

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 27, 2006

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. Joseph Butcher, Mrs. Cheryl Jackson, Mr. John Dirks and Mrs. Janet Smith, Board President. Mr. Keith Davis and Mrs. Millicent Roth were absent.

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

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

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

Mrs. Smith began the public hearing on the District 87 Budget for 2006-07 by stating, "In accordance with Section 17-1 of the School Code, the Board of Education will now hold a public hearing on the 2006-2007 budget for the Bloomington Public Schools, District #87.

The District prepared a budget in tentative form for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007 which this Board reviewed at its August 9, 2006 meeting.

The tentative budget has been on file for public inspection at the Educational Services Center for District #87 for over thirty days and public notice of the availability of the budget was published in *The Pantagraph* on August 14, 2006. The tentative budget is on display in the rear of the room.

During the public hearing, Mr. David Wood, Chief Financial and Legal Officer for District #87, will summarize the budget and the Board and members of the public will be given an opportunity to discuss the budget.

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

At this time, Mr. Wood will present a summary of the budget."

Mr. Wood stated that nothing has changed in the budget since August when the tentative budget was presented. The Education Fund is balanced and the total of all funds shows a deficit due to the selling of bonds for capital projects. We continue to spend them out. This is anticipated.

Mrs. Smith asked, "Is there any discussion from the Board?"

There was no discussion from the Board.

Mrs. Smith asked, "Is there any discussion from the public?"

There was no discussion from the public.

Mrs. Smith stated, "The Public Hearing is now concluded."

Mrs. Smith presented the Minutes for approval. She noted one change which should be made. On the first page, paragraph 8, the test that Kristina Warren qualified as a National Merit Semi-Finalist from should be changed to the Preliminary Standard Achievement Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

It was moved by Mr. Dirks, seconded by Mr. Butcher, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on September 13, 2006 be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Mr. Dirks stated that last Thursday he attended the Beyond the Books Educational Foundation organizational meeting for the year. The District 87 representatives elected this year are Ms. Judy Yoder, Ms. Terri Prenzler, Mr. Greg Mier and Mr. Chris Beyer. The current President for the organization is Mr. Alex Horvath. He stated we are off to a good start.

Mr. Butcher stated that he missed the Area Vocational Center meeting due to an email miscommunication on his part. He stated he did contact Mr. Tom Frazier, Bloomington Area Vocational Center Director, and will get by to visit them soon.

Mrs. Jackson reminded everyone of the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Corn Belt Division October 18, 2006 meeting at Olympia High/Middle School. She asked those who would like to attend to let Dr. Nielsen or Ms. Clancy know so reservations can be made.

Mrs. Jackson reminded the Board Members that there will be a flyer sent out with information on the Pre-Conference Workshops being held at the November Triple I Conference in Chicago. She asked that if anyone is interested in the workshops to please fill out the form on the flyer and return it to Ms. Clancy.

Mrs. Jackson stated that she attend the Band Extravaganza at Bloomington High School on Friday which included the BHS Marching Band, the Illinois State University Big Red Marching Machine and the Iowa Hawkeye Band. She stated that it was great and that our Band Director, Mr. Max Chernich, is doing some wonderful things for the District 87 Band Program.

Mr. Dirks stated that he attended the Band Extravaganza and that it was electric. It was a great evening.

Mr. Dirks stated that last week he attended the latest meeting of the Achievement Gap Taskforce (AGT). He stated that four subgroups have been identified. The groups are Data Reporting, After School Program, Parental Involvement and Adopt-a-School. There is a lot of enthusiasm by the Taskforce members. He stated he is looking for continued progress.

Mrs. Smith reminded the public that Friday, September 29, 2006 at 4:30 p.m. is the cutoff for applicants to submit information showing interest in

filling the Board vacancy. Interviews will be scheduled in the near future for the candidates.

