

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 11, 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, Mrs. Millicent Roth, Mr. Joseph Butcher, Mrs. Cheryl Jackson and Mrs. Janet Smith, Board President.

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

Present from the news media was Ms. Sharon Wolfe, The Pantagraph and Mr. Jesse Reeves, WJBC Radio.

Mrs. Smith presented the Minutes for approval.

It was moved by Mr. Butcher, seconded by Mr. Harrison, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on March 14, 2007 and the Minutes of the Closed Meeting of the Board of Education held on March 14, 2007, be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Ms. Deb Voorhees, BHS Science teacher and Scholastic Bowl Coach, introduced members of the Scholastic Bowl Team. Team Members include Kristina Warren, Hunter Fast, Michael Lieder, Keldin Sergheyev, Calvin Quilty, Raye Lefler, Christopher Petkus, Greg Jackson, J.D. Look, Jayanth Madheswaran, Sarah Palmer, Amanda Landers, Jon Powell, Brian Clark, Troy Earley, Ethan Bledsoe, Patrick Deighan, Elizabeth Graehling, B. Alex Johnson, Abhi Bhyravajjula, Ashley White, Nicholas Meyer, Bhavani Sishtla, Ben Johnson, Ben Leifheit and Hannah Maurer. Ms. Natalie Miller, BHS History teacher, helped Ms. Voorhees with coaching the team. The team won the Sectional Championship on Saturday, March 10 with a 3-0 record. They finished their season 5<sup>th</sup> in the State and ranked 19<sup>th</sup> in the Nation.

Mrs. Smith congratulated the team on all their successes and asked them, Ms. Voorhees and any parents present to come forward and receive personal congratulations from the Board.

Ms. Angie Lawrence, BHS Science teacher and BHS Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Team Coach, introduced the WYSE team for recognition. Members of the team include: Troy Earley, Kristina Warren, Hunter Fast, Michael Parker, Jayanth Madheswaran, Stevie Curry, Kristy Hosack, Keldin Sergheyev and Jeff Lawson.

During the first week of April, University of Illinois College of Engineering sponsored WYSE and hosted students from all around the state for the 2006 State WYSE Academic Challenge. The Academic Challenge is a competitive series of tests created and administered by WYSE and offered to high school students in Illinois and Missouri. The tests are now offered by more than 50 sites and are designed to present a challenge to the brightest high school student. Seven academic subject area tests are offered in biology, physics, math, English, chemistry, engineering graphics and computer science. The students compete as a team and as individuals.

The BHS team earned 11 individual medals out of 21 possible medals and placed first as a team at the Sectional Competition Unlimited Division. The team earned first place in 5 of the 7 test categories.

BHS individual medal winners were lead by Troy Earley earning first place in both computer science and physics, Kristina Warren winning first in English and third in Chemistry, Hunter Fast earning first in Chemistry, and Michael Parker winning first in Engineering Graphics. Other medal winners were: Jayanth Madheswaran, third in Biology, Stevie Curry, second in English, Kristy Hosack, third in English, Keldin Sergheyev earned 2nd in Physics, and Jeff Lawson earned third in Math.

Mrs. Smith congratulated the team on all their successes and asked them, Ms. Lawrence and any parents present to come forward and receive personal congratulations from the Board.

BHS Biology teacher and Lead Science teacher, Ms. Diane Goerlitz, was recognized for being selected as the 2007 winner of the Illinois Computing Educators (ICE) "Educator of the Year Award."

Each year ICE selects one educator in each of two categories - one teacher and one technology administrator, for this prestigious award. Educators are nominated for this award by colleagues, fellow teachers, students, and school administrators who feel that the nominee has made outstanding contributions to the integration of technology and the improvement of teaching and learning in their school or district. Once nominated, candidates must complete an extensive application process, and are then reviewed, evaluated, and scored on rubrics by members of the ICE Educator of the Year Committee. Selections are then confirmed by the ICE Executive Board for final approval.

Ms. Goerlitz publishes and maintains a biology website that is used on a daily basis by her students. Her entire curriculum is posted, and when absent, her students can find out what was completed in class that day, download the activity, do practice quizzes, use flash cards, and catch up on the notes from the class missed.

Ms. Goerlitz stated that other teachers throughout the country can access her website and use the tools she has posted for their own classes.

Ms. Goerlitz thanked the Board for their support of technology in the District.

Mrs. Smith congratulated Ms. Goerlitz and asked her to come forward and receive personal congratulations from the Board.

