

Minutes of the board of education meeting held on Monday, March 15, 2010. The meeting was called to order by the president at 7:00 p.m. The recording secretary called the roll. Present were: Conley, Hicks, Boehne, Ottengheime, Palombo, Foster. Absent: Konen

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Hicks to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2010 board of education meeting. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried. Mrs. Konen arrived at 7:02 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

There was no high school activity report.

Jim Muirhead from the Glenbrook Group, the roofing contractor, was present to discuss the concerns of the board over the middle school leaks and when he might expect final payment. Mrs. Konen arrived at 7:02 p.m. Mr. Muirhead felt that everything had been resolved-there is a manufacturer's warranty on the roof, and everything has been approved by the architect. He has been in weekly contact with the middle school staff and Allen Ham and thus far there have been no further leaks. There was a plugged drain that was resolved.

Mr. Boehne said that the biggest concern was the heavy spring rains.

Mr. Foster said that the damage on the inside remains a concern. He realizes that it is tough times for businesses and the board of education is not holding out.

Mr. Muirhead said that he wants the board to be completely satisfied and he is doing everything he can to satisfy all involved as his reputation is on the line.

Mr. Foster asked Mr. Muirhead to keep working with Allen and he hopes that the issue is resolved.

Mr. Mantzke and Mr. Simpson gave the elementary principals reports. Both Shabbona and Waterman Elementary Schools received the academic excellence award from the state for the second year in a row. They both expressed their gratitude to the staff, parents, community, and the board of education for their support. Mr. Simpson said that the award was through the hard work of the faculty and consistency in achieving a high level of support.

Mr. Foster thanked and congratulated the staff and commended the administration.

Mrs. Ottengheime asked the principals about the number of Waterman students in Shabbona and the number of Shabbona students in Waterman. The principals explained that the theory is for balanced class sizes on both sides of the district. There are double class sections at Shabbona Elementary. New students who enroll attend the building where the double class sections are. They have allowed students who move within the

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district to remain in the school where they first enrolled so they are not required to change schools so they can attend where smaller class sizes exist.

Mr. Hicks asked what is happening with the writing program. Mr. Simpson said that both buildings have attended writing workshops and that whole faculty study groups are working on this. Mr. Mantzke said they have reinstated the writing prompt. Scoring is done by rubric and teachers are doing their own scoring in both buildings.

Mrs. Kennedy had an addition to the middle school principal's report. The first All Star game was held in Somonauk. Both the girls and boys teams won. The CCC auction went well.

Mr. Foster asked Mrs. Kennedy if there were any new leaks at the middle school. Mrs. Kennedy said there were no leaks since the drain was plugged. The roofers did seal more around the drain and said that it was a structural problem and not a roofing problem. Mr. Hicks asked if that was part of the specs. Mrs. Kennedy said it was not part of the specs. Mr. Simpson added that Allen Ham said that the drain freezes every winter. When the new roof was put on it didn't get sealed correctly. Allen resealed the drain tighter after the roofers resealed it. The architect was called and said that it should be sealed and payment should be withheld until everything was resolved.

Mrs. Montgomery had nothing new to add to the high school principal's report.

Mrs. Darlinger had nothing new to add to the special education director's report. She said it was nice to be back and thanked Janiece Blickham for helping out.

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

Brenda Chester, president of the CCC, said the auction was very successful and thanked everyone who helped, donated, and purchased items. Preliminary figures show the total amount raised of \$21,225 without expenses being taken out. This is more than was raised last year and more items were donated this year. The event is a real sense of community. She also commented on the calendar and survey process.

Vickie Drendel commented on the calendar and how it was conducted.

BUSINESS

Ms. Rockwood presented an overview of the 2010-2011 budget and state funding. She had also given this presentation at the March 11, 2010 special board meeting but some things had changed since then. We do know that everything is "on the table" for

consideration by the legislature (even taking away money from districts who have worked hard to create fund balances). The governor's proposed budget does not "match" what ISBE has proposed and it reduces dollars to education by about 1.3 billion, with a 15%+ reduction in categorical reimbursements. There is a good chance that the foundation level per student will drop from \$6119 to anywhere from \$5669 to \$5519, and may drop as low as the 2006 funding level of \$5164 per student. We know that our district's enrollment is dropping. While we currently do not qualify for hold harmless funding, we would next year; but we have been told that no new hold harmless districts will likely be allowed for next year. There is also strong potential for our state aid to be funded through the alternative funding formula next year, as opposed to the foundation level per student. Interest rates are at a historic low and CPPRT taxes are less. Due to the low CPI we have very few new tax dollars for 2010-2011. The state is behind three quarters of reimbursement payments for special education and transportation services provided in FY09, payable in FY10. We hope to receive one more 2008-09 categorical reimbursement payment during this fiscal year. There are no more ARRA dollars to replace state aid. Many of the state grants (CTEI, Ag. Incentive, Early Childhood, Reading Improvement, ADA) will not be fully funded and we don't know what the state eventually is going to do and we don't know when we will know.

The assumptions for the 2010-2011 budget are based on Governor Quinn's budget numbers. Our revenue assumptions are based on: \$5669 per student or interest income of 1%; our current level of receipt of property taxes received in May/June 2011 is stable, assumes that people will pay 100% of their property taxes, the state will still owe us for at least two quarters of 2008-09 categorical reimbursements that won't get paid until 2010-2011; a p.e. retirement position was attritioned; state grants of early childhood, reading improvement, and ADA are included at a total of \$60,000; federal title grant dollars are equal to 2009-2010 amounts; and all staff contributions to insurance remain "as is".