Dr. Nielsen stated that he is asking for suggestions or comments from the Board on the Board of Education Policies listed on the agenda for First Reading. The policies will be brought back at the October 11, 2006 Board Meeting for second reading and then be brought back at the November 8 Board Meeting for Board consideration.

Mrs. Smith presented the Consent Agenda for Approval. It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Dirks, that the Consent Agenda (Human Resources Report, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Occupancy Permit Applications, Vendor Contracts, Recognition of Schools, and the Food Service Agreement Between District 87 and the Regional Office) be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 9-27-06/1)

Dr. Nielsen stated that he and Mrs. Cindy Helmers, BHS Principal, met with representatives of the U.S. Cellular Coliseum, at the Coliseum to get a better sense of what was involved in possibly using their facility for the BHS Graduation. Mrs. Helmers has been meeting with students and the Senior Class officers. She is planning on taking the Senior Class Officers down to the Coliseum to show them the facility. Mrs. Helmers will be at the October 11, 2006 Board Meeting with a recommendation for the Board to consider on the use of the Coliseum. Sunday, June 3rd is the tentative date for the BHS Graduation.

Dr. Nielsen stated that District 87 has moved the soccer program from the BHS stadium to the fields on Ireland Grove Road. He stated that feedback from parents is very positive.

Mrs. Millicent Roth entered the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Dr. Nielsen stated that this is Homecoming Week. He reminded everyone that there is a tailgate before the game on Friday night, the dance is on Saturday at the new Cultural Center for Performing Arts.

Dr. Nielsen stated that we are having two Ambassadors' Breakfasts, one on October 17, 2006 and one on October 19, 2006 at Bloomington Junior High School (BJHS). Approximately 110 community leaders have been invited over the two days. The intent is to show them what is going on in the District and show them some results on ISAT test scores. Students will take the attendees on a tour of BJHS. He asked the Board if their schedule allows, to please attend. The events begin at 7:20 a.m. in the morning and will be done by 8:30 a.m.

Dr. Nielsen stated that he will not be at the October 11, 2006 Board Meeting. He will be in Austin, TX at the Council of Chief State School Officers Conference to which he has been appointed. Mr. Reilly will be acting Superintendent in his absence.

Dr. Nielsen stated that the October 25, 2006 Board Meeting will be at BJHS. This will be the dedication of the new addition. The community will be invited to attend a tour.

Dr. Nielsen stated that the next meeting of the Sesquicentennial Committee will be on October 30, 2006. The group has most of the year's activities planned. The beginning of the celebration will be in April, 2007. Major events will be scheduled for September, 2007. He commended the committee on their hard work.

It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Dirks that the District 87 Budget for 2006-07 be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 9-27-06/2)

It was moved by Mr. Butcher, seconded by Mr. Dirks that the Resolution: Judge Scott Grant for AVC Technology and Alternative Education Programs, be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 9-27-06/3)

Mrs. Smith presented Board Action C, Resolution: SSCIP Withdrawal from the Pool, for Board consideration.

Mr. Wood stated this is our liability insurance. We are in a pool of south suburban schools. While we don't think we have been paying more than our liability claims would require, we've been constantly looking at options for insurance expenditures. The people who created this pool are creating a downstate pool, districts more like ours and closer to ours, yet they don't want to quote us a price until we give legal withdrawal from this other pool. The pool that we are in requires a twelve month withdrawal, which is on a calendar basis, the next withdrawal period being January, 2007 through December 31, 2007. They let us withdraw between January and June, 2007, so we plan on going out for a bid for insurance. We will seek bids from other companies not just this other alternative pool. This is just setting us up to look at the market and see if there are some alternatives.

It was moved by Mrs. Jackson, seconded by Mrs. Roth that the Resolution: SSCIP Withdrawal from the Pool be approved. Upon a roll call vote, all Members present, voted "Aye". Motion carried. (See with Original Minutes, Attachment 9-27-06/4)

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