Ms. Amanda White, Stevenson 4<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher, was recognized for the Sesquicentennial Video she and several students produced for the start of the Sesquicentennial activities which kicked off on April 5, 2007. (The video was shown at this Board Meeting.) Students involved were Aliasgher Sabir, Jake Stille, Alexis Long-Wyse and Izabella Carroll. The video was in a play format which summarized the buildings in the District for the past 150 years and the history of who they were named.

Mrs. Smith thanked the group for their efforts and asked them and any parents present to come forward and receive Board appreciation.

Dr. Nielsen introduced Mrs. Danelle Behrends-Harr to the Board, as the new Principal of Sarah Raymond School of Early Childhood Education for the 2007-08 School Year. Mrs. Behrends-Harr has a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Eastern Illinois University and is currently Principal at Chatsworth and Meadowbrook Elementary schools in Prairie Central Community Unit School District 8, positions she has held since 2002. She has four years experience as a Junior/Senior High School English teacher in the LeRoy School District.

Mrs. Behrends-Harr stated that she is excited about working for the District and thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Mrs. Smith welcomed Mrs. Behrends-Harr to the District and asked her to come forward and receive personal congratulations from the Board.

Mr. Davis stated he attended a Judge John M. Scott Vocational Education Trust meeting on Monday. He stated that the Trust has done very well this year.

Mr. Davis stated that he attended a Board of Education Policies Committee meeting on April 9, 2007 and that the Board will receive the suggested revisions soon.

Mrs. Roth reported that the Publicity Committee for the Sesquicentennial of which she is a member, has several dignitary recognitions lined up. She stated we have received a proclamation from the Governor of Illinois, a resolution from the Illinois House of Representatives, we are getting a certificate from the Illinois Senate and we are working on a Federal recognition as well.

Mr. Dirks stated that he attended the Board of Education Policies Committee meeting on April 9.

Mr. Dirks reported that the Beyond the Books Educational Foundation met last week and reviewed the grant applications. He stated there will be an announcement in May as to who will receive grant monies.

Mrs. Jackson reminded the Board that the Spring Governing Meeting for the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) will be May 1 and encouraged the Board Members to attend.

Mrs. Smith stated she attended the Judge John M. Scott Vocational Education Trust meeting on Monday. She stated that Mr. David Wood will be bringing a report on the Trust to the Board in the near future.

Mrs. Smith stated that she attended a Facilities Meeting this afternoon and Mr. Colin Manahan, Director of Facilities Management, will be bringing bid recommendations on the Stevenson School construction to the next Board Meeting on April 25, 2007.

Mrs. Jackson stated that she wanted to commend all past Board Members and administrators. Based on the 2007 School District Financial Profile the State Board of Education has again awarded District 87 a Certificate of Recognition documenting the District's excellence in finance. She stated she specifically commends past and present Board Members and administrators because they are the ones who made a commitment that we will be financially

responsible and have made the tough cuts and the tough policies over the years to keep this District in good financial shape despite dyer predictions in the early '90s. This certificate will be joining the other three on the wall already that have recognized the District's financial stability the past several years. She stated "congratulations to all of you".

Mrs. Roth stated that she had a phone call from a person who was being relocated to Bloomington. This person told her that all the research that she has done on the internet said great things about District 87. Mrs. Roth stated that information like this makes her proud to be a part of this District.

Mrs. Smith reminded everyone that the Bloomington Normal Education Association (BNEA) Minority Educator Reception is being held on Monday, April 16, 2007 at Kingsley Junior High School in Normal, IL.

Mrs. Smith stated that the new District 87 Sesquicentennial website is great. Ms. Linda Aschenbrener, Public Relations Facilitator, did a great job on developing it.

Mr. Davis stated that he too thought the new website was nice.

Dr. Nielsen reported the most recent Bus Survey Results. In summary:

Approximately 3,700 surveys were distributed to every student as they left the bus to go home on the afternoon of Friday, March 16th. Approximately 9% (331) of those surveyed responded. Approximately 25% of those responding indicated that they had called about a problem during the last year.

