

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on Monday, October 17, 2011. The meeting was called to order in the library of Indian Creek Middle School at 6:00 p.m. Present were: Martenson, Hicks, Palombo, Ottengheime, Konen, Boehne. Absent: Sanderson.

The board toured the middle school. At 6:55 p.m. the board traveled to Waterman Elementary and began a tour of that building.

The meeting resumed in the Waterman Elementary library at 7:32 p.m. All board members were present except Sanderson.

It was moved by Ottengheime, seconded by Konen to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2011 budget hearing and the September 19, 2011 regular board meeting. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

It was moved by Konen, seconded by Ottengheime to approve the bills for the month of October accounts payable checks numbers 63160 to 63271 in the amount of \$136,365.26; payroll checks numbers 46167 to 46264 and 6962d to 7174d in the amount of \$454,426.57; 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; Boehne, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Tyler and Mrs. Snider introduced themselves and the members of the high school student council introduced themselves and told of the events they have had so far this year and for the rest of the year. The student council purchased mats last year for the high school lobby and back entrance. This year they purchased a canopy and opened a school store for purchase of basic school supplies and healthy snacks.

Mr. Simpson thanked the community for the support of the pork chop supper fundraiser. He also handed out books for the Big Read.

Mr. Mantzke invited the board to the Veteran's Day assembly and reception. The R.O.E. building inspection took place earlier in the day.

Mrs. Kennedy had no additions to her report.

Mrs. Montgomery had no additions to her report.

#### BUSINESS

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen that the meeting adjourn into closed 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 7:45 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 9:10 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 Palombo, seconded by Konen to approve Keri Dalki as a classroom paraprofessional. Roll call vote: Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Martenson, yes; Boehne, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Boehne to approve Michele Iaccino as a paraprofessional. Roll call vote: Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Konen, seconded by Palombo to approve Joanne Burton as middle school yearbook sponsor. Roll call vote: Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Boehne, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Boehne, seconded by Palombo to approve Rebecca Pederson as high school cheerleading sponsor. Roll call vote: Konen, yes; Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Boehne, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Hicks to approve the FMLA leave request for Diane Smith. Roll call vote: Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Boehne, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Boehne, seconded by Konen to approve the FMLA leave request for Tina Smith. Roll call vote: Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Martenson, yes; Boehne, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Konen, seconded by Boehne to approve the FMLA leave request for Stephanie Snider. Roll call vote: Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes; Boehne, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Hicks to approve the intermittent FMLA leave request for Carla Hardenbergh. Roll call vote: Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Boehne, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Hicks, seconded by Palombo to approve the resolution authorizing a

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notice to remedy to Employee 101711A. Roll call vote: Konen, yes; Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Boehne, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Hicks, seconded by Palombo to approve snow removal for the 2011-12 school year with David Erickson taking care of the Shabbona side of the district and Jim Stahl taking care of the Waterman side of the district. Roll call vote: Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Boehne, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Ottengheime, seconded by Palombo to approve the high bid of \$5,502 from CSL Trucking for the 1968 John Deere tractor. Roll call vote: Hicks, yes; Palombo, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Martenson, yes; Boehne, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

Dr. Rockwood explained the consideration of the R.O.E. proposed resolution #2. The board agreed to stay neutral and no motion was made.

There was first reading of 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.

#### REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Dr. Rockwood gave the superintendent's report. She attended the Spanish dinner and she felt that homecoming went very well. The NCLB federal grant was approved. Our September 30 enrollment was 782 this year. Last year it was 792 and 849 in 2008-09. The life safety work plan has been updated by buildings. I.V.V.C. had exit lights that were available to the schools in the area and Indian Creek received six exit lights at no charge. Staff work will begin on the common core curriculum at a workshop on November 15 and during November 23. The high school roof project is complete. The R.O.E. building inspections were held today. Senate Bill 7 was discussed at a meeting attended by Dr. Rockwood, Mr. Hicks, and Mrs. Ottengheime. Information was handed out to the board members. The bill requires that anyone running for the school board must have four hours of training. As a result there will also be a new evaluation tool and process for teacher and principal evaluations. Dr. Rockwood attended a meeting in Galena where Tim Waters, C.E.O. and President of MCREL was the speaker. She has started preliminary tax levy work. It is projected that Lee County will not be finished with their assessments until the end of November. She thanked the principals for helping with the numerous special education issues during the leave of the special education director. Dr. Rockwood met with both the policy and finance committees.

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Dr. Rockwood gave the I.V.V.C. report. The students of the month for September were Emily Bergstrand in early childhood and Kristen Westbrook in sports medicine and management. The I.V.V.C. board approved the fiber optic project through N.I.U. VALEES received all of the funds that they were anticipating. I.V.V.C. applied for a DeKalb County Community Foundation grant and changed insurance offered to teachers from Blue Cross to Humana for a savings of over \$24,000.

The Policy Committee met and there were minor changes to the policies that had the first reading.

The Finance Committee met and reviewed the tractor bids and discussed the tax levy. Taxes were abated in November of last year. The projection is a flat revenue with 5% increase in cost. There is a good chance that Indian Creek will be kicked into alternative funding for next year. If the R.O.E.'s are funded by the CPPR tax it would mean that Indian Creek would lose a portion of that total which is \$347,500. Projections include no increase in state aid and a 1.5% property tax increase. It is unknown if assessments will be the same. Preliminary projections show a very conservative estimate that the district may still end up with a slight positive surplus. At next month's meeting different scenarios will be presented on the tax levy.

The building tours and life safety work were discussed. Discussion took place regarding the fact that the middle school's deterioration has been discussed for quite a few years, with the questions being if the board should plan to spend more money on the building or decide to do something else. There have been a lot of bandaids placed over things that need addressing. The floors in the building are rippling and buckling. The tile work is only a small aesthetic part of the building. There has been no luck in matching the tile and to paint over the missing tile areas would eventually cost more money. The tile on the floor is a huge cost and there could be an asbestos issue. How much more should be done to the building when it keeps costing the district? Another issue was ADA compliance. Aesthetics aside, structurally should we be investing a lot of money in the middle school? Evacuation in emergencies was brought up. Some board members felt that tearing out walls and the floor for plumbing, electrical, and possible asbestos issues is throwing good money out for bad. Enrollment is going down substantially and that should also be considered. The district may receive a state construction grant of over \$3,000,000 and a decision will need to be made on what to do with that money. The state's push for consolidation of schools should also be thought about. The middle school has taken a lot of time, labor and money to fix. There are many options and the board should seriously consider what's best for the students. There are also heat and air conditioning issues to consider in this building. It seems that when one area is fixed at the middle school, another area needs fixing. Some board members felt that the principal

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spends more time on building issues than educational issues. A question was asked about life safety issues and the response was that there is \$162,000 of work that still is needed at the middle school by December 1, 2014. The capacities at each building and class size should be looked at. New additions to existing buildings might be a plan. Brainstorming will continue and will be discussed at future meetings.

Mrs. Ottengheime read thank you notes from the families of Bonnie Conery and Jim Suddeth and also from Charlie Foster.

It was moved by Palombo, seconded by Konen that the meeting be adjourned. On a voice vote, the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Ottengheime, Secretary