

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 14, 2007

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. John Dirks, Mr. Michael Harrison, Mr. Keith Davis, Mr. Joseph Butcher and Mrs. Cheryl Jackson. Mrs. Janet Smith and Mrs. Millicent Roth were 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 and Mr. Jim Ensign, The Pantagraph.

Mrs. Jackson presented the Minutes for approval.

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mr. Butcher, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on February 28, 2007, be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Bloomington Junior High School (BJHS) 8th grader, Prathyusah Chengi, was recognized for winning the McLean County Spelling Bee. She will advance to the Regional Competition at the end March.

Mrs. Jackson congratulated Prathyusah and asked her and any relatives present to come forward and receive personal congratulations from the Board.

BJHS Wrestling Coach Mr. Bryan Wolfe, introduced members of the BJHS Wrestling team who won the State Championship on Saturday, March 10, beating the second place team by nearly 70 points. The Knights had a record number 8 medal winners. Placing 4th was Alex Bee. Placing 3rd were Luke McAvoy and Justin Brooks. Placing 2nd were Parker Johnson, Daniel Thul and Kyle McAvoy. Kylor Sorensen and Jeff Drake were State Champions. This is the team's fifth state trophy in 6 years.

Mrs. Jackson congratulated the team members for all their successes and asked them, Mr. Wolfe and any parents present to come forward and receive personal congratulations from the Board.

Bloomington High School (BHS) Boys Swim Coach, Mr. Bob Loy, introduced State Qualifiers Justin Wolfe and Jared Bradd for recognition.

Mrs. Jackson congratulated the two swimmers for all their successes and asked them, Mr. Loy and any parents present to come forward and receive personal congratulations from the Board.

BHS Chess Coach Lonny Miller, introduced Members of the Chess team and Mr. Chase Johnson who assisted him with the team. Team members include: Adem Aydoner, Abhi Bhyravajjula, Harsha Bhide, Cameron Johnson, Ben Leihfeit, Jayanth Madheswaran, Jimmy Risoli, Scott Schmidt, Josh Strong and Nick Wiese. Bloomington High School's recently established Chess Team competed at the

IHSA State Finals on February 9th and 10th at the Peoria Civic Center. The team placed 1st in the 3A division.

Mrs. Jackson congratulated the team members for all their successes and asked them, the coaches and any parents present to come forward and receive personal congratulations from the Board.

Mr. Dirks stated that he attended a Facilities meeting last week to discuss the renovations to the Student Center at BHS.

Mr. Dirks stated that the Beyond the Books Educational Foundation is undertaking a fundraising effort and letters will be going out to generate donations.

Mr. Davis stated that he and Mrs. Smith will be attending the Judge John M. Scott Trust meeting next week.

Mr. Butcher stated that he attended the Regional Planning Commission Meeting last Wednesday and it was very informative.

Mr. Ben Ambler and Mr. Mark Anderson, Industrial Technology teachers at the Area Vocational Center (AVC), along with several students, made a presentation on the Project-Lead-the Way (PLTW) program at the AVC.

Goals for the Program are:

- Prepare high school students for the rigors of engineering study.
- Instill in students the importance of math and science in their high school career.
- Reverse the trend of fewer students entering engineering and engineering technology.
- Reduce drop out rate at engineering schools.
- Increase the number of minority students and females entering engineering studies.

Courses in the PLTW program are:

- Introduction to Engineering Design *
- Principles of Engineering *
- Civil Engineering and Architecture *
- Digital Electronics
- Computer Integrated Machining
- Biomedical and Biotechnical Engineering
- Aerospace Engineering
- Engineering Design and Development

Student, Emma Rust, talked of her classroom/lab activities in Principles of Engineering; Students Shane McGann and Julie Carpenter handed out their portfolios for Introduction to Engineering Design; and Students Cory Hainlen and Brad Zelnio presented design concepts from the MaGill Hotel in Clinton, IL as a Civil Engineering and Architecture Project.

Mr. Tom Frazier, Bloomington Area Vocational Center Director, introduced Mr. John Meek, who is the Chair of the Community Partnership Team with PLTW.

Mr. Meek stated that engineers are looking for students who have been inspired by this program. He stated that the training from this program is providing students experience which will allow them to enter college curriculums a step ahead of their peers.

Mr. Meek thanked the Board for funding the program and hopes they will continue to do that, as well as expand it.

Mr. Ron Howard, First Student Senior Region Vice-President, and Mr. Jason Sherman, First Student Contract Manager, addressed the Board regarding First Student transportation safety, passenger management and communication. In summary:

Information on Safety:

- Bus Inspections
 - IDOT @ 6 Months (under state law)
 - Unannounced Annual Inspections by IDOT Division of Safety (most recent check was March 7, 2007, no safety problems were found)
- Maintenance
 - Daily
 - Periodic
- Child Check & Other: This year First Student is going to install Child Checkmate, which helps prevent a child being left on the bus, and Theftmate, which will also help deter leaving any children on the bus and help prevent theft or vandalism to the bus, to all buses by August 1, 2007.

