

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 9, 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 presented the Minutes for approval. It was moved by Mrs. Yount, seconded by Mr. Butcher, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on August 26, 2009, and the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Board of Education held on August 26, 2009, be approved. Mrs. Roth stated that the minutes should be changed to reflect that on the 2nd page from last, paragraph in middle starting with Ms. Webster should say, "Dr. Nielsen stated that the district has the ability **to** create additional classrooms at Bent and Washington and is not looking at redistricting." Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Mr. Harrison attended the football game and thought the band was outstanding.

Dr. Perry attended the Sheridan Parade and, as always, was amazed at the number of people watching this parade. Dr. Perry observed the construction at Bent Elementary School which created a new classroom. Dr. Nielsen said the room is now functional and teachers are happy with the transformation. The Facilities Committee will be looking at a plan for Bent to create three to four classrooms out of current space.

Mrs. Yount attended both the Sheridan and Labor Day Parades; the BHS marching band was very good.

Mr. Butcher attended the Regional Planning Commission meeting on September 2, 2009, at which the regional transportation plan was discussed. Mr. Butcher brought the Planning Commission journal if anyone is interested in reading it.

Mrs. Webster - No report.

Mrs. Roth stated that she attended the intercity football game and visited with parents, administrators and students. She also spoke with a few students after President Obama's speech to students on September 8, 2009; feedback was positive.

Mr. Dirks stated that the Facilities Committee continues to discuss BHS athletic field renovations. He feels that BHS will ultimately look like a new school (this year is BHS' 50th year at 1202 E. Locust Street). Mr. Harrison asked that the Facilities Committee begin to look at the possibility of adding a portable concession stand at the BJHS/BHS softball fields for the softball team and other programs. Mr. Dirks said the committee will put this on the agenda. Mr. Dirks attended the Sheridan Parade and was impressed with how much work is put into the parade in a short amount of time.

Dr. Teresa Hill presented the Curriculum Overview as follows:

- District 87 curriculum is articulated and aligned. Each grade level and course is designed to build on the one before.

Instruction, assessment and grading are based on the expectations and outcomes for each grade level and course.

- All classrooms at a grade level or course are designed to provide a common foundation. Students throughout the district are taught the same or similar skills at each grade level. Students throughout the district have access to the same or similar resources.
- Core Curricula includes reading and language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education and health. Additional curricula for all students include art and music. Additional offerings include foreign language, business and vocational studies and technology.
- The Curriculum includes Standards-based scope and sequence include Illinois Learning Standards and College Readiness Standards; Skills, Attitudes & Behaviors; Curriculum Priorities including reading, problem-solving/critical thinking and algebra; and Curriculum Materials.
- Section 6 of District 87's Board Policies and State mandates govern the curriculum. These include 6.012 (State Learning Goals), 6.014 (Learning Outcomes for the Instructional Program), 6.040 (Curriculum Development), 6.220 (Instructional Materials Selection and Adoption), 6.060 (Curriculum Content Mandates) and new mandates each year.

Mr. Dirks asked about the Standards Aligned Classroom project. This is a professional development program started by Dr. Nielsen. The vast majority of our teachers have been able to study the Illinois Learning Standards and how to incorporate them into their teaching as well as assessing students' progress.

Dr. Perry asked what curriculum is planned after ISAT testing. Dr. Hill stated that teachers look at the Illinois Learning Standards and then work together on curriculum maps for the entire year. The things that students have to know in March are frontloaded. There are many things which can't be put into the State assessment. Teachers continue to do things throughout the year and continually review to see where there are gaps. Those things are then worked on after the ISAT's for the remainder of the year. Dr. Nielsen stated that the assessment piece is critical in determining where we are. District 87 is one of two districts in the state who now have IlliniData, a tool which provides teachers, among other things, with students' testing information at their fingertips. This is a circular process of education. This year, for the first time ever, our teachers knew how their students had performed in the past before the school year began. The teachers have commented that this is a great advance. The standards are worked on all year for the particular grade level.

Mrs. Roth stated that the teachers, at the beginning of the year, tell parents what their child needs to be able to accomplish by the end of the year. With IlliniData, there is immediate intervention for students.

Dr. Nielsen stated that we also take that information much further. For example, we analyze across the district how 2nd graders are doing in content areas. We then sit down with our administrators at the Data Retreat in early August and review this information.

Dr. Nielsen presented Board Policies 1.000 (School District Mission Statement), 2.240 (Board Policy Development), 6.000 (Educational Philosophy and Correlated Goals) and 6.010 (Educational Goals) for review.

We are governed by the Board of Education and Board Policy Manual. Much of what is added to the Board Policy manual is handed down from the General Assembly, Congress, new laws/mandates, etc. We also have bargaining agreements.

Fourteen years ago, Board Members decided to revamp the Board Policy Manual. Information was collected from the Illinois Association of School Boards and Board policies were established. As the Board considers revising the Mission Statement and Goals, it's important to understand Board policies. The Board sets goals, and District 87 then sets out to achieve them. All administrators in the district are evaluated based on the district's goals.

When the General Assembly passes new laws, Board policies are often revised. By contract and Board policy, the Board Policy Committee meets and discusses the proposed changes. At that time, proposed changes are brought to the Board for first reading, second reading and adoption.

Behind most policies are administrative procedures which are given to all administrators ensuring that the policies are adhered to. The Board's role is to set the goal. The Superintendent then asks the Board for resources to achieve the goals.

It was moved by Mr. Butcher, seconded by Mrs. Roth, 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 09-09-09/1)

Dr. Nielsen stated that Saturday, September 12th, is the annual BHS Booster Club Steak Fry at the Sale Barn from 5:00-11:00 p.m. McLean County will be conducting a county-wide disaster drill on Friday, September 18th. Stevenson Elementary School is part of the drill and will be going through a tornado drill that day. All principals and administrators will then participate in a table top exercise for disaster planning for District 87. A copy of the Autumn edition of Excel is at your seat; please let Wilma know of changes or corrections by Friday, September 11, 2009. It will be in the Pantagraph on October 2nd.

It was moved by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Roth, that the Approval of Recognition of Schools be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 09-09-09/2)

It was moved by Dr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Harrison, 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