ceremony and is glad the district recognizes students in this way. He also attended the Hall of Fame dinner and had a great time.

Mrs. Yount attended the recent Beyond the Books meeting. Fundraising ideas were discussed as well as a grant writing workshop in the near future. She attended the community-wide open house, the academic monogram ceremony, the Hall of Fame dinner, and football game during Homecoming week. The marching band was outstanding.

Mr. Dirks attended many Homecoming week activities. Dr. Nielsen and Mr. Dirks attended the City of Bloomington Council Meeting on Monday, October 12, 2009. The West Market Street TIF area will expire in the near future and will possibly be extended. The downtown TIF ends on December 31, 2009. For purposes of consideration and EAV, when the TIF was established in 1986, those properties were valued at \$15.4 million; they are now valued at \$31.9 million. During the 23 years of the TIF district, District 87 didn't have access to the difference between the two. The City of Bloomington recently discovered that there are unused funds in the TIF district amounting to \$1.9 million that has to be spent or contracted for by December 31, 2009. If these funds are not used, they will be distributed to the taxing bodies. Four aldermen expressed that they would like some of the funds to go to the taxing bodies; we probably won't know if we will receive funds until January 2010.

Ms. Stephanie Ramsey, Gorenz & Associates, reported on the District 87 Audit for 2008-09. In summary:

Total cash received: \$53,225,020, up \$1,044,765 over 2008
Total cash expenditures: \$52,842,948, up \$1,401,223 over 2008
Excess cash revenue received: \$382,072, down \$356,458 over 2008

Sources of Operating Revenues:

Real Estate Taxes - 60%
Federal Flow Through - 11%
General State Aid - 8%
Other Local Sources - 14%
Other State Sources - 7%

Total Operating Fund Expenditures: \$52,842,948

Ms. Ramsey stated that the audit went very well and feels that District 87's administration and staff are very good and highly knowledgeable.

Ms. Ramsey said the opinion of the Audit Report is an unqualified opinion under the regulatory basis of accounting. It is adverse under the general accepted accounting principal because we do not have the GASB 34 reporting in it. Under the regulatory basis, from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the District has an unqualified report which is the best report the District can have.

Mr. Dirks thanked Ms. Ramsey for her report and stated the Board appreciates the hard work of Dr. Nielsen, Mr. Wood and Mrs. Beverly Keller, Director of Accounting.

Dr. Teresa Hill presented the Student Achievement Report as follows:

Decisions are data driven:

1. How should we improve, strengthen or enhance our curriculum?
 - Standards alignment and articulation
 - Scope, sequence and priorities
2. What kind of instruction will meet the needs of each student and all students?
 - Strategies
 - Fidelity, expectations, focus & intensity
3. What strategic interventions need to be provided to students who struggle?
 - Who? What? How much? How long?
4. What kind of enrichment should we provide to ensure that every student is engaged and challenged?

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
- High School Student Achievement Goals
 - ✓ Improved test scores for all students in all populations
 - ✓ 80% of all students in all populations enrolled in "core" classes
 - ✓ Proportionate representation in all classes and levels
 - ✓ Proportionate representation at all honors/awards presentations
 - ✓ 90% of all students earning one year's credits in one year

Reading:

- All students will read proficiently at each grade level as evaluated using district assessments.

Mathematics:

- All students will acquire mathematical skills and concepts at each grade level, as evaluated using district assessments, to ensure their successful completion of algebra and geometry by the end of tenth grade.

Writing:

- All students will communicate clearly both verbally and in written form at each grade level as evaluated using district assessments.

Celebrations:

- All six elementary schools made adequate yearly progress (AYP) for all groups.
- Stevenson School had 100% meets or exceeds in 3rd grade math.
- Bloomington High School had increased achievement in reading for all students and subgroups.
- 63% of 11th graders at Bloomington High School were enrolled in core classes compared to 59% in 2008.

Goals:

- Improve achievement of students with reading and math disabilities.
- Establish and maintain an upward trend in all subjects at all grade levels.

Dr. Nielsen stated that students who score a 21 or higher can enter college level courses. Students who score a 21 or higher are very capable of going into the workforce and being trained. The district is monitoring the number of students who score 21 or higher. Dr. Nielsen stated that the district is looking at ACT scores as well as scores on the Prairie State Achievement Exam.

Mrs. Roth asked how many students meet the district goals based on assessments. She inquired as to the percentage of students who meet the goals versus those that don't. Dr. Hill stated that based on a combination of PSAE, ACT, and the courses we're able to enroll students in, there are approximately 30-35% of students that don't meet the goals. She further stated that students' PLAN and Explore test scores are used to monitor 10th and 9th graders. The district has seen promise in that the 10th graders from last year meet the proficiency level; 9th graders are doing even better than 10th graders.

Dr. Nielsen stated that Bloomington High School has set five goals; if we reach the five goals that have been set, we will meet the test scores. Dr. Nielsen stated that at an upcoming meeting, the administration will give a report on the five goals and progress made toward those goals. The administration will provide the Board with an accounting of how many students reached 21 on the ACT by subgroups.

Dr. Nielsen presented Board policy 6.300 (Graduation Requirements) for first reading. Dr. Nielsen stated that this is being rewritten to reflect current practice.

Dr. Nielsen presented Board policies 6.140 (Response to Intervention) and 6.342 (Standardized Testing Program) for second reading.

Ms. Webster asked that Consent Agenda D be moved to Board Action Item C. It was moved by Dr. Perry, seconded by Mrs. Yount, that the Consent Agenda (Human Resources Report, Bills, Payroll) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 10-14-09/1)

Dr. Nielsen stated that the 1st quarter ends this Friday, October 16, 2009. Board Members were encouraged to attend the Community Leaders Breakfast at Bloomington High School on Friday, October 16, 2009 from 7:00-9:00 am. Faculty members will provide tours.

Parent/teacher conferences will be held October 19-26, 2009.

The Facilities Committee will meet on October Wednesday, 21, 2009, at 8:00 am.

It was moved by Mrs. Roth, seconded by Mr. Butcher, that the 2008-09 Audit be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 10-14-09/2)

It was moved by Ms. Webster, seconded by Mr. Harrison, that the 2010 HMO Rates be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 10-14-09-3)

It was moved by Dr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Butcher, that the Application for Provisional Certificate for Technology be approved. Upon a roll call vote, Mr. Butcher, Mr. Harrison, Dr. Perry, Mrs. Roth, Mrs. Yount, and Mr. Dirks voted "Aye." Ms. Webster abstained. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Butcher, seconded by Mrs. Roth, that the Board go into closed session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of District 87, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity and to consider an action against, affecting or on behalf of the District that has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. After 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.

APPPROVED:

ATTEST:

President

Secretary