Information on Passenger Management:

- Driver Training and Responsibilities (drivers are expected to keep an orderly atmosphere on the bus) Disciplinary problems are reported to a supervisor or a district administrator no later than the day following the incident.
- Assigned Seats and Bus Passes
- "Growing Respect on Your Bus" (A campaign First Student implemented to combat bullying on the school bus.)
- Bus Conduct Report or Return to School should an incident warrant this
- Dispatch often helps in accessing the problem and determining the best action that should be taken
- Working with Principals

Information on Communication:

- Who to Contact
- Work with Principals to Start School
- Work with District to Revise Student Handbooks
- Provide District with Information
 - Parent Calls
 - Bus Conduct Reports
 - Maintenance Logs

Mr. Howard stated that calls coming in to First Student are handled as quickly as possible with the intent of the best outcome.

Mr. Colin Manahan, Director of Facilities Management, presented a Bloomington High School Renovations Update. Bloomington High School's Student Center will be remodeled this summer, including new floor tile, new auditorium doors with quieter door hardware, new wall coverings, and recessed lighting. This work will coincide with other work at the school which includes reconstructing the north parking lot, rebuilding the north entrance, and rebuilding the AVC entrance.

Mr. Manahan stated that the north parking lot will be reconstructed with the existing west curved driveway eliminated. This area will be replaced with a green space detention area and the existing parking lot will be reconfigured to serve as the bus loading area and to provide student parking. The North Entrance will change from entering the building at the lower level to now entering the building at the first floor level. This will be accomplished by backfilling the existing entrance, adding structural walls to support this area, adding a new airlock room, adding a covered canopy, and new entrance doors will be placed at what is now the first floor of the school. The new entrance will feature new exterior pole lighting, a new canopy and courtyard utilizing concrete and exposed aggregate. The design is intended to look similar to the new south courtyard. New floor tile, suspended ceilings and recessed light fixtures will be added inside the school's north entrance. The Area Vocational Center (AVC) entrance will receive new exterior pole lighting and a new canopy.

Mr. Manahan stated that this work will be funded by the Operations & Maintenance (O & M) fund as well as by revenue generated from the life safety bonds and the funding bonds that were issued by the district a few years ago.

Dr. Nielsen stated that a group from Sesquicentennial Committee is working on a list of BHS graduates to be inducted into a Wall of Fame which will include personalized plaques for those winning the award. This will be located in the new Student Center at BHS. He stated that there will also be a District Wall of Fame, located at the Educational Services Center, which will include winners who have made a significant contribution to the District over time.

Dr. Nielsen presented the Board of Education Policies: 2.010 School District Governance; 2.020 Powers and Duties of the School Board; 2.040 School Board Membership; 2.080 Board Member Oath and Conduct; 2.110 Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers; 2.130 Board-Superintendent Relationship; 2.140 Communications To and From the Board; 2.150 Committee Organization; 2.200 Regular Meetings; 2.202 Closed Meetings; 2.206 Special Meetings; 2.208 Emergency Meetings; 2.210 Organizational School Board Meetings; 2.220 Agenda; 2.222 Voting Method; 2.224 Minutes: Regular, Special, Adjourned, Emergency, Closed; 2.240 Board Policy Development; 6.235 Access to Electronic Networks, for First Reading. There were numerous changes suggested and it was decided that a Board Policies Meeting should be scheduled to go over these policies rather than going over each individual policy at the Board Meeting.

Mrs. Jackson presented the Consent Agenda for Approval. It was moved by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Davis, that the Consent Agenda (Human Resources Report, Bills, Payroll, Resolution: Review of Verbatim Tapes of Closed Sessions, Bent School Main Entrance Repair Bid Recommendation, District Renovation Work Bid Recommendation, Sheridan School Roof Replacement Bid Recommendation, New Health/Life Safety Amendments, Regional Office of

Education Application for Building Permits be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 3-14-07/1)

Dr. Nielsen stated that April 5 will be the kickoff of the Sesquicentennial Celebration in the schools. There will be activities at each school, special cookies will be delivered and District pencils will be given out. BHS drama students will be visiting the elementary schools representing a significant historic figure for each school.

It was moved by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Dirks, that SHOR 06-07-3 be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 3-14-07/2)

It was moved by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Butcher, that the resolutions for Reduction in Force be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 3-14-07/3)

Mr. Samuel Graham, District 87 grandparent, stated that he thought it was nice that the District sent out a transportation satisfaction survey to the entire District. He also stated that Mrs. Vickie Slagell, Stevenson Elementary Principal, should be commended for riding one of the buses in response to an incident that happened. Mr. Graham also stated that he thinks the communication between the bus company and the schools has improved a great deal in the past couple of weeks.

It was moved by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Harrison, that the Board go into Closed Session for the purpose of considering litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body 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; and to consider 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.

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

President

Secretary