

Minutes on the public hearing regarding C.U.S.D. #425's request to modify school code concerning the school year calendar from 2009-2010 through 2013-2014 held on Monday, March 16, 2009.

President Cribben called the hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. The recording secretary called the roll. Present were: Hicks, Boehne, Foster, Ottengheime, Palombo, Cribben. Absent: Konen. There were ten others in attendance.

Superintendent Rockwood explained the purpose of the request for calendar waiver/modification. Normally waivers must be approved by the general assembly, however this request may be approved by I.S.B.E. According to school code 105 ILCS 5/24-2 the district can attend school on a state holiday. Our request is to allow us to attend school on state holidays. Ms. Rockwood listed the legal school holidays, which are: New Year's Day; Martin Luther King Day; Abraham Lincoln's birthday; Casimir Pulaski's birthday; Good Friday; Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Columbus Day; Veteran's Day; Thanksgiving day; and Christmas day. Our hearing must also include time for comments from citizens on our proposed request for calendar modification. Indian Creek had previously received permission to modify our calendar for the past five school years and those have expired effective with the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Cribben and Ms. Rockwood stressed several times that this hearing was only on our request to modify the school code and allow student attendance on state holidays.

Ms. Rockwood outlined the needed steps in order to pursue our request for modifying our calendar. A notice stating the time and place of a public hearing regarding our request must be published in the newspaper, which was published in the Daily Chronicle on March 6, 2009. Letters were submitted that a hearing was being held on March 16 to Representative Pritchard, Senator Burzynski, and Mr. Duane Farnsworth, Indian Creek Education Association President. During the public hearing, copious notes need to be taken on the comments of the citizens regarding our request to modify our school calendar to include attendance on state holidays.

Mr. Cribben asked if any citizens wished to address the board regarding the submission of our request to I.S.B.E.

Adam Lindley asked how this would affect the schedule with finals and the beginning and ending of the school year. Mr. Cribben responded that this hearing was only to ask permission of I.S.B.E. to attend school on a holiday.

Vicki Drendel asked if the board was looking at certain dates they would like to attend school on. Ms. Rockwood said the calendar had been adopted for the 2009-2010 school year but direction was given by the board of education to seek calendar modifications.

Board member, Charlie Foster said that what the board was asking for had been done for the past five years with I.S.B.E.'s permission, and the calendar may or may not change.

Superintendent Rockwood said that the first step in the modification process is to have all of our "I's" dotted and the "T's" crossed. The state has 45 days in which to respond once they receive

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our request. Copies of needed information will be mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested to I.S.B.E. with the citizens' comments.

Lisa Hauck asked if the board is seeking modifications for five years, then could they do it again?

Superintendent Rockwood stated that yes, it would be sought for five years and could be done again after the five year period has expired.

Duane Farnsworth spoke in favor of attending school on national holidays for personal and professional reasons. Personally, Mr. Farnsworth feels the nation has gotten away from recognizing some of the holidays and the towns don't have any activities. He feels that it has become nothing more than an opportunity for retail stores to have sales. Professionally, with the specific amount of student attendance days, he felt it is wiser to have students attend school during the time of year when our facilities are equipped to provide an effective learning environment.

Superintendent Rockwood will provide I.S.B.E with a narrative indicating that our rationale for attending school during state holidays is because we believe that we can honor each individual associated with each holiday in a much more effective way by providing instruction about each individual's significance on the designated calendar holiday that honors that person.

Mr. Farnsworth said there was a display case at the high school on a previous Veteran's Day that honored present and past students serving in the military. It was a very effective teaching tool.

The board received no written comments from anyone in the audience.

Those speaking regarding the request were one parent (Vicki Drendel) and 3 teachers (Duane Farnsworth, Adam Lindley, and Lisa Hauck). As noted throughout, Mrs. Drendel, Mr. Lindley, and Mrs. Hauck had questions, while Mr. Farnsworth was in favor of submitting the request for modification to I.S.B.E.