At this point, our expenditure assumptions are: mandated life safety work of \$265,304; health insurance increase of 15% for six months (Jan.-June, 2011); utilities/fuel increase of 20%; outsourced special education costs increase by 10%, includes all projected contracted non-administrative salaries and stipends; includes purchase rotations of one new bus, one driver's ed. car, computers, uniforms, and textbooks; includes a continuation of all day early childhood and 2010 regular education summer school; and education supplies are decreased by 2%. In terms of 2010-2011 revenues and expenditures only, we are looking at a deficit range of \$618,000-\$983,000 dependent upon what the state does.

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As a result, almost every school district in the state is struggling with this and we have some very difficult decisions that need to be made.

Mr. Hicks said that we are projecting between \$600,000 and \$900,000 surplus and have been gaining \$300,000 to \$600,000 every year. He asked what has been estimated. The answer was it depends on categorical reimbursements. The money from the wind turbines will be received for the 2011-2012 school year. Discussion occurred on how the alternative funding formula will impact as well as the fact that the district will not be receiving \$1,000,000 per year in taxes from the wind turbines. We have been told that values of homes will continue to decrease thus impacting property taxes we will receive.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen to approve the bills for the month of March (including the late bill of \$141.10 from Wisteds) accounts payable checks numbers 61093 to 61200 in the amount of \$212,691.08; payroll checks numbers 44450 to 44626 and 3166d to 3383d in the amount of \$459,795.34; the treasurer's report, imprest fund report, and community school fund report. Roll call vote: Conley, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Foster, yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen that the meeting adjourn into executive session regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned into executive session at 8:00 p.m.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen that the board take a five minute recess. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried. The board took a five minute recess at 10:14 p.m.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Hicks that the meeting reconvene into executive session. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried. The board reconvened into executive session at 10:22 p.m.

It was moved by Konen, seconded by Palombo that the meeting reconvene into regular session. Roll call vote: Conley, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Foster, yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The motion carried. The meeting reconvened into regular session at 11:35 p.m.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen to approve the FMLA leave for Joanne Burton as per federal regulations. Roll call vote: Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Conley, yes; Foster, yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

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It was moved by Foster, seconded by Boehne to extend the superintendent's contract until June, 2013 with a review by January 15, 2012. Roll call vote: Boehne, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Conley, yes; Hicks, yes; Foster, yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Boehne to approve the careers class curriculum materials for 2010-2011. This will be reimbursed through a grant.

Mrs. Ottengheime asked if calculus books could also be purchased. If no books are purchased, there will be no class.

Mr. Hicks suggested not purchasing anything even if a grant was involved.

It was moved by Ottengheime, seconded by Conley to amend the motion to approve the careers class curriculum and calculus books for the 2010-2011 school year. Roll call vote: Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Conley, yes; Hicks, no; Boehne, yes; Foster, yes. 6 yes, 1 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Ottengheime, seconded by Hicks to approve the 2010-2011 registration fees as presented. Roll call vote: Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Conley, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Foster, yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

The approval of architect fees for the Indian Creek High School summer roofing project was tabled until the next meeting.

It was moved by Ottengheime, seconded by Boehne to approve special education summer school. Roll call vote: Konen, yes; Conley, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Foster, yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

There was first reading of the 2010-2011 middle school handbook. Ms. Palombo and Mr. Boehne each attended a meeting at the middle school. Additions to the handbook were being able to chew gum in an acceptable manner, the home logic piece, and the Alert Now system. There was a discussion on sports. Since there are no cuts at the middle school level, fair play was included.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Ms. Rockwood gave the superintendent's report. The calendar survey results were indicated in the March newsletter. She has been dealing with budget/personnel issues. It was exciting to attend the regional boys basketball tournament that Indian Creek High School hosted. Indian Creek will also be hosting a regional softball tournament. Ms. Rockwood attended the F.F.A. appreciation breakfast and the petting zoo. She also

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attended the CCC auction and reported that “it does your heart good” to attend and see the support from the community.

The Finance Committee report was discussed previously.

Ms. Palombo attended the Kishwaukee Spring Division I.A.S.B. meeting in Hampshire. Two new directors were voted on as at-large members. They are Mary Smith from Genoa and Amaal Tokars from Hinckley-Big Rock. Conference handouts are available online. The annual school board conference handouts will be available a week before the conference in November. A choice will be made on a division rep. Anyone wishing to receive online training from I.S.B.E. will receive 20% off until April. The deadline to submit a resolution to I.A.S.B. is June 23, 2010. Ms. Palombo has information to share with the board members on F.O.I.A. and the difference between the old and new act for those who are interested in seeing it.

Title I summer school was discussed. A different model is being looked at to run regular and Title I summer school. There is \$10,000 in the title I grant that can be used. Final district cost for that summer school would be \$1653. A decision needs to be made on whether to continue regular education summer school at no cost or to charge tuition. A tuition fee of about \$289 per student would need to be set to break even. This will be discussed next month.

Another meeting date was set for Thursday, March 18 at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Ottengheime read a thank you note from Messiah Lutheran Church thanking the board of education for their donation in memory of Donald Rockwood. A note from the Johnson Family to the Sports Boosters was also read. The Johnson family gave a donation to the Sports Boosters in memory of Larry C. Johnson.

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 12:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Ottengheime, Secretary

Charles Foster, President