

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

October 27, 2004

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. Marianne Clancy, Board Secretary, established a quorum and the following Members were present: Mr. Keith Davis, Mrs. Janet Smith, Mr. Uvaldo Herrera, Mr. John Dirks and Mrs. Cheryl Jackson, Board President. Mrs. Millicent Roth and Mr. John Hanson were absent.

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

Ms. Linda Aschenbrener, Public Relations Facilitator, was also in attendance.

Present from the news media was Ms. Michelle Steinbacher, The Pantagraph and Ms. Jayme Monicelli from WJBC Radio Station.

Mrs. Jackson presented the Minutes for approval. It was moved by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mrs. Smith, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 13, 2004 and the Minutes of the Closed Meeting held on October 13, 2004 be approved. Upon a roll call vote, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Davis and Mr. Dirks, voted "Aye". Mr. Herrera and Mrs. Jackson abstained as they did not attend the last Board Meeting. Motion carried.

Dr. Nielsen, Mrs. Cindy Helmers, Bloomington High School (BHS) Principal, Ms. Marcia Hirst, BHS Art Teacher, Dr. Sue Silvey, Bloomington Junior High School (BJHS) Principal, Ms. Julie Riley, BJHS Language Arts Teacher and Mrs. Jackson have been featured in, *Classroom Assessment for Student Learning: Doing It Right-Using It Well* by Rick Stiggins of the Assessment Training Institute in Portland, Oregon. The book, currently being utilized this year by our district's Standards Aligned Classroom team, shows practical examples of what assessment for learning looks like in everyday instruction. It helps educators increase their knowledge and skill in student-involved classroom assessment and contains additional resources on a CD-ROM, and video segments on an accompanying DVD. A portion of the CD was viewed at the Board Meeting. The staff members listed above appear on the DVD and provide testimony towards their experiences with classroom assessment. Each received an autographed copy by Dr. Stiggins.

Mrs. Jackson reminded the Board of the upcoming annual Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Conference in Chicago. As the Corn Belt representative, Mrs. Jackson sought input from the Board on proposed IASB resolutions. These resolutions will be voted on by Mrs. Jackson and the entire IASB Board at the annual conference and the outcome will become the official position of the IASB.

The IASB recommends:

- Take Child to Work Day to be moved to summer - recommends approval
- PSAT exam made a graduation requirement - does not recommend approval
- Require all Illinois colleges to accept scores of 3, 4 or 5 on Advanced Placement exams - recommends approval
- The passage of HB750 and passage of Senate Amendments 1 & 2 (School Funding Bill) recommends approval
- Allow sales tax collections to be distributed to schools - does not recommend approval

- Allow tax caps to expire after 4 years and must be renewed by a vote - recommends approval
- Allow verbatim reporting of Closed Meetings repealed - does not recommend approval
- Recommends the ISBE, U.S. Dept. of Ed. and local educational agencies study the alignment of mandates, regulations and funding for the implementation of programs for English language learners - recommends approval
- Require vision screening to be added to K, 5th and 9th grade physical requirements - does not recommend approval
- Recommends the elimination of sales taxes on utility bills paid by local school districts - recommends approval

Ms. Willie Holton Halbert addressed the Board regarding its 2004-2005 Goals and requested that they consider providing a follow up to measure the District's progress in achieving them.

Mrs. Smith stated that she, along with Dr. Nielsen and Mrs. Roth, attended the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Freedom Fund Banquet on October 15th at the Holiday Inn, in Normal.

Mr. Wood proposed the district hire a third party administrator to oversee the District 403b Plan. Currently, the district's Payroll Office administers our staff's 403b accounts. A third party administrator would:

- conduct enrollment meetings and provide information on investment options
- train administrative staff and customize an administrative procedures manual for the District to streamline and document operations
- collect payroll and contribution information to test for excess contributions
- provide semi-annual employee statements and a district annual report
- require all investment firms to sign a standard agreement regarding data sharing, etc.

A one time start up fee of \$4,000 to \$5,000 would be charged as well as an annual administration fee of about \$10,000.

Mr. Davis stated that this would be just another commitment by the District when we are scraping for pennies. If we do this voluntarily then it will be an expectation that we will continue to do this and it will eventually be bargained into the contract. Mr. Davis stated that he does not think this is a good idea at the time, unless there is a concurrent agreement with the bargaining unit that there will be a contribution. Then the District and the employees have an investment in, and ownership of, the profits.

Mr. Wood asked the Board for their approval to continue with the study.

Mr. Wood presented a report on the upcoming 2004 tax levy. The report summarized the 2004 levy calendar, general statutory guidelines for all levies, and the specific assumptions the 2004 levy is based on.

On December 8, 2004, the Board will hold a Public Hearing and vote on the 2004 tax levy resolution.

The levy is the maximum dollar amount set by the Board that can be collected in property taxes next year. At the time the Board sets this amount it can only estimate EAV growth and therefore tax rates. The actual tax rates and tax extension (property tax bills) are set by the county later in the year based on the levy amount set by the Board, the actual EAV, and the statutory maximum tax rates.

The proposed 2004 levy assumes EAV growth of 6%. This is moderately more than the estimate of actual EAV growth of 4.5%. For extension purposes and final tax rates, EAV growth may be as low as 2.5% given the impact of PA 93-715 which increases various homestead exemptions.

Given these EAV assumptions, tax rates are estimated to increase approximately 3.29 cents over the 2003 levy to a total of \$4.4674. This increase is estimated to provide the school district with an additional \$1 M (3.26% increase) and cost a homeowner of a \$150,000 house approximately \$16.48 more than last year.

All 2004 tax rates remain at their 2003 level except transportation which is slightly less and IMRF, tort, social security & Medicare, and bond & interest which are slightly more. The increase in tort is responsible for most of the 3.29 cent increase and is due to including additional costs of school nurses and counselors in the tort levy. All of the other increasing rates are for legally required pass through costs (IMRF, social security & Medicare and bond & interest).

Mr. Davis asked if there is money in the tort fund, can any of that money be transferred to any other fund? Mr. Wood stated that he would check but he didn't believe we could transfer monies out of tort.

Mr. Davis asked what is the rationale for the increase of 3 cents in the tort? Mr. Wood stated that we have looked at what the statute suggests, what other districts are doing, and what we believe is reasonable. There are some costs, like nurses, counselors, etc., that we haven't historically put in and we've decided that it is probably appropriate to now include them. Since those costs are going in, the levy then gets larger, therefore the rate is going up.

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mrs. Smith that the Consent Agenda (Personnel Report, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Financial Summary, Resolution: Serious Safety Hazard Report, Distributing/Accepting Board Election Petitions and Medicaid Administrative Outreach Contract) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 10-27-04/1

Dr. Nielsen provided the Board with a pre-conference registration packet for workshops held at the annual IASB meeting in Chicago, IL.

It was moved by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. Dirks that the Board approve the BHS Course Description Guide 2005-06. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 10-27-04/2)

It was moved by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. Dirks that the Board approve the Financing Team for the BJHS Expansion. Upon a roll call

vote, all members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 10-27-04/3)

It was moved by Dirks, seconded by Mrs. Smith that the Board approve the Intergovernmental Agreement. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 10-27-04/4)

Ms. Joan Travis, a District 87 employee, distributed a packet of upcoming community events to celebrate Native American Heritage Month.

It was moved by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hanson that the Board go into Closed Session for the purpose of the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mrs. Smith, that the Board return to the Regular Meeting. Upon a roll call vote all members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried.

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

APPPROVED:

ATTEST:

President

Secretary