

Minutes of the board of education meeting held on Monday, November 21, 2011. The meeting was called to order by the president at 6:00 p.m. The secretary called the roll. Present were: Martenson, Hicks, Ottengheime, Konen, Boehne. Absent: Palombo, Sanderson. The board members toured Shabbona Elementary. They recessed and then moved from Shabbona Elementary to Indian Creek High School at 6:20 p.m. Ms. Palombo arrived at 6:55 p.m. During the recess, the board had a supper break and then entered back into session touring Indian Creek High School at approximately 7:00 p.m. Mr. Sanderson arrived at 7:05 p.m.

The president called the business portion of the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. All board members were present.

It was moved by Konen, seconded by Palombo to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2011 and November 1, 2011 board meetings. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Rockwood read a resolution regarding School Board Members Day in Illinois. She also presented the board with certificates, pins, and cards from students and the C.C.C.

Mrs. Kennedy gave the report on the middle school student council. They recently participated in the "Feed My Starving Children" project. They have had very successful fundraisers, had their first dance with two more being planned, have a hat and glove tree for those less fortunate for Christmas, will sell flowers for Valentine's Day, and they will participate in the N.I.C.E. walk in the spring.

Janet Pearson, from Wilcoxson and Associates, reported on the district's audit. The district received the highest financial recognition from the state that is possible and it is doing a good job in overseeing its finances, as well as how the money is spent. She reported that many districts are floundering and Indian Creek School District consistently watches expenditures.

Mrs. Darlinger gave the special education director's report. She thanked the pre-k screening team. Eleven students were screened and there was one referral to outsource. Twelve ELL students were screened. There are twenty students enrolled and fourteen students on the waiting list. Mrs. Darlinger thanked Janiece Blickham for filling in during her absence.

Mrs. Montgomery had no additions to the high school principal's report. Mrs. Ottengheime asked that all principals add absenteeisms on their reports.

Mrs. Kennedy had no additions to the middle school principal's report. She thanked the board for the opportunity to attend the school board convention.

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Mr. Mantzke gave the Shabbona Elementary principal's report. He spoke about the Veteran's Day program and commended the students for their respect. The Christmas program will be on Monday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the high school.

Mr. Simpson gave the Waterman Elementary principal's report. He spoke about the Veteran's Day program and commended Mrs. Witzig and Mrs. Anderson for coordinating the bookmarks sent to the Veteran's Home in LaSalle-Peru and handing out bookmarks to the veterans in Waterman. The Christmas program will be on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the high school.

Both the high school and middle school had Veteran's Day programs also.

Ms. Palombo asked if the elementary schools had thought about combining their Christmas programs. This would help the children intermingle. Mr. Simpson said that this hadn't been explored because of transportation and rehearsals. Mr. Mantzke said that there continues to be teambuilding between the fifth grades and field trips. Both fifth grades recently attended the symphony. Mr. Simpson said that second and third grades have coordinated and attended the same field trips.

Mr. Simpson and Mr. Mantzke gave the elementary school improvement plan. In recent years both schools have accumulated a total of five Academic Excellence Awards, the highest award for academic achievement in Illinois. Both elementary schools have performed within plus or minus 5% of having 90% of its students meet or exceed state standards. They also addressed challenges that both schools will face in the near future. The Illinois Learning Standards are being phased out to be replaced by the Common Core Standards, which are more rigorous than our current standards. The early childhood grant was not received this year. The student poverty rates for both elementary schools are higher than the district average, which indicates a shift in demographics that may have an impact on student achievement. Ms. Palombo said that standardized testing no longer tests for writing. She was concerned about incorporating it more into the curriculum because to succeed in the business world, there needs to be success in writing. Mr. Simpson said that writing strategies are being studied in whole faculty study groups by looking at the data.

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

Vickie Drendel spoke on behalf of Melissa Feitlich regarding a proposal for a calendar.

BUSINESS

It was moved by Sanderson, seconded by Konen to approve the bills for the month of November accounts payable checks numbers 63272 to 63392 in the amount of

\$622,082.98; payroll checks numbers 46265 to 46360 and 7175d to 7383d in the amount of \$454,454.28; the treasurer's report, imprest fund report, and community school fund report. Roll call vote: Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Sanderson, yes; Boehne, 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 and the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. Roll call vote: Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Sanderson, yes; Martenson, yes; Boehne, yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned into executive session at 9:01 p.m.