It was moved by Ottengheime, seconded by Palombo that the hearing be adjourned. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried. The hearing was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Ottengheime, Secretary

Daniel Cribben, President

Minutes of the regular board of education meeting held on Monday, March 16, 2009. The meeting was called to order by the president at 7:13 p.m. The recording secretary called the roll. Present were: Hicks, Boehne, Foster, Ottengheime, Palombo, Cribben. Absent: Konen

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Foster to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2009 board meeting. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

Mr. Cribben asked that an IVVC report be added to informational reports VIII. D.

COMMUNICATIONS

The president announced that there were two FOIA requests. One was from the Illinois Policy Institute and the other was from the Daily Chronicle. Both received responses.

Mr. Farnsworth and Mr. Malm gave a powerpoint presentation on 2008-2009 discipline data. The middle school and high school discipline goals were given. Positive choice programs at the middle school were explained as well as positive interventions at the middle school and high school. Positive activities and programs at the high school were explained. Discipline data comparisons from last year and this year regarding detentions and suspensions for both the middle school and high school were also given as well as attendance figures for both last year and this year. Benefits of the Dean of Students were also discussed. Mr. Malm and Mr. Farnsworth also found it very helpful to be in attendance at the CRY (Community Resource for Youth) breakfasts. Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Montgomery agreed that both the deans have done a wonderful job and that communication has increased. Ms. Rockwood also had positive feedback.

Mr. Mantzke had no additions to the Shabbona Elementary principal's report other than to reiterate the honor of receiving the academic excellence award.

Mr. Simpson had no addition to the Waterman Elementary principal's report.

Mrs. Kennedy had no addition to the middle school principal's report.

Mrs. Montgomery added to her principal's report that Trevor Foster had received fifth place in the state in the three point shooting contest. She and Ms. Rockwood attended the March Madness state basketball tournament to watch our high school pep band perform. The ag mechanics team has moved on to state competition.

Mr. Hicks had concerns regarding track team publicity in the DeKalb Chronicle as other schools had a paragraph in the sports section on their track team. Mrs. Montgomery said that she assumed that there was a problem on the Chronicle's end. He also had a concern on why the high school didn't have bass fishing team. Ms. Rockwood said that Ehren Mertz had met with Dennis Sands over a year ago and students were polled as to their interest. Only a few individuals were interested and when they found out that it was during the same time as baseball that created a conflict for them.

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The president asked if anyone in the audience had anything that they wished to present to the board. The following was presented:

Brenda Chester thanked the board members, middle school staff and custodians, all staff in the district, and the administration for their help with the CCC auction. They were very pleased with the results. The money taken in from the auction was only down about \$2500 from last year and with the economic situation, they were very pleased with the results. The auction will be on March 14 next year.

Vicki Drendel shared her concerns regarding the school calendar. She had seen a potential calendar and was concerned about the early starting date.

Adam Lindley had a concern about the school calendar.

Joanne Burton had a concern with the heat at the middle school and the beginning of the school year.

Duane Farnsworth suggested that the heat factor at all the buildings would be a factor and suggested an early release schedule in the summer.

Brenda Chester said the calendar was discussed at the last CCC meeting and concerns were heard. She surveyed alumni regarding finals and it appears that they would much rather have them after Christmas break.

Ms. Rockwood said that she would call the calendar committee back together. The calendar that was adopted at the last board meeting did not include being in school on holidays. That is why a hearing regarding our request to modify school code was held this evening. A survey was held two years ago on having finals before Christmas break and was inconclusive. Ms. Rockwood said that best practices instructional indicate that semesters should be even. The school code is also very explicit about the number of student attendance days.

Jeff Jefko asked the school board's position on windfarms. He also asked for increased communications between the Shabbona village board and the board of education.

BUSINESS

It was moved by Ottengheime, seconded by Palombo to approve the bills for the month of March including late bills in the amount of \$3,864.55 accounts payable checks numbers 59720 to 59817 in the amount of \$208,995.88; payroll checks numbers 43113 to 43220 and 638d-849d in the amount of \$437,683.96; the treasurer's report, imprest fund report, and community school fund report. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried. Mr. Hicks had a concern on late bills. He thought that late bills should only be emergency items or those carrying late fees.

