

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BELOIT
February 22, 2011

The Board of Education held its regular meeting on February 22, 2011 at the Kolak Education Center in the Board Room. President Ramsdail called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Members Present: John Acomb, Jessica Everson, Missy Henderson (7:09), Tia Johnson, Michael Ramsdail, Shannon Scharmer (7:23) and John Winkelmann.

Everson moved approval of the agenda. Seconded by Winkelmann. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Acomb led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Everson announced upcoming activities in the district. She announced that the open enrollment period is ending Friday and that the district welcomes students. Kindergarten enrollment will take place the week before spring break and additional information will be posted at BeloitSchools.net. She also announced the dates and times for the high school musical, Hairspray. She congratulated Ashley Weber for her artwork displayed on a billboard on Liberty Avenue advertising the prevention of teen drinking. She then announced several opportunities to hear the student musicians in the district including the high school orchestra and jazz bands. Ramsdail thanked all faculty and staff for keeping the schools open and running this week.

Badger recognized the Stateline United Way Campaign and the Beloit schools for their support. She introduced Steve Kinkade who recognized the schools and their giving accomplishments.

Ramsdail introduced Rosamaria Laursen, ELL Program Manager for the School District of Beloit. She presented information on the ELL program. She shared a comparison of the ELL students in the United States to those in the School District of Beloit. She shared the ratio of ELL students to teachers. She explained the functions of an ELL teacher. She reviewed the effectiveness of ELL programming in the district. She shared the future direction in the short term including discussing additional staff for the students and a full time translator. She then shared the future direction in the long term including researching other models of ELL programming and integrating ELL programming into universal instruction. Board members asked questions and gave comments.

Ramsdail opened up the podium for citizens to speak on items not on the agenda. No one came forward.

Ramsdail also introduced Tracy Donich, Curriculum Director who shared the winter MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) testing results. She indicated that the students are making incredible gains and reaching or surpassing the end of the year national norm at the middle of the school year. She attributes this to the hard work by students, families, teachers and everyone who works with our students in a day. She explained that the gains are still good at the middle school level, but they are not usually as rapid. She then explained why students are making such great gains. She attributes the gains to Response to Intervention (RtI) and Professional Learning Communities (PCL) training and implementation. She also attributes the gains to highly qualified staff, coaching in reading and math, co-teaching in special education and volunteers. Donich asked principals to comment on their specific schools. Tina Hansen, Principal at Morgan, stated she feels that common assessments

and monthly staff development has been a factor. She also stated that in the last three years there has been a greater focus with a common direction. Vickie Smith, Principal at Hackett, agreed with Hansen and also feels that the SIT team (Student Intervention Team) has attributed to the success. She also indicated that they have a class where parents come in and help their students and then the parents continue the work with their students at home. Deb Prosser, Principal at Burdge, echoed the previous comments. She stated that some of their success is attributed to hiring recent retirees with appropriate training to work with students in reading and math. Board members asked questions and gave comments.

Student representative, Madeline West, was not able to attend the meeting.

Winkelmann reviewed the topics of the February Finance, Transportation and Property Committee meetings.

Acomb reviewed the topics of the February Curriculum and Instruction Committee meetings. Scharmer asked questions about the special education accomplishments in the district. Steve McNeal, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs addressed those questions. Winkelmann asked about cost associated with special education, the WKCE standards that special education students are held to, and textbooks.

Henderson reviewed the topics of the January Special and February revised Regular Policy and Personnel Committee meetings.

Scharmer moved approval of the consent list: 1) Bills, Payroll and Cash Position Statement; 2) Special Board Meetings of January 25, January 31, February 1(2 sets), February 3, February 4, February 7 (2), and February 15, 2011; and 3) Regular Business Meeting of January 25, 2011. Seconded by Winkelmann. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Winkelmann moved approval of the Wisconsin DPI Grant Award: Support for Mid-Career Advancement and Retention through Transition-to-Teaching (SMARTT). Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Acomb moved approval of the Wisconsin DPI Grant Award: Safe and Supportive Schools of \$100,000. Seconded by Everson. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Henderson moved approval of a new special education teacher position in which the FTE will come out of remaining FTE from a retired speech pathologist (.8 FTE) and the remaining .2 FTE will come from flow-thru to the full Board of Education for approval. Seconded by Winkelmann. Winkelmann made a friendly amendment to change the motion to approve a new special education teacher position. He stated that the funding can be determined. Seconded by Scharmer. The amendment carried unanimously of the members present. The motion, as amended, carried unanimously of the members present.

Winkelmann moved approval of a new half-time special education teacher position in which the FTE will come from flow-thru. Seconded by Everson. Scharmer registered her same concerns. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Henderson moved approval of the revision of Policy 425 Enrollment of Expelled Students for final reading. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried 5-2, with Ramsdail and Winkelmann voting in the negative.

Scharmer moved to table Policy 345.1 RULE 2 Grading System Guidelines. Seconded by Acomb. Scharmer asked for the policy approved in August of 2010 to be explained clearly and then ascertain good data. She also stated that the Policy approval date is incorrect, should be reflected as August with a friendly amendment. Winkelmann disagreed and stated that they have received data, it may not have been all data, but have received data. Acomb stated there seems to be some misunderstanding. Henderson stated that she felt the committee had made some agreement on the policy. Scharmer feels that there needs to be clarity. She feels there has been a disconnect between the policy and the implementation. Johnson agreed and stated that it was voted to give it a year. Scharmer also stated that a teacher put into a syllabus that the teacher's recommendation would override the policy. She feels this is evidence of the policy not being implemented correctly. Henderson stated that she did not want to table the policy. She feels the data that has been received indicated that some revisions should be made. She feels this is a failure.

Pam Charles, offered her perspective as a parent on the grading policy. She stated that she has spoken to many high school teachers and has not found one that likes the policy. She feels that a "C" is devastating to students, if they are typically a 4.0 students. She feels they should all be able to receive a "B". She feels that the window of opportunity not being available at the end of the term is confusing to students and students do not have time to receive feedback. She requested that the board look at the revisions more and feels that the policy is very confusing for parents.

Motion to table carried 6-1, with Henderson voting in the negative.

Henderson moved to table Policy 377 RULE 2 Secondary Schools Athletic Code. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Everson moved approval of the revised personnel recommendations, Exhibit A. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

No items for consideration were requested.

Ramsdail announced future meetings on Tuesday, March 8, and the Board Business meeting on March 22, 2011.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Michelle Shope, Board Secretary

Approved at the regular meeting of March 22, 2011

Michael Ramsdail, President