

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 14, 2005

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: Mrs. Janet Smith, Mr. John Hanson, Mrs. Millicent Roth, Mr. Uvaldo Herrera and Mr. John Dirks, Board President. Mrs. Cheryl Jackson and Mr. Keith Davis were absent.

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

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

Present from the news media was Mr. Erik Stock, WJBC Radio Station.

A public hearing for the Tax Levy 2005 was held.

Mr. Dirks stated that "In accordance with 'The Truth in Taxation Law,' the Board of Education is required to hold a public hearing because the estimate of taxes in the 2005 levy is more than 105% of the amount extended in 2004.

At its October 26, 2005, meeting, the Board of Education reviewed and approved the estimated 2005 levy.

Notice of the 2005 levy public hearing was published in *The Pantagraph* on December 2, 2005. As required by law, this notice date was not more than 14 days nor less than 7 days prior to the date of the public hearing.

During the public hearing, Mr. Wood, Financial and Legal Officer of the District, will summarize the 2005 levy and the Board and the public will then be given an opportunity to discuss the levy.

When all discussion has concluded, the public hearing will be adjourned."

Mr. Dirks asked, "Mr. Wood, will you please summarize the 2005 levy?"

Mr. Wood summarized the 2005 levy. He stated nothing has changed since the 2005 Levy Report in October. The Levy assumes a 7% increase in Estimated Assessed Value (EAV) which would reduce the tax rate from 4.47 this year to 4.45 next year. However, EAV is estimated to actually grow closer to 4.5% which would leave the rate at 4.47, the same as last year. If EAV grows less than 4.5% the rate would increase.

The amount paid by a taxpayer will ultimately depend on their particular assessment and the tax rate.

The 2006 Education Fund budget need is estimated at approximately \$25.5 M (61.5% of estimated expenditures of \$41.5 M). At 7% EAV growth, the Levy generates approximately \$26.6 M and the extension generates \$26.3 M. Collections will be less than that. This provides a small cushion given the uncertainties with estimating state and federal receipts and inflation this

far in advance. At 4.5% EAV growth, the Levy generates approximately \$26.0 M and the extension generates \$25.7 M. Again, collections will be less than that and the cushion is effectively gone.

The total 2005 Levy, excluding debt service, is \$33.6 M, an increase of \$2.2 M over the 2004 extension. The additional amount estimated to be extended by the County for debt service is \$2.4 M, a decrease of \$0.1 M over the 2004 extension.

Mr. Dirks asked "Is there any discussion from the Board"? There was no discussion.

Mr. Dirks asked "Is there any discussion from the Public"? There was no discussion.

Mr. Dirks stated "The Public Hearing is now concluded".

Mr. Dirks presented the Minutes for approval. It was moved by Mr. Hanson, seconded by Mrs. Roth, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on November 9, 2005 and the Minutes of the Closed Meeting of the Board of Education held on November 9, 2005 be approved. Upon a roll call vote Mrs. Smith, Mr. Hanson, Mrs. Roth and Mr. Herrera voted "Aye". Mr. Dirks abstained as he was not present at the November 9, 2005 meeting. Motion carried.

Mrs. Helmers introduced Bloomington High School's newest National Board Certified Teachers: Mr. Ed James and Mr. Tom Thakral, math teachers.

Dr. Nielsen stated that District 87 ranks 7th in the State for having 18 National Board Certified Teachers.

Mr. Dirks congratulated the two teachers on their accomplishments and asked them to come forward and receive personal congratulations from the Board.

Mrs. Helmers introduced members of the Core Group for the Mentoring and Providing Scholarships Program (MAPS): Ms. Carla Campbell-Jackson, Ms. Reland Carter and Mr. Antonio Newman (Additional Core Group members that were not present are Mr. Tony Jones and Ms. Cynthia Ashby.)

MAPS is a non-profit organization developed to provide salient mentoring relationships with local high school seniors, while also offering scholarship opportunities for students who intend to further their education by attending the college or university of preference.

Ms. Campbell-Jackson and Ms. Reland Carter outlined the information shared at the monthly meetings to those who participate as well as the guidelines which need to be followed by participants to continue in the program: Participants shall be high school seniors, with college aspirations; An 80% attendance ratio is required in order for the students to qualify for the book scholarship that is awarded at the conclusion of the program. The group will adhere to the attendance guidelines that are instituted at many of the local high schools.

