

Minutes of the Indian Creek Board of Education meeting held on Monday, November 15, 2010. The president called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The recording secretary called the roll. Present were: Hicks, Ottengheime, Palombo, Foster. Absent: Konen, Boehne, Conley. The board toured Shabbona Elementary. Mrs. Konen arrived at 6:35 p.m. Mr. Boehne arrived at 6:40 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at the high school at 7:00 p.m. The recording secretary called the roll. Present were: Hicks, Boehne, Ottengheime, Palombo, Konen, Foster. Absent: Conley. The board toured the high school.

The board reconvened in the library at 7:26 p.m. The recording secretary called the roll. Present were: Hicks, Boehne, Ottengheime, Palombo, Konen, Foster. Absent: Conley.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2010 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Rockwood honored the board members for board member recognition day by presenting them with certificates, pins, and letters from the children of the district. She also read a resolution honoring Illinois School Board Members Day.

Mr. Connelly gave the report on the high school academic bowl.

Mrs. Jane Pace talked about the library grant and introduced Mrs. Donna Stanley who gave a presentation on Shabbona Elementary's library.

Mr. Mantzke and Mr. Simpson told about Veteran's Day celebrations in their buildings. Mr. Simpson showed a door hanger that was delivered or mailed to area veterans as well as the Veteran's Home in LaSalle. Mr. Simpson told about the fall celebration at Waterman Elementary which involved Rhodora Collins from the DeKalb County Farm Bureau and Monsanto Research Lab. The students had fun with a science presentation and enjoyed treats. The elementary Christmas programs will be held in the high school gym this year with Waterman's program being on December 6 and Shabbona's on December 7. Both principals talked about their state report cards. Per pupil expenditures remain below state average and the students perform well above the state average. The economic toll has created an instability of the student population. Mrs. Palombo questioned the difference in the teaching time between the two elementary buildings. It was explained that this is a building-wide average. In Shabbona Elementary there are double sections at each grade level and at Waterman Elementary there is a single section at each grade level. The classrooms are self-contained so they should balance out.

Mrs. Darlinger had no additions to her report. There was a successful pre-k screening with four children on the waiting list for pre-k. The staff completed autism training.

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Mrs. Kennedy told about the Veteran's Day and Feed My Starving Children assemblies. The boys basketball team won the Oregon Tournament for the first time. She handed out a writing comparison chart with other schools in the area. ISAT's trends are affected by economics and disabilities. Mobility continues to change and the enrollment is down.

Mrs. Montgomery gave the high school principal's report. There is one new student for a total of 258 students. Demographics are changing. Mrs. Montgomery talked about the state report card. The WorkKeys test is not included. She also talked about the high school not making AYP. Most of the schools in the state are in the same boat. State requirements go up 7.5% each year. There was 100% graduation rate in low economic and special needs students.

Mrs. Montgomery and Mrs. Kennedy compared and contrasted first quarter discipline for the last three years. Infractions are committed by more males than females in both buildings. The example was given that there are less infractions in one of this year's classes than there were in that same class last year. Since socio/emotional goals have been put in place, it will be interesting to see the graphs next year compared to this year.

Mrs. Montgomery gave the high school school improvement presentation.

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

Jill Schmitt asked if the board had made a decision on lifts at the middle school or an approximate time when that decision might be made.

Mr. Foster responded that the board and administration have been looking at many options and what is the best possible solution for all students. There are four possible options that the board and the administrators have reviewed. A permanent chairlift is not able to be used in that building due to architectural constraints and fire code, which was affirmed by the R.O.E. It is possible that the board may make a decision at their next board meeting. This is not an easy decision since we are dealing with older buildings. The board is taking this very seriously.

Janet Pearson presented the 2009-10 audit. She mentioned that the treasurer is the only person that should be signing checks. However, it is up to the board to decide if they would like to appoint someone else to sign checks in an emergency. The district has done very well in managing their money and tightening their budget. There are no negatives in the activity funds. There was a single audit on the ARRA federal fund money and they are not sure what the state will do next year. Mr. Foster said there was a decrease in capital outlay since everything was put on hold.

BUSINESS

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen to approve the bills for the month of November accounts payable checks numbers 61994 to 62099 in the amount of \$582,575.01; payroll checks numbers 45284-45373 and 4817d-5026d in the amount of \$435,782.93; the treasurer's report; imprest fund report; and community school fund report. Roll call vote: Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Foster, yes. 6 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 and the placement of individual 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 9:05 p.m.

It was moved by Hicks, seconded by Konen that the meeting reconvene into regular session. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried. The meeting reconvened into regular session at 9:47 p.m.

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

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen to accept the resignation of Chandra Dively-Senkowski effective November 9, 2010. Roll call vote: Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Foster, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen to approve the FMLA leave request of Alison Metz. Roll call vote: Boehne, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Hicks, yes; Foster, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Boehne, seconded by Palombo to approve Chris Bickel as 8th grade girls basketball coach. Roll call vote: Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Foster, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen to accept the 2009-10 audit. Roll call vote: Konen, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Foster, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. It was duly noted with the auditor's concern that if the treasurer is unable to sign checks that another person is authorized to sign checks. It has only happened a couple of times.

