

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 25, 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. David Wood, Mr. Barry Reilly, and Mrs. Teresa Hill.

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

Mrs. Smith presented the Minutes for approval.

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mrs. Roth, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on April 11, 2007 be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Mrs. Smith presented Mr. Davis with parting gifts from the District, as this is the last meeting Mr. Davis will be a Board Member. Mr. Davis did not seek re-election in the April 17 election.

Mr. Davis thanked the Board for the gifts and stated that he was sorry to leave and will miss the rest of the Board Members.

Each board member thanked Mr. Davis for his hard work while serving on the Board and each spoke in appreciation of his wisdom, attention to detail, strength in leadership, encouragement and helpfulness.

Dr. Nielsen thanked Mr. Davis, on behalf of the administration, for his service to the District and stated that he appreciated his guidance and the relationship they had over the years.

Dr. Nielsen stated that he and several District 87 teachers attended the Mega SCASS conference in New Orleans in February. The conference focused on formative assessment.

The following District 87 teachers, along with Dr. Nielsen and Mrs. Diane Stempinski, Regional Office of Education, were recognized in April at the 2007 Teacher Classroom Assessment Recognition program in Chicago and received the National Council on Measurement in Education award. The event showcases outstanding classroom assessment efforts on the part of Illinois educators. It provides national visibility to classroom assessments that meet high standards of quality and that have a demonstrably positive impact on student learning and/or motivation.

Suzy Dees, 8th grade writing, showcasing student reflections
Debbie Davis, 8th grade reading, showcasing formative assessments that can be on-going
JoLynn Plato, 6th grade math, showcasing math assessments
Julie Dawson, 3rd grade, showcasing reading assessments
Melanie Stanley, 2nd grade, showcasing geometry assessments

Mrs. Smith congratulated the group for their award and thanked them for all they do for the District. She asked them to come forward and receive personal congratulations from the Board.

Dr. Nielsen stated that District 87 had three nominees this year for the Bloomington Normal Education Alliance (BNEA) Minority Educator of the Year Award: Mr. Nick Bussan, Bent School Third Grade Teacher, Mrs. Teresa Hill, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction and Ms. Melissa Brown, Bloomington High School (BHS) lead Foreign Languages teacher, who received the award.

Mrs. Smith congratulated Ms. Brown on her accomplishments and thanked her for everything she does for the District.

Mrs. Smith asked Ms. Brown, Mr. Bussan and Mrs. Hill to come forward and receive personal congratulations from the Board.

Mrs. Tina Fogal, Sarah Raymond Early Childhood Education Center Principal, introduced Ms. Stacey McGraw, Sarah Raymond Pre-K teacher and Ms. Roxanne Winkeler, Sarah Raymond Program Assistant. Ms. McGraw and Ms. Winkeler developed a video for *Celebrate Success Day* at Raymond which will be in May. Parents are invited to come to Sarah Raymond and see the great things that are happening at the school. The video shows things that happen in the classroom at Sarah Raymond and how busy the students are on a daily basis.

The video was shown to the Board and all the Members thought it was great.

Mrs. Smith asked Ms. McGraw and Ms. Winkler to come forward and receive personal appreciation from the Board.

Mr. Dirks stated that he and Mrs. Smith attended a Facilities Meeting today regarding the signage and the renovation of the north entrance to BHS.

Mrs. Jackson reminded the Board that May 1 is the next Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), Cornbelt Division, meeting in Fairbury. She stated that this is the Governing Meeting where a delegate to the IASB will be voted on. Mrs. Jackson stated she has held this position for the last six years and would like to step down. She stated if any of the Board Members were interested in pursuing that position, to let her know 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.

Mrs. Roth stated that the Publicity Committee would like to place an ad in the Pantagraph but we need money to do so. She asked for ideas and suggestions on how to raise the money needed. She also asked for donations.

Mrs. Roth stated that Oakland School will be doing a "looping" experiment where students K-2 will have the same classroom, the same

classmates and the same teachers while in those grades. She stated she is very excited about this and will report on this next year.

