

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BELOIT
September 22, 2009

The Board of Education held its regular meeting on September 22, 2009 at the Kolak Education Center in the Board Room. President Ramsdail called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: John Acomb, Jessica Everson, Missy Henderson, Tia Johnson, Michael Ramsdail, Shannon Scharmer and John Winkelmann. Also present: Milt Thompson, Superintendent.

Acomb moved approval of the agenda. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried unanimously.

Acomb led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Henderson announced upcoming activities in the district. She announced that Emily Busum, BMHS senior has been named a semifinalist for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Students at BMHS are preparing for homecoming next week with the football game on Friday, October 2nd and the parade earlier that day. The homecoming dance will be held on Saturday, October 3. Don't miss the district's Family Fest Hand in Hand Building Character event coming on Saturday, October 17. This event is free to the community and will be held at Aldrich Middle School from 10 am to 2 pm. The AED Run/Walk is coming up on September 26th at 9 am and condolences go out to the Zamora family for their recent loss of a treasured family member.

Ramsdail announced communications from the Wally Keller Family.

Melissa Badger recognized two schools for outstanding dedication and student achievement. Sam Carter and Robinson Staff as well as Melody Wirgau and Gaston Staff were recognized for being awarded as the New Wisconsin Promise Schools for higher than state average scores on math and reading. Carter expressed his gratitude to his staff who work diligently as a team to improve student achievement. Wirgau expressed her gratitude to her staff who also work very hard to improve student achievement. This is Gaston's third consecutive year winning this award! Members commented on these achievements.

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

Thompson highlighted his visits to the schools and is very impressed with the students and staff. He was very pleased with the number of parents and good questions that were raised at the Superintendent's Family Roundtable discussion.

Jim Weise, Executive Director of Business Services, reviewed the Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB). He explained that there are six major points about QZAB's. They are financing instruments that can be used for renovations, repairs and improvements, but not new construction. They can also be used for training teachers and developing challenging curricula. The federal government covers all of the interest by providing tax credits to the financial institutions. One criteria is a required 10 percent mat from a business or a non-profit partner. Additionally, 35 percent or more of your students must qualify for free or reduced lunch to be eligible. He reminded the board that the payments you make over the years are a constant since there is no interest.

Tim Weeden, Chair of the Ad Hoc Uniform Committee, presented the final report to the board members. He highlighted the work of the committee and reviewed the information submitted to the board. The committee unanimously approved the final report. After all of the research conducted and meetings held, members of the community did not find any new developments and therefore, did not recommend any action to the board. He highlighted state statute that allows parents to opt out of a uniform policy and therefore contributed to the difficulty in recommending a uniform policy. In talking with principals regarding the current dress code, the feedback indicated that the revised policy was new and needed time to work. He also stated that the committee found mixed information from other districts regarding uniform policies that were put into place. He did indicate that some schools reported a sense of community. He indicated that they found that some schools had an immediate positive impact, however couldn't find a long term impact. The cost issue was also reviewed. He indicated that the cost was