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Ms. Rockwood gave two scenarios on the estimated tax levy. One abates bond and interest at Shabbona Elementary for the 2010 tax levy. Money needs to be transferred from the education fund to debt service before that can be done. If the board is not comfortable making a decision tonight, Ms. Rockwood suggested having a meeting next Monday night.

Mr. Hicks suggested that Ms. Rockwood should talk to the Milan Township treasurer about specific procedures that the district should do in order to get new tax dollars from the windfarms. He said if the procedure isn't done, the taxing body doesn't get the money. Ms. Rockwood said that she has spoken with the county assessor's office and she was not told of anything special that needed to be done. A notice will be published in the paper for a truth in taxation hearing.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Boehne to approve the transfer of \$516,017.50 from the education fund to debt service. Roll call vote: Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Foster, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

Mrs. Ottengheime read the resolution abating a portion of the tax levied for the year 2010 to pay debt service on general obligation school building bonds, series 2003. (A copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes). It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen to abate a portion of the tax levied for the year 2010 to pay the debt service on general obligation school building bonds, series 2003 for the school district. Roll call vote: Konen, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Foster, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried. Mr. Foster declared the motion carried and said resolution adopted, approved and signed the same in open meeting and directed the secretary to record the same in the records of the Board of Education Community Unit School District Number 425, DeKalb, Lee and LaSalle Counties, Illinois, which was done.

Mr. Foster complimented all of the board members for voting to abate a portion of the taxes. As the auditor reported, not many districts are in financial status to be able to do this.

It was moved by Boehne, seconded by Palombo to approve the estimated 2010 tax levy at \$7,544.114 Roll call vote: Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Foster, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

The board set December 20, 2010 at 7 p.m. before the regularly scheduled meeting as the date for the truth in taxation tax levy hearing.

The facilities study proposal was discussed by the Board. Concerns stated were about the excessive cost and the purpose of the study. It was questioned if the district should

continue to run all four facilities, the capital needs and life of a facility, accessibility and the best possible environment for all students, and whether or not an architect should do the study. Ms. Rockwood asked for clarification and restatement that this study is not about consolidation. The board replied in agreement that it is not about consolidation. After discussion, the board decided to table this item and discuss study possibilities with other architects.

It was moved by Konen, seconded by Palombo to approve the library grant. Roll call vote: Boehne, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Hicks, yes; Foster, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Boehne, seconded by Konen to approve the Indian Creek High School curriculum change recommendations for 2011-2012. Roll call vote: Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Foster, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Hicks, seconded by Palombo to approve the vote for Gwen Henry as the IMRF candidate. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

It was moved by Ottengheime, seconded by Hicks to approve the opening of student activities account for color guard. Roll call vote: Palombo, yes; Konen, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Foster, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

After a second reading, it was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen to approve policies: 2:70-E, 2:200-AP, 2:260-AP1, 4:60-E, 4:110-AP1, 4:140, 4:140-AP, 4:140-E1, 5:250, 5:280, 6:120-AP3, 6:120-AP3E1, 6:140-AP, 6:300-E2, 7:50-AP, 7:90, 7:240-AP1, 8:30-E1, 7:285, 2:100, 2:110, 4:50, 4:110-AP2, 6:320, 7:20, 7:180, 7:190, 7:190-AP5, 7:190-AP6, 7:190-E2, and 7:200. Roll call vote: Konen, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Palombo, yes; Foster, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Ms. Rockwood gave the superintendent's report. She met with First Midstate on recalling and reissuing the bonds for Shabbona Elementary. At this time, this is not a good idea, as there are fees associated with it. The second annual community progress report is being prepared for mailing in January of 2011. The new leased bus arrived. The NCLB reports are completed. Ms. Rockwood attended Veteran's Day observances at Shabbona Elementary and the middle school. New teacher evaluation formats were discussed at the R.O.E. meeting. It was decided to wait to see what the state does. A board picture will be taken in December.

The Finance Committee report was discussed previously during the meeting.

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The Education Committee met concerning proposed curriculum changes at the high school for the 2011-2012 school year. The changes involve changing the name of advanced physical science to physical science and changing BUS100: Business Technology and Concepts Course to BUS100: Introduction to Business. A Foods III class will be added at no cost since the same text will be used as now for Foods I and II. Foods III would be subject to the same enrollment minimum next year as all of the other classes.

Mr. Foster asked if a communication could be sent out to the district residents about the tax abatement and levy. Ms. Rockwood said this will be communicated after the December board meeting.

Mrs. Ottengheime read thank you notes from Sarah Montgomery, Paula Kennedy, Alison Metz, the Rickert family, C.C.C., Waterman Elementary E.P.C. and Shabbona Elementary E.P.C.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen that the meeting be adjourned. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Ottengheime, Secretary