The most prevalent issue (approximately 25%) had to do with the bus not being on time. Approximately 10% had issues with the driver and 8% had issues with the behavior of other students. Of those responding, most agreed that the issue was resolved (70% First Student and 75% District 87). However, fewer agreed that it was resolved quickly (55% First Student and 65% District 87) Moreover, there is some room for improvement on being helpful and courteous (average of 69% First Student and 91% District 87). There is also room for improvement in communicating to parents who they should contact with problems. Only 48% "usually" or "always" knew who to contact at First Student and only 63% at District 87. Further, only 64% reported that they were "usually" or "always" notified of schedule changes.

In general, a majority appear satisfied with the overall transportation system. A majority report the bus is "usually" or "always" on time (84%) and that their child "never" or "seldom" complains of other student behavior (92% bus stop and 80% bus.) Few report that the driver "never" or "seldom" controls students (12%) or treats students appropriately (7%). Only 23% report that the bus is "usually" or "always" too crowded. Only 5% of students are "usually" or "always" afraid to ride the bus.

The District will review the results with First Student and work to improve communication, response time, and overall customer service. We will also carefully review the three tier route system to see if there are ways to reduce the number of students on each bus and to improve the percent of buses that are on time.

Mr. Jason Sherman, First Student Contract Manager, and Mr. Garry Tagg, First Student Finance Manager, reported on changes First Student is continuing to make to improve transportation services for District 87 students. They focused on four main issues:

- Drivers
  - Three new drivers are being trained and until they are ready to drive, 3 drivers have been brought in from other sites.
  - This allows the contract manager to focus on customer service and operations.
- Passenger Management
  - Seven to ten new monitors
  - Assigned elementary seats
  - Ten new surveillance tape hard drives
- Extreme Weather
  - If emergency siren sounds, immediately return bus to nearest school
  - Continue bus route only after National Weather Service cancels the emergency
  - Driver Judgment and Responsibility
- Communications
  - Who to Contact
  - Principal meeting with Drivers and Monitors at Start of School
  - Revise Student Handbooks and District Web Site
  - Focus Group of Parents, Drivers and Administrators

Mrs. Smith thanked Mr. Sherman for being so receptive of the District's comments and concerns and she stated she can tell that strong efforts are being made by First Student to make changes that will benefit the students on the buses.

Dr. Nielsen reported on proposed changes to school fees for 2007-08. Changes proposed include the elimination of the Early Childhood registration fee of \$35.00, per request from the ISBE (loss of approximately \$10,000). Increases for breakfast and lunch are proposed to offset the cost of food and transportation.

*Breakfast fees:*

Elementary: from \$1.25 to \$1.30

BJHS: from \$1.25 to \$1.35

BHS: from \$1.25 to \$1.35

Adult: from \$1.50 to \$1.60

*Lunch fees:*

Elementary: from \$1.60 to \$1.65

BJHS: from \$2.00 to \$2.10

BHS: from \$2.00 to \$2.10

Adult: from \$2.50 to \$2.65

Dr. Nielsen stated that these fee changes will be brought back for

Board consideration at the April 25th meeting.

Mrs. Smith presented the Consent Agenda for Approval.

Dr. Nielsen asked that Consent Agenda A, Human Resources Report, be pulled and moved to Board Action A.

It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Dirks, that the Consent Agenda (Bills, Payroll, Treasurer's Report, Financial Summary, BHS IHSA Membership Renewal, BJHS Roof Flashing Bid Recommendation, Building Permit Application and Group Medical Insurance Rates for 2007-08) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 4-11-07/1)

Dr. Nielsen's stated we are formulating our Hall of Fame induction for the Sesquicentennial Celebration which will take place in September. We expect to have a large parade which will take place beginning at Oakland School. The school year will be a lot of fun and educational. Dr. Nielsen commended the high school students and Mrs. Cortesi for the historical plays they did at each building describing the people the buildings were named after. He stated all the feedback he heard from the staff was very positive and the high school students did an outstanding job.

Dr. Nielsen stated that on the Human Resources Report, page 2, under Resignation of Certificated Staff, Ms. Debbie Aurelius-Muir, has asked the District to rescind her resignation.

Mrs. Smith also noted that Mr. Stan Otto, Social Science teacher at BHS, will be resigning after 34 years in education, 22 years in District 87.

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mrs. Jackson that the Human Resources Report be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 4-11-07/2)

Mrs. Vickie Slagell, Stevenson School Principal, noted her retirement after the 2006-07 school year and wanted to thank the Board for the support they have given her during her career in the District. She stated she loved her job and will miss the connection she has with the District.

Mrs. Smith stated that the papers she past out to the Board this evening will be discussed in two weeks.

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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President

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Secretary