It was moved by Konen, seconded by Palombo 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 9:48 p.m.

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

It was moved by Konen, seconded by Sanderson to accept the resignation of Keri Dalki effective immediately. Roll call vote: Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Sanderson, yes; Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen to accept the resignation of Chris Bickel effective immediately. Roll call vote: Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Sanderson, yes; Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Boehne, yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen to accept the resignation of Ashley Moore as assistant girls' high school softball coach effective immediately. Roll call vote: Konen, yes; Sanderson, yes; Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Boehne, yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Konen, seconded by Sanderson to approve the FMLA request of Diana Zwinak. Roll call vote: Sanderson, yes; Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Boehne, yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Boehne, seconded by Konen to approve the revised FMLA request of Carla Hardenbergh. Roll call vote: Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Sanderson, yes; Boehne, yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Konen, seconded by Sanderson to approve the FMLA request of Jodi Bradford. Roll call vote: Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Sanderson, yes; Martenson, yes; Boehne, yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Boehne, seconded by Konen to approve the FMLA request of Brittany Day. Roll call vote: Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Sanderson, yes; Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Konen, seconded by Palombo to approve the FMLA request of Ashley Moore. Roll call vote: Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Sanderson, yes; Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Boehne, yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen to accept the 2010-2011 audit. Roll call vote: Konen, yes; Sanderson, yes; Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Boehne, yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

Dr. Rockwood gave the presentation of the estimated 2011 tax levy, with one version including the bond for Shabbona Elementary and one version not including the bonds for Shabbona Elementary. The Shabbona Elementary bonds are callable December of 2012. Discussion occurred about abating the 2011 taxes for the Shabbona Elementary bonds. The wind towers are capped and the district is experiencing declining enrollment. It is projected that the state will place the district in the alternative funding formula in the near future so we will have to rely more on local sources. The transportation funding by the state has been decreased again this school year. It is not necessary to have a hearing on the tax levy since the increase will not be over 5%. Dr. Rockwood explained that the taxes could be abated by all, one-half, or nothing. The Finance Committee met and agreed that the taxes should be abated. After discussion, in a straw poll, the board recommended abating the taxes.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen to approve the transfer of \$538,080 from the education fund for payment of Shabbona Elementary bond and interest for the 2012-13 school year. The motion was amended by Konen, seconded by Sanderson to read: approve the transfer of \$538,080 from the education fund to debt service for payment of Shabbona Elementary bond and interest for the 2012-13 school year. Roll call vote: Sanderson, yes; Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Martenson, yes; Boehne, yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

A resolution was read abating a portion of the tax levied for the year 2011 to pay the debt service on general obligation school building bonds 2003 for the school district. It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Boehne to abate \$538,080 of the tax levied for the year 2011 to pay the debt service on general obligation school building bonds, series 2003 for the school district. Roll call vote: Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes;

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Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Sanderson, yes; Boehne, yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Sanderson, seconded by Konen to approve the estimated 2011 tax levy. It was moved by Sanderson, seconded by Konen to amend the motion to approve the estimated 2011 tax levy to not include Shabbona Elementary bond and interest. Roll call vote: Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Sanderson, yes; Martenson, yes; Boehne, yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Ottengheime, seconded by Konen to approve the request for alteration to building and grounds. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

It was moved by Konen, seconded by Ottengheime to not submit a ballot for an IMRF candidate. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

