

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on Monday, February 23, 2009. The meeting was called to order by the president at 7:01 p.m. The recording secretary called the roll. Present were: Hicks, Foster, Ottengheime, Konen, Cribben. Absent: Palombo, Boehne

Mr. Cribben asked for a moment of silence in memory of Stacey Arnold.

It was moved by Konen, seconded by Foster to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2009 board of education meeting. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Montgomery gave an addition to the principal's report that was included in the board packet. There will be a pep assembly on Wednesday to honor the pep band that will be playing in the state boys basketball tournament as well as celebrating other high school student successes. Six school pep bands were selected and there is only one school smaller than Indian Creek that was selected.

Mrs. Kennedy gave an addition to her principal's report. Sandy Rueff was awarded the Excellence in Education Award from the Regional Office of Education. She will be honored with a dinner and a check for \$1,000. Ms. Rockwood added that someone from Indian Creek has been honored for three years in a row. Carol Heck was honored the first year, last year Jan Kuntz was honored, and this year Sandy Rueff will be honored.

Mr. Mantzke added to the Shabbona Elementary principal's report that Family Reading Afternoon would be on Saturday, February 28. Mr. Cribben asked about preschool screening. Mr. Mantzke said the preschool is at capacity and there is a waiting list. Another screening will be held in May.

Mr. Simpson added to the Waterman Elementary principal's report that the students will be visiting the F.F.A. petting zoo on Friday.

Mr. Hicks asked about enrollment. Waterman Elementary's enrollment is down by two students from last month. Shabbona Elementary's enrollment is up by three students from last month.

Mrs. Konen asked Mr. Simpson about kindergarten registration. Mr. Simpson said that no date has been set yet but it will probably be in May.

The president asked if anyone in the audience had anything that they wished to present to the board. No one responded.

BUSINESS

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Foster to approve the bills for the month of February accounts payable checks numbers 59604 to 59719 in the amount of \$254,401.32 (including late bills in the amount of \$11,631.94); payroll checks numbers 43011 to 43112 and 426d-637d in the amount of \$424,927.92; the imprest fund report, community school fund report, and the treasurer's report. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

It was moved by Ottengheime, seconded by Palombo that the meeting be adjourned into executive session regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, student disciplinary cases, collective bargaining, and the placement of students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned into executive session at 7:15 p.m.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen that the meeting reconvene into regular session. Roll call vote: Hicks, yes; Foster, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Cribben, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried. The meeting reconvened into regular session at 8:16 p.m.

It was moved by Konen, seconded by Palombo to approve the executive session minutes as reviewed. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

It was moved by Cribben, seconded by Konen to accept the resignation of Melissa Zehelein as full-time social worker. Roll call vote: Foster, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Hicks, yes; Cribben, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Konen, seconded by Palombo to approve Suzanne James as paraprofessional. Roll call vote: Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Hicks, yes; Foster, yes; Cribben, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Konen, seconded by Ottengheime to approve Megan Kolkay as girls soccer assistant coach. Roll call vote: Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Hicks, yes; Foster, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Cribben, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Foster, seconded by Palombo to approve Dave Olson as head golf coach for 2009-2010. Roll call vote: Konen, yes; Hicks, yes; Foster, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Cribben, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen to approve the FMLA request for Tom Allen. Roll call vote: Hicks, yes; Foster, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Cribben, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Foster, seconded by Hicks to approve the FMLA request for Julianne Hogan. Roll call vote: Foster, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Hicks, yes; Cribben, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Ottengheime, seconded by Palombo to approve the amended 2008-2009 school calendar. This school year's calendar needed to be amended because three snow days were used. As of now, June 8 will be the last student attendance day and the teacher institute will be June 9. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

Ms. Rockwood discussed the 2009-2010 school calendar. There are certain waivers that the state legislature must approve. However, with school calendars I.S.B.E. may approve any requested modifications to school code, such as attending school on a holiday, and a public hearing has to be held. Discussion occurred on having final exams before Christmas break, moving Christmas break, early dismissals before a holiday, starting school earlier, and attending school on holidays. The consensus of the board was to look at reshuffling the 2009-2010 calendar, balancing the two semesters, and having finals before Christmas. The board also wanted to go through the process of applying for calendar modifications, so school could be in session on holidays. It was moved by Ottengheime, seconded by Hicks to approve the 2009-2010 school calendar as presented. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Hicks to set Monday, March 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. as a public hearing regarding modification of school code pertaining to the school year calendar. This hearing will be on a regularly scheduled board meeting night and will be scheduled as a separate hearing, with the regular board meeting to begin immediately thereafter. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

It was moved by Ottengheime, seconded by Konen to approve an overnight field trip by the pep band on March 12 since they will be playing at the IHSA state boys basketball tournament. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Ms. Rockwood gave the superintendent's report. The socio/emotional learning program was discussed at a recent early dismissal. Adoption of new texts has taken place and they are on display in the high school library. A letter was received from the district's attorney and there will be no increase in their billing charges. Ms. Rockwood has been involved with meetings on the school calendar and in planning for the community coffee on March 24. She will be meeting this week on bus specs. A handout on the sixteen trends that will affect us was discussed and Ms. Rockwood attended the pork chop and spaghetti suppers. She also discussed the pep band honor of being chosen to play at the state boys basketball tournament.

Ms. Rockwood, Mr. Cribben, and Ms. Palombo had a very informative meeting with the Potawatomi Nation regarding their plans for a government center and a class 2 gaming bingo hall that will be open 24/7. The Potawatomi Nation has made voluntary payments in lieu of taxes to the county and will continue to do so in the future.

Ms. Rockwood, Mr. Simpson, and Mayor Hicks met on February 9 regarding the wind farm and should it become a reality, future steps that might occur. FPL and the village of Shabbona would have to have a survey done to make two parcels of each into one and there would need to be an annexation agreement. It might be annexed very soon thereafter. Then a TIF would be discussed

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if the village decided to pursue one. A TIF may not need to be in place or it could be in place for 23 years. The land would need to be zoned industrial and ordinances would need to be passed turbine construction. Ms. Rockwood received several requests after the last newsletter about TIF districts. She will be including an article in the March newsletter outlining three basic questions and answers regarding TIF districts.

Mrs. Ottengheime gave the DCP/SAFE report. There is a picture in the last DCP/SAFE newsletter of the Indian Creek Middle School student council who received the Youth Peace Prize. A date will be set for the youth event at the YMCA.

Mr. Cribben gave the IVVC report. There are no new issues regarding grant writing. Counsel has made recommendations regarding this and it has also advised IVVC regarding prevailing wage.

Mrs. Konen reported on the February 12 DCSEA meeting. The governing board approved Hinckley-Big Rock as the administrative agency for follow-up beginning July 1, 2009. The prorated share for the district will be available in January or February 2010. Approximately 5.53% would be our district's share. IMRF issues are still being discussed. Our district's portion may be \$1,053.09 which was calculated by our district's student population. Mrs. Konen said that Dr. Beard will be the director of special education at Hinckley-Big Rock since DCSEA is dissolving. Mr. Hicks suggested that Hinckley-Big Rock reimburse DCSEA if Dr. Beard is working for them while she is still employed as the director of D.C.S.E.A.

Mr. Foster gave the education committee report. There was a textbook presentation on ag, health, music, and updating office software in one lab.

Mrs. Ottengheime read thank you correspondence from Dr. Harold Bauer; Ruby Foster and the Foster families; Charlie and Patty Foster; Carol Smith; Lois Hutchison family; Gil Morrison; Becky Boldt; and a Baptist Church in Florida.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen that the meeting be adjourned. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Ottengheime, Secretary