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It was moved by Hicks, seconded by Palombo that the meeting adjourn into executive session regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, student discipline, and the placement of individual students in special education programs and matters relating to individual students. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned into executive session at 8:21 p.m.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Hicks that the meeting reconvene into regular session. Roll call vote: Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Foster, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Cribben, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Boehne, seconded by Palombo that the executive session minutes be approved as reviewed. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

It was moved by Foster, seconded by Boehne to re-employ the following fourth year probationary teachers as tenured teachers: Julianne Hogan, Diana Zwinak, Toni Saso, Elizabeth Schmidtbauer, Amber Schueler, and Maria Carpenter. Roll call vote: Boehne, yes; Foster, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Hicks, yes; Cribben, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Boehne to re-employ the following as probationary teachers: Betty Thuestad, Roderick Moore, Michelle Kula, Eric Schrader, Daniel Slocum, Lisa Socha, Lisa Hauck, Lauren Buenzow, Kate Grzywa, Adam Lindley, Jennifer Miller, Joshua Slaughterback, Molly Punke, Jaclyn Hemme, Laura Springmire, Stephanie Snider, and Robyn Sturk. Roll call vote: Foster, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Cribben, yes. The motion carried.

It was moved by Boehne, seconded by Palombo to re-employ part-time staff: Drenda Schmidt and Dave Olson. Roll call vote: Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Foster, yes; Cribben, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Hicks to accept the resignation of Dave Giammarusco as social studies/physical education teacher effective at the end of the 2008-2009 school year. Roll call vote: Palombo, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Foster, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Cribben, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Boehne, seconded by Hicks to accept the resignation of Krysta Tilges as special education teacher effective at the end of the 2008-2009 school year. Roll call vote: Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Foster, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Cribben, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

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It was moved by Foster, seconded by Hicks to accept the resignation of Dennis Breese as baseball coach effective immediately. Roll call vote: Boehne, yes; Foster, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Hicks, yes; Cribben, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Ottengheime, seconded by Hicks to approve the hiring of Mike Kniffin as varsity baseball coach. Roll call vote: Foster, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Cribben, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Boehne, seconded by Palombo to approve the hiring of Garrett Galbreath as junior varsity baseball coach. Roll call vote: Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Foster, yes; Cribben, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

Ms. Rockwood explained the reasons that the 2008-2009 budget needs to be amended. The original budget increased administrative costs by more than 5%. The proposed amendments bring it below the allowed maximum 5%. Special education tuition costs have risen this year. If this is not amended, education fund expenses will be overbudget. Due to a change in accounting practices, all loans and capital leases need to be paid from the debt service fund. The fire prevention budget needs to be increased to cover partial payment for summer '09 roof work. The education fund adjustment would be amended to allow for a \$125,000 budget expense cushion. There is no amendment needed for the operations and maintenance fund adjustments. Debt service fund adjustments would be \$31,400 of lease and loan payments and revenue from the general fund to comply with the change in accounting practices. Fire prevention & safety fund adjustments need to be amended to \$78,350 to help offset the 2009 roofing work projected partial payment of \$110,000. The architect has finished the bid notice for the newspaper for the roof work and it will be faxed in after the board approves the architect fees for the roofing projects this evening.

It was moved by Ottengheime, seconded by Palombo to set the hearing date for the amended budget at 7:00 p.m. on April 20, 2009 right before the regularly scheduled meeting. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

It was moved by Hicks, seconded by Foster to approve the proposed new instructional materials for the 2009-2010 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

It was moved by Hicks, seconded by Foster to approve filing a request for possible calendar modifications for the 2009-2010 through 2013-2014 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

It was moved by Foster, seconded by Palombo to approve the district special education comprehensive plan for presentation to I.S.B.E. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

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It was moved by Foster, seconded by Boehne to approve the architect fees of \$63,739.04 for the letting of roof bids and any resulting roof repair thereof. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

Ms. Rockwood explained the middle school roof will be the primary bid, Waterman Elementary will be alternate bid #1, and the high school roof will be alternate bid #2. The bids can be done in any order. The architect has taken core samples and found that parts of the high school roof are in the worst condition of any of the buildings.

