

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on Monday, January 16, 2012. The meeting was called to order by the president at 6:00 p.m. The recording secretary called the roll. Present were: Martenson, Hicks, Ottengheime, Konen, Sanderson, Boehne. Absent: Palombo.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Montgomery had an addition to the high school principal's report. She explained the new I.C. Greatness Program.

Mr. Mantzke and Mr. Simpson congratulated Waterman Elementary for collecting 416 coats in two days, winning the national school competition, and being featured on Good Morning America.

Mrs. Darlinger had an addition to the special education director's report. Indian Creek will participate with the Northern Illinois Foodbank where students will take home a backpack filled with non-perishable food items on Fridays and return the empty backpack on Mondays. Up to 30 students from both Waterman and Shabbona are eligible to participate and permission slips will be sent home. Mr. Hicks asked how the students were selected. Mrs. Darlinger said it was based on recommendations from the principals and teachers. Mrs. Darlinger also reported that there are 16 students on the waiting list for the pre-K program and she has contacted Head Start regarding getting these students services.

Mrs. Kennedy was absent from the meeting so there was no middle school principal's report.

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

Jamie Deutsch, from the Shabbona Hometown Events Committee, asked that the policy on rental fees for the buildings be waived for the Daddy Daughter Dance that is held in the spring.

Julie Wilson commended Waterman Elementary for the way they handled medical equipment being worn by her child.

Mr. Mantzke took a photo of the Board of Education for the community progress report.

BUSINESS

It was moved by Sanderson, seconded by Konen to approve the bills for the month of January accounts payable checks numbers 63484 to 63630 in the amount of \$109,841.20;

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payroll checks numbers 46461 to 46556 and 7594d to 7804d in the amount of \$453,203.27; the treasurer's report, imprest fund report, and community school fund report. Roll call vote: Martenson, yes; Hicks, yes; Ottengheime, yes; Konen, yes; Sanderson, yes; Boehne, yes. 6 yes, 0 no. The motion carried.

It was moved by Konen, seconded by Ottengheime that the meeting adjourn into executive session regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees and 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 6:17 p.m.

Ms. Palombo arrived at 6:49 p.m.

It was moved by Palombo, 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 7:17 p.m.

It was moved by Sanderson, 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 Brandon Jackson as middle school head baseball coach effective immediately. 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 Konen, seconded by Ottengheime to approve Allison Crouch as head high school softball coach. 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 approve the middle school graduation date of May 17, 2012. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

There was a second reading of policy 5:20. It was moved by Konen, seconded by Palombo to approve policy 5:20. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Dr. Rockwood gave the superintendent's report. She also congratulated Waterman Elementary's successful coat drive. A new server will need to be purchased that services both Shabbona Elementary and the high school for \$5,285. The technology department tried everything to get the server back on and it cannot be rebuilt. There will also be a cost for network technical services to install the new server. The new server will be ordered in the morning. The teacher institute day focused on the common core. Dr. Rockwood gave the state grant update. As of today, the state aid payments have been received on time. Special grant money has been late. For some grants the last payment was received in August or September. The state still owes \$312,376 in grant money. The budget was figured on only receiving half of the grant money. The joint committee met on Friday and there will be one more meeting. Everything is going well. The Labor Relations Committee will be tomorrow. Dr. Rockwood thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to present at a conference where she shared her recent research based on best practice.

During this meeting board discussion continued regarding what had been seen during the building tours. Dr. Rockwood handed out data on operating costs for buildings, a pictagram regarding building work and money, and potential conceptual costs for each building from our architect. She asked the board to reflect upon their past discussions and upon the question of how many buildings they thought we should run with our current enrollment. Board member discussion ensued that focused on safety issues, getting all K-4 students together, and not spending any more money on the middle school. The board discussed ideas that included tearing down the three story section of the middle school building, leaving the gym, and adding on classrooms off the gym, and putting a parking lot where the three story section had been. The cost of any new building versus any remodeling was also discussed. It was discussed as to what to do with the new gym at the middle school. It could be sold or donated. Other board member ideas were to close Waterman Elementary and move K-4 to Shabbona Elementary, build a gym there, and add classrooms to accommodate grades 5-8. There would need to be a new science lab, new locker rooms, etc. One board member pointed out that we should consider that we might have an even smaller enrollment in the future. It was pointed out that the district has the most available land at Waterman Elementary. It is estimated that it would cost \$75,000 to redo the high school gym floor and an additional \$35,000 to rebuild the high school bleachers (which we will need to do in the future). Another suggestion from a board member was to keep an elementary school in each town and add on to the high school for middle school classrooms. The architect has previously stated that there is not enough land at the high school to add on that large of a project. Another board member suggested that Shabbona Elementary become a middle school. However it was pointed out that Shabbona Elementary was built for elementary students with lower countertops, smaller bathroom facilities, and the square footage was

built for elementary students. There is also no gym. There was an argument that the same thing would have to be done if Waterman Elementary was made into a middle school. However, Waterman Elementary is an older building and the bathrooms are different and the countertops are not as low. One board member suggested that we should work with what we have before a new building is built. There are viable buildings to work with and (s)he did not want to put any more bandaids on the middle school. A huge issue there is ADA compliance and another is the potential of asbestos. One board member wanted enrollment projections 5 to 10 years down the road and to know an exact cost of a new building. Dr. Rockwood stated that an enrollment projection usually costs between \$5,000 to \$6,000 and up to \$10,000 or more. One board member stated that an elementary school is the cheapest to build. Another said that even with enrollment projections, again, we may only need two buildings in the future. When the economy “tanked”, our enrollment changed drastically. Discussion occurred on the health and safety of the children, options available 5-10 years down the road, and what’s best for the district as a whole. A guess is that a new middle school would cost \$15 to \$20 million and it would be roughly \$4 million to remodel Waterman Elementary into a middle school. Three options will be given to the architects and further work will be done with him. Mr. Simpson was asked if the drainage at Waterman Elementary was in good shape and he replied that it was.

Options that will be given to the architects are:

- A. All K-4 at Shabbona Elementary and Waterman Elementary would become 5-8
- B. Build a new wing at the middle school to house 5-8 and tear down the three story building, house all K-4 at Shabbona Elementary, and close Waterman Elementary
- C. Add a middle school wing (grades 6-8) to the high school, keep each elementary school and add air conditioning to Waterman Elementary and the new middle school wing at the high school. This new wing would be completely separated by adding another gym, cafeteria, library, and locker rooms. Parking could be on the grassy area north of the high school near Shabbona Road.

One board member felt it is best to have all three classes of one elementary grade level in one building. Another suggested putting a new school between Shabbona and Waterman as that had been talked about when the new Shabbona Elementary was built, however, there was no land available. Transportation might be a concern, however, there are students being transferred to Shabbona from Waterman now and vice versa. Our population has changed. When asked about completion of life safety work, an amendment can be filed for any work that still needs to be done.

The board discussed the tentative agreement letter for architect services from B.C.A. Our architect has indicated the cost of these services may range from \$10,000 to \$12,000. The board expressed their wishes that our architect be contacted to begin exploratory discussion and work with the board. Dr. Rockwood asked that it be reflected in the

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minutes that this money will be spent for the architect so as to be able to give him the three options that the board wanted to look at. The exploratory work with our architect includes the potential of meetings with various groups.

Mrs. Ottengheime read thank you correspondence from Joel Espe and Sandy Rueff.

Those board members interested in attending the open meetings act training are asked to contact Gail.

It was moved by Konen, seconded by Ottengheime that the meeting be adjourned. On a voice vote, all members voted yes. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Ottengheime, Secretary

Vaughn Boehne, President