Mr. Dirks thanked the group for coming to the Board Meeting and sharing the information on MAPS. He also thanked them for their hard work in volunteering for the program.

Mr. Dirks asked the group to come forward and receive personal congratulations from the Board.

Mrs. Smith stated that she attended a meeting last Thursday at the Educational Services Center (ESC) to review the facility plans for Washington School, Irving School and Bloomington High School. She stated this summer more work will be done outdoors at these schools which will be part of the District's Life/Safety work funded by bonds.

Mr. Hanson stated he brought a copy of the Financial Statement Auditor's Report for the Regional Planning Commission, as well as a draft copy of *The Visions* which is the Regional Planning Commission Newsletter, to share with anyone who is interested in looking at them. The Regional Planning Commission develops a comprehensive plan and rates different projects as they come up for review. In this month's newsletter we are disclosing that some of the projects get bad grades but they are continuing on for various reasons.

Mr. Hanson reported that he attending the Beyond the Books Educational Foundation (BTB) meeting and due to some communication problems there was not a quorum for any action items. There was a Treasurer's Report given. One of the things they are striving for is to reach a \$1 million endowment level by 2010 and there is approximately \$600,000 endowed currently.

Mr. Hanson reported that he attended a coordinating committee meeting for BTB which was a work session on how they are going to move forward on their fund drive efforts. Mr. Hanson suggested at that meeting that some of the grant recipients go to some of the PTO meetings to let parents know what BTB does and how it impacts the District.

Mr. Dirks noted that he liked the "Fast Facts" sheet about the District which has been circulated.

Mr. Dirks stated that he has some handouts from the School Board Conference on sessions that addressed analysis of data and building a successful foundation, if anyone would like to look at them.

It was moved by Mrs. Roth, seconded by Mr. Herrera, that the Consent Agenda (Personnel Report, Bills, Payroll, Treasurer's Report, Financial Summary and O & M and Life Safety Occupancy Permits) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 12-14-05/1)

Dr. Nielsen reminded everyone of the ESC Holiday Luncheon tomorrow and asked that Board Members attend if their schedules permit.

Dr. Nielsen reminded everyone that there will be school Monday and Tuesday next week. Winter break begins on Wednesday.

Dr. Nielsen stated that we are making progress in aligning our calendars for the 2006-07 school year with Unit 5 and Olympia. The draft of the calendar will be published tomorrow morning to our staff to solicit input. It will also be posted on the District website starting Friday, so the community can view it and give us suggestions on dates.

Dr. Nielsen wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mr. Dirks asked Dr. Nielsen to report on the State "Junk Food Ban".

Dr. Nielsen stated that the Governor has proposed a "Junk Food Ban" which will apply to all schools in the State of Illinois. It's very complex. The Large Unit District Association (LUDA) has issued a statement and position. There will also be more questioning of the Governor for further details. The General Assembly on several occasions has rejected similar proposals. The Governor decided to bypass the General Assembly and go to the State Board of Education, who then crafted a proposal that will go to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). Dr. Nielsen stated that the intent of the Governor for our students to eat healthy food is good, it's the details that contain the difficulties e.g. whole milk will be banned because the fat content exceeds the daily percentage of calories from fat. If this takes effect, it will start at the beginning of the 2006-07 school year. He stated that we ask those in charge be thinking about some of the questions we are going to pose to them by LUDA over the next couple of days.

Representative Dan Brady spoke to the issue of the Governor's proposal to JCAR. The Illinois General Assembly defeated a proposal dealing with banning junk food. That proposal was focused on what could be in vending machines. He stated that he will be raising objections to JCAR on District 87's behalf, but he will also supply to the Members of the Board names of JCAR members so they can voice their opinion directly to those individuals.

Representative Brady stated that there are good intentions regarding this ban, but with probably very ill intended consequences. He stated there is not an exact date set for this committee to meet.

The Board thanked Representative Brady for attending the Board Meeting.

It was moved by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. Herrera that the 2005 Levy Resolution be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 12-14-05/2)

It was moved by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. Hanson that the SHOR 0506-1 be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 12-14-05/3)

It was moved by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. Herrera that the SHOR 0506-2 be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 12-14-05/4)

It was moved by Mrs. Roth, seconded by Mr. Hanson that the Board go into Closed Session for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific

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employees of District 87, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity; and to consider a student disciplinary case. 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.

APPPROVED:

ATTEST:

President

Secretary