It was moved by Ottengheime, seconded by Palombo to approve 2009 summer school for regular education. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Ottengheime to approve 2009 summer school for special education. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

It was moved by Foster, seconded by Palombo to approve the additional SIP day for the end of the 2008-2009 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

It was moved by Foster, seconded by Boehne to approve the disposal of school property of the proofers at Shabbona Elementary. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

There was first reading of the middle school student handbooks. There were no major revisions. Parents will be changed to parents/legal guardians. Ms. Palombo, who also served on the committee, said they also discussed community service. This is a discussion topic but not for this year.

There was a first reading of all the high school handbooks. There were no major revisions. Parents will be changed to parents/legal guardians. Most changes in the student handbook had progressive discipline involved and coincides with the middle school handbook. Guidelines for open gym were added to the coaches/extra-curricular handbook.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Ms. Rockwood gave the superintendent's report. She attended the F.F.A. breakfast and petting zoo, was a hawker at the C.C .C. auction, and attended the Excellence in Education banquet honoring Sandy Rueff. The new high school computer labs will be received in April. Mrs. Montgomery and Ms. Rockwood traveled to Peoria to watch the high school pep band play in the state basketball tournament. She was extremely proud of our students. She is also proud of the academic excellence awards received by both elementary schools, the horizon award received by the middle school, and the excellence in education award received by Sandy Rueff. The policy committee will be called to set a meeting before the next board meeting. The prebid meeting for the roofs will be March 20 and the bid opening by the architect will be on April 1. He would like

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us to have a meeting on April 1 to recommend and approve a bid. The calendar modification request will be mailed this week.

Mr. Cribben asked if there have been any concerns with Dunn's Repair and Wisted's. Ms. Rockwood said not to her knowledge.

Ms. Rockwood met with Gary Dunn and Coral Sanders on bus specs. The proposed bus purchases should be able to be discussed at the April 20 board meeting.

Ms. Rockwood said there was a meeting at the R.O.E. on rural connectivity with fiber access to all DeKalb County schools and that N.I.U. was interested in applying for a grant under the stimulus packages. They are asking for a letter of support from each board of education in the county.

Ms. Rockwood shared that she was contemplating attendance at the National School Board Convention April 4-7 in San Diego.

The calendar was discussed. The information that was ascertained from the last board meeting was that the board would like equal semesters, spring break aligned with IVVC, and attendance on holidays. Ms. Rockwood outlined various versions of possible calendars and the resulting possible student starting and ending dates. Ms. Rockwood asked the board for clarification on the calendar that was approved for 2009-2010. The board said that they were looking at the 2010-2011 calendar and whether to pursue high school finals before holiday break or not in the future.

Ms. Rockwood was unclear what direction the board wanted her to take with the 2009-2010 calendar. What she heard was that the board wanted to keep the holiday modifications out for now and not look to move finals before Christmas. The board indicated that this was correct. The modifications request would be granted by May 1 and the 2009-2010 calendar could be amended. A new calendar won't be given out until any approved modifications have been made.

It was suggested that the calendar for 2010-2011 be studied again to see if finals could be before the holidays. The pros and cons will be evaluated and a new survey may be done.

Ms. Rockwood again asked the board what direction to take with the calendar. The consensus was to leave the 2009-2010 calendar alone no matter what, modifications will be requested, the calendar committee will meet again to decide whether or not modifications will be recommended regarding the 2009-2010 calendar.

There was no DCP/SAFE report.

The Finance Committee report was covered previously during the meeting.

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Mr. Cribben gave the IVVC report. Litigation was discussed in their executive session meeting.

Mrs. Ottengheime read thank you correspondence from Sharlyn Larson for the new stoves; and thank yous for memorials from the Stacey Arnold family; Tammy Johnson; St. Andrews Endowment Fund in memory of Eileen Cribben; and Make A Wish Foundation in memory of Vera Morrison.

It was moved by Foster, seconded by Palombo that the meeting be adjourned. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Ottengheime, Secretary