

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BELOIT
May 22, 2012

The Board of Education held its regular meeting on May 22, 2012 at the Kolak Education Center in the Board Room. President Scharmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: John Acomb, Nora Gard, Missy Henderson, Mark Rand, Shannon Scharmer and John Winkelmann. Member absent: Michael Ramsdail. Also present: Steve McNeal.

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

Acomb led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Rand announced upcoming activities in the district.

Badger recognized Chris Behrens and the high school Jazz I band members for their accomplishments at the Essentially Ellington Competition. Behrens shared his thanks to the board and indicated that the students were wonderful and provided one of the best performances ever. Pierre Charles, senior, shared his thanks and support of the program. Behrens thanked the district and community members who supported the program and made donations allowing the band to participate in this competition. He also recognized the members of the band.

Badger also recognized district secretaries for their dedication to the students, families and staff in the district. The secretaries are an efficient, caring group who provide access to services and much needed information or resources for everyone.

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

McNeal introduced Chuck Seils, Assistant Principal for Athletics and Activities, who gave board members and the public an update on the graduation rates from last year. He explained that DPI just released the data. He highlighted that the overall 4 year cohort graduation rate increased from 77.9% in 2009-10 to 83.8% in 2010-11 which is a 5.9% increase. The economically disadvantaged cohort rate increase 8.5% from 72.9% to 81.4%. When you break down the data even further, the African American 4 year cohort graduation rate increased from 66.4% to 85.1% which is an increase of 18.1%, which is pretty significant. The overall graduation rate increased 9.7%. He stated that the high school is working every day to meet the needs of the students.

Board members shared their praise and thoughts. Members asked what might have changed in the district to gain this increase. Seils stated he felt the literacy program has made a tremendous difference. He also felt that going to the five block schedule, using the Springboard curriculum, and other changes attributed to the success. McNeal added that he felt the school culture and feeling safe at the high school has also attributed to the success because students are now feeling good about being part of the high school.

McNeal updated the board and public on the building projects in the district. He stated that boilers are in place, the fine arts roof at the high school is complete, and the smoke hatch at the high school will be completed by mid-June. These items are being done from the district regular capital projects

budget. McNeal shared that regular meetings have been happening with the architects at Robinson, Converse, Merrill and for the high school pool. The final plans are nearly complete, staff members are putting finishing touches on their requests and architects have also met with parents of students in those buildings to gain input as well.

Olszewski and Quillins gave highlights of the activities in the district for high school students. Members asked questions and made comments about activities including graduation.

Barbara Hickman, Administrator of Equity and Human Affairs, reviewed the topics of the February, March, April and May (E)Quality Committee meetings. Members thanked Hickman for her service to the district, students, community and the (E)Quality Committee.

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

Acomb reviewed the topics of the May Curriculum and Instruction Committee meetings.

Gard reviewed the topics of the April Special and May Regular Policy and Personnel Committee meetings.

Winkelmann moved approval of the consent list: 1) Bills, Payroll and Cash Position Statement; 2) Special Board Meetings of April 24 (2), and May 8, 2012; and 3) Regular Business Meeting of April 24, 2012. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Winkelmann moved approval the farm to school grant application. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Winkelmann moved approval of renewing the contract with Aramark for operating and managing our school food service program for a one year period beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Acomb moved approval of the WTI Lighthouse District Grant. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Acomb moved approval of the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program grant. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Acomb moved approval of the recommended middle school and high school instructional materials adoption for 2012-13 as updated in email received, reducing the amount of materials and cost. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Gard moved approval of the resolution authorizing board hearing officer/board expulsion officer to determine pupil expulsion under Wisconsin State Statute 120.13(1)(e) 1-4, effective July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried on a roll call vote 6-0.

Acomb moved approval of the \$30,000 for the establishment of 20 innovation coaches. Seconded by Gard. Winkelmann asked where the funding would be coming from. Victor Masliah, Director of Technology, stated that the funding would be coming from a combination of savings in other technology areas and listed those areas. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Gard moved approval of an adaptive physical education teacher position. Seconded by Henderson. Winkelmann again asked about the funding. Barbara Buffington, Director of Special Education,

stated that she is replacing one teaching position with this teaching position and that there is partial reimbursement from the state for this position. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Gard moved approval of an additional 3.5 FTE in special education para-educator positions. Seconded by Rand. Winkelmann asked again about the funding. Buffington stated that the request is for new FTE funding from the district budget. She stated that Medicaid reimbursement and the maintenance of effort obligation to pay for special education services will cover the funding. Winkelmann shared concerns with the budget unknowns and approving the positions at this time. Winkelmann made a friendly amendment to approve pending budget review and funding availability. Gard and Rand accepted the friendly amendment. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Gard moved approval of the revisions and layover of Policy 824 Access to Public Records for first reading. Seconded by Rand. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Rand moved approval of the revisions and layover of Policy 824 RULE 1 Procedures for Access to Public Records for first reading. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Winkelmann moved approval of the addition of Policy 851 Advertising for final reading. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Gard moved approval of the revised personnel recommendations, Exhibit A. Seconded by Rand. Scharmer made a friendly amendment to remove the first item on the revised list for further clarification on the position. Gard and Rand accepted the friendly amendment. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Items for consideration at future meetings requested were board discussion about high school graduation requirements and philosophy with expectations; *A Hope in the Unseen* book suggested for board members to read.

Scharmer announced future meetings on Tuesday, June 5, and June 12, and the Board Business meeting will be held on June 26, 2012.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Michelle Shope, Board Secretary

Approved at the regular meeting of June 26, 2012

Shannon Scharmer, President