Mr. Dirks stated that he, Mrs. Hill and Dr. Nielsen attended an Achievement Gap Taskforce Meeting today and heard reports from the four subcommittees. He stated that the Parental Involvement subcommittee will be having an information booth at the Back to School Party in August; Irving School currently has the Adopt a School Program, partnering a school with a church, for mentoring and tutoring, in place as an ongoing pilot. In the fall, Brigham School, Oakdale School and Bent School will participate in this program; the After School Program, which has already received a grant for the Early Start Programs, is working on a compilation of services that are available to someone new to the area or to someone who needs services from a local social service agency; the Data Modeling and Recording subcommittee which Mr. Dirks is involved with, is striving to produce a portal with up to fifteen categories of information so teachers will be able to get that information about each of their students. This information will hopefully be available in both Districts by August. The group is working on communications with some resources from State Farm's Public Affairs Department for an overall communications strategy to push these different themes. Mr. Dirks stated that each subcommittee is making good progress.

Mrs. Smith reminded the Board that we will be reconfiguring the Board at the May 9, 2007 Board Meeting, and she would like Members to let her know on which committees they would like to serve during the coming year.

Mr. Wood proposed that the Board extend the First Student bussing contract for one year at a 3.1% increase. During the year, our District and First Student will continue to work together to make transportation as safe as possible and to ensure a high level of customer service. The district will request proposals for transportation services during the fall of 2007 and a new contract will begin with the 2008-2009 school year. This proposal will be brought back at the next Board Meeting on May 9 for Board consideration.

Mr. Reilly presented an amended 2006-2007 School Calendar. He stated that the current school year will extend until June 6 due to the snow days the District experienced over the winter. Mr. Reilly stated that the Amended Calendar will be brought back for Board consideration on May 9, 2007.

Dr. Nielsen presented the following Board of Education policies for First Reading: 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. Dr. Nielsen asked the Board if they had any questions or suggestions regarding these policies. They had none. These policies will be brought back at the May 9, 2007 Board Meeting for Second Reading.

Mrs. Hill presented a recommendation for ECE/Pre-K Curriculum material for next year. In summary:

- After investigating numerous early childhood/pre-kindergarten curricula, the Raymond School Curriculum Task Force recommends the adoption of the *We Can* curriculum materials published by Sopris West.
- These materials will provide the early childhood/ pre-K teachers with ample materials to engage our students in developmentally appropriate literacy, vocabulary development, fine motor, mathematics, science, social skills, art and music activities.
- In addition, these curriculum materials will provide teachers with additional ideas and support for assessing students and making connections with parents.
- The Raymond School Curriculum Task Force included Tina Fogal, all Raymond School teachers, and Mrs. Hill.
- *We Can* offers materials that the Raymond School Curriculum Task Force believes will meet the varied needs of students at Sarah Raymond School including students with special needs and students with limited English proficiency.
- The total cost of the recommended materials is \$25,000. This includes classroom sets of all *We Can* materials and professional development for our teachers.
- The *We Can* materials will be on display in the Community Room for the next 30 days.

Mrs. Hill stated this recommendation will be brought back for Board consideration after the completion of the 30 days.

Mrs. Smith presented the Consent Agenda for Approval.

Dr. Nielsen asked that Consent Agenda Item G, BHS North Parking Lot Renovation Bid Recommendation, and Item H, BHS North Entrance Bid Recommendation, be pulled and moved to Board Action Items D and E.

It was moved by Mrs. Roth, seconded by Mr. Butcher, that the Consent Agenda (Human Resources Report, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Financial Summary, Stevenson Soffit Fascia Replacement Bid Recommendation, BHS Student Center Renovation Bid Recommendation, Letter of Understanding-Decision and Bargaining on Reduction in Force and HIPPA Requirements) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 4-25-07/1)

Dr. Nielsen stated that a list of staff recognitions will soon be available as well as a schedule of end-of-the year celebrations and he invited the Board to attend as many events as their schedules permit.

It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Harrison that the School Fees for 2007-08 be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 4-25-07/2)

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mrs. Jackson, that the Resolution: Reduction in Force, be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 4-25-07/3)

It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mrs. Roth, that the SHOR 06-07-4 be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 4-25-07/4)

Dr. Nielsen stated that we want to table Board Action D, BHS North Parking Lot Renovation Bid Recommendation, until the next Board Meeting on May 9, 2007.

It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Dirks, that the BHS North Parking Lot Renovation Bid Recommendation be tabled until the next Board Meeting. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 4-25-07/5)

Dr. Nielsen stated there was an error made on Board Action E, BHS North Entrance Bid Recommendation, and we would like that bid rejected and we will put out another bid request and bring back a recommendation at the next Board Meeting.

It was moved by Mr. Butcher, seconded by Mr. Davis, that the BHS North Entrance Bid Recommendation be rejected and a new bid recommendation will be brought to the next Board Meeting. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 4-25-07/6)

It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Davis, 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 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. 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