There was a second reading on policies 2:20-E, 2:140, 2:250-AP1, 3:50, 3:60, 4:15, 4:15-AP, 4:15-E1, 4:15-E2, 4:15-E3, 5:150, 5:150-AP, 5:200, 6:150, 7:270-AP, 8:110, 1:10, 2:10, 3:10, 5:170-AP1, 5:170-AP2, 5:170-E, 6:235-E4, 6:235-AP1. It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Boehne to approve policies 2:20-E, 2:140, 2:250-AP1, 3:50, 3:60, 4:15, 4:15-AP, 4:15-E1, 4:15-E2, 4:15-E3, 5:150, 5:150-AP, 5:200, 6:150, 7:270-AP, 8:110, 1:10, 2:10, 3:10, 5:170-AP1, 5:170-AP2, 5:170-E, 6:235-E4, and 6:235-AP1. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Dr. Rockwood gave the superintendent's report. She received a copy of a calendar submitted by parents that will be mailed to the board members. Indian Creek High School students received the second highest grade point average at I.V.V.C. for the first nine weeks. The payment for the tractor that was sold was received. Shabbona State Park will have a recognition ceremony on December 12 for their 12,000,000 visitor. Funding has been restored for the R.O.E. superintendents' salaries using CPPRT dollars. Dr. Rockwood attended a very nice Veterans Day ceremony at the high school. Our students were very respectful. She also enjoyed the fall music contest. For next year, insurance rates went up .83% for medical rates and 0% for dental. There was a 13.3% increase in life insurance at a total cost of \$850 for the district. Dr. Rockwood appeared on Fox Valley Headline Newsmakers television program on November 4 as a guest along with Dr. Green and Dr. Wakely. They discussed student assessment and NCLB. Indian Creek had the highest scores in the Fox Valley area. All NCLB reports and paperwork have been submitted, work was completed on the tax levy, and information was sent out on the mandatory board training. On the high school tour held previously this evening, it was noted that new carpeting, chairs, and a flag pole are needed and plans are being made to complete this work from the 2011-2012 budget.

Mrs. Konen and Mr. Boehne gave the Finance Committee report. Discussion occurred about the tax levy, abating taxes, and buildings. Mrs. Konen said there are serious building issues. The middle school is the easiest starting point because so much needs to be done (i.e. ADA issues). Long term issues should be put out there and discussed. Capital improvements and grant construction deadlines were discussed. The district is to receive a \$1.3 million school construction grant, and it is in a healthy financial situation. Some feel that the district should take advantage of this with labor and material being cheaper now. Questions were asked regarding if we should fix things, run four buildings, and about ADA. Mr. Boehne said there is concern for the middle school students. Mrs. Konen said there is an increase in special education students and a satellite library was placed in the middle school which is a temporary fix. There is concern about evacuation with three floors there. The middle school is larger than its current enrollment and not all of the building is being used. Mr. Boehne said enrollment is declining every year and it doesn't look like it will be going up for awhile. Ms. Palombo asked if we should think about this now and bring back concrete ideas for the next meeting or bring up ideas now. Mr. Boehne said that we should look to move forward for the following year as this has been discussed at many previous meetings. Mrs. Konen said if we do a facility study and possibly switch architects that will take time. Mr. Boehne said our present architects have done a good job, the roofs went well and if there was a problem, they took care of it. He suggested that we keep the current architects.

Dr. Rockwood stated that if we keep all four buildings as is, then life safety work must be finished. Ms. Palombo said that work doesn't necessarily address ADA issues and those keep costing the district financially. A straw poll was taken on whether the board wanted to keep putting money in the middle school. The majority of the board were in agreement that they didn't want to keep spending money for the middle school building. The board felt they should look at long-term solutions such as placing students in three buildings, an expansion plan, a new building, a wing, or consolidation. Other discussion occurred on involving the public by hosting building tours. Board members brainstormed ideas. One idea was to close the middle school, house the pre-k through grade 4 at Shabbona Elementary, convert Waterman Elementary to a middle school (grades 5-8) with air conditioning and add classrooms and a gym, and leave the high school alone. Another idea was to add on to the high school with a middle school wing and to have an elementary school in both towns. All buildings would be in ADA compliance. It was brought up that there is more ground at Waterman Elementary than there is at the high school and it is less expensive to remodel than to build. Bathrooms could easily be remodeled for older students and locker rooms added. Other discussion occurred regarding having all the elementary children in one building with a consistent curriculum. Busing should also be taken into consideration. Graded centers were also discussed. Life safety work must be completed by 2013 but an extension can be

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requested. There is a problem with time. The middle school is not going to last forever. Discussion also occurred about the number of sections in each class. It was brought up that nothing has been set in stone about having three sections of classes for each grade level. The original concept was to alleviate congestion when our enrollment was larger, and it was suggested that this be watched more closely. It was also brought up that 69 students are being housed at Shabbona Elementary that are being bussed from Waterman (this is so that family siblings are not “split up”) . Mrs. Ottengheime would like to have feedback from the people who work at the buildings and to see what we need that we don't have now. Mr. Boehne asked the board's opinion on talking with the architect to get ideas and cost estimates. They all agreed that Dr. Rockwood should talk with the architects and get cost estimates.

It was moved by Ottengheime, seconded by Sanderson that the meeting adjourn. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Ottengheime, Secretary