

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 8, 2006

6:30 P.M.

Bloomington Junior High School

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. Joseph Butcher, Mrs. Cheryl Jackson, Mr. John Dirks, Mr. Michael Harrison and Mrs. Millicent Roth. Mr. Keith Davis was absent.

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

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

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

Mrs. Smith presented the Minutes for approval. It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mrs. Roth, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on October 11, 2006 and the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on October 25, 2006 be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Mr. Butcher stated that he attended a Public Hearing for the McLean County Regional Planning Commission this evening in regards to a group home ordinance which may be enacted by the City of Bloomington for parolees. The part which affects the school district is the distance the group home must be kept from schools if it is established. This issue is pending council action in November.

Mrs. Roth 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:

- School board members in the state receive a "per meeting" rate of compensation; Resolutions Committee recommends that this not be adopted.
- As part of the bidding process Districts should support legislation to allow a qualified bidder, under certain circumstances, that may not be the lowest responsible bidder but is a local bidder, the consideration of the bid as long as they are not more than 2% over the lowest responsible bid; Resolutions Committee recommends that this be adopted. Mrs. Roth recommended that the Board agree with the committee.
- Promote the consolidation of all Illinois school districts into Unit districts; Resolutions Committee recommends that this not be adopted.

Mrs. Jackson stated that some districts are quite small and other districts are huge e.g. Chicago. She stated that if the resolution passes it becomes part of the IASB's lobbying position. She doesn't think it is the best use of the lobbyist's time. She would prefer time spent on funding issues.

- School Board Member Terms - Board Members would commit the end of their term to the end of the current school year, therefore seating the new

Board Member at or around June 30; Resolutions Committee recommends that this not be adopted.

Mrs. Jackson supports not adopting the resolution since it is noted that in most cases School Boards allow such outgoing Board Members the courtesy to participate in graduation ceremonies even though they have officially left the School Board.

Mrs. Roth stated that she is following the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee for all other resolutions.

Mr. Dirks stated that the Achievement Gap Task Force continues to work. The subcommittee he is on is dealing with the technology issue and trying to get a system in place for the two districts that would allow more ready access to student data so we can make early identification of places where we may have needs. He stated that the entire taskforce meets again next week and the sub groups are making good progress.

Mrs. Smith stated that she received an invitation for an intergovernmental meeting on December 5, 2006 at noon at the Illinois Education Association (IEA) office. She stated that she would like Mrs. Jackson to attend also.

Mr. Wood, Chief Financial and Legal Officer, presented the 2006 Levy Report to explain the assumptions behind the property tax levy which will fund the 2008 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 2008. 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 \$26.5 M from the property tax in 2008. 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 \$26.6 M for the education fund and the tax rate will go down a few cents. At 3% EAV growth the District will receive approximately \$25.9 M and the tax rate will remain the same as this year.

Mr. Reilly presented the Fall Housing Report which included current and projected enrollments. In summary:

- Total enrollment this fall is 5,496 students and is expected to be 5,411 next year
- Current enrollment at the elementary level is 2,425 students; BJHS enrolls 1,266 students and BHS enrolls 1,539 students
- Bent, Oakland and BHS are all expected to see slight increases in the number of students next year. All other schools are expected to enroll fewer students next year.

- Bent School currently enrolls 354 students, up from 298 last year largely due to the relocation of the district's Bilingual program. Enrollment is expected to reach 367 next year.
- Irving School currently enrolls 356 students. Enrollment is expected to be 342 next year.
- Oakland School is now our largest elementary school, with 495 students. It is expected to reach 520 next year. Growth is attributed to a large kindergarten class.
- Sheridan School currently enrolls 406 students, and may dip slightly below 400 next year.
- Stevenson School currently enrolls 435 students. Next year, the enrollment is projected to be 409.
- Washington School currently enrolls 379 students and may decline to 366 next year.

Mrs. Hill reported on the District's new fall assessment program. This year, the District tested all students in grades 1-8 in reading, math, spelling, language and science /social studies using the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT). During previous years, the Terra Nova test was administered. Teachers received training on reading and using the test results and were able to share this information to parents during the recent Parent/Teacher Conferences. Teachers are using the assessment information, along with classroom information to help plan instruction and to plan programs and extra instruction for students requiring more individualized attention. The SAT will be administered again in the spring to assess student proficiency.

Dr. Nielsen presented the following Board of Education Policies for First Reading: 5.280, Educational Support Personnel; 6.130, Services for Academically Talented Students; 6.320, High School Credit for Proficiency; 6.340, Student Testing and Assessment Program; 7.060, Residence; 7.100, Health and Dental Examinations, Immunizations, and Exclusion of Students; 7.240, Conduct Code for Participants In Extra Curricular Activities; 8.030, Visitors to and Conduct on School Property; 8.090, Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs. He asked the Board for any suggestions or comments on these policies.

Mrs. Jackson noted that on page 2 in the fifth line of Policy 6.320, the word "deeded" should be "deemed". Also she noted that on page 1 in the seventh line of the second paragraph, the word "assistance" should be "assistant". On that same page, in the fourth paragraph in the fifth line, the "comma" after the word "present" should be omitted.

After a discussion on Board Policy 6.320, it was agreed upon to reword this policy and bring it back for "First Reading" at the December 13, 2006 Board Meeting.

Dr. Nielsen stated that the remainder of the Board Policies will be brought back for "Second Reading" at the December 13, 2006 Board Meeting and brought back for Board consideration in January.

Mrs. Cindy Helmers, Bloomington High School (BHS) Principal and Mr. Tim Moore, BHS Associate Principal, proposed the following curriculum changes at BHS for the 2007-2008 school year:

New Courses proposed include:

- Techniques in Algebra - This course is designed as a resource for Algebra Prep students. Students would take both classes simultaneously.
- Trigonometry - This semester-long course would provide an in-depth study of trigonometry that currently cannot be covered in Algebra II/Trig due to time restraints.
- Applied Statistics - (BHS currently offers Advanced Placement Statistics and Probability.) This semester-long course would be a non-AP alternative for juniors and seniors.
- Problem Solving with Computer Programming

Also proposed were the addition of three Advanced Placement (AP) courses: AP Computer Science, AP Psychology and AP Music Theory.

Curriculum changes proposed include:

- Year long classes with the same teacher each semester to facilitate relationship building with students.
- Taking Transition Essential Level Courses out of the Bloomington Business Academy (BBA) and replacing the courses with regular level courses. This change is the result of having better prepared students entering the high school and being able to offer more challenging courses. Currently, only one Essential Level Course is offered in the program.

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

Mrs. Smith presented the Consent Agenda for Approval. It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Butcher, that the Consent Agenda (Human Resources Report, Bills, Payroll, Chestnut Health Systems and District 87 Public Schools Agreement and HMO Rates for 2007) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 11-08-06/1)

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mrs. Jackson, that the Resolution to Estimate Necessary Property Tax Revenues, 2007 be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 11-08-06/2)

It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mrs. Roth, that the Resolution: Amending Board Policies Manual: 4.060, Purchases and Contracts; 4.17, Safety Program; 5.090, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting; 5.100, Staff Development Program; 5.186, Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity, be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 11-08-06/3)

It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mrs. Roth, 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, 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

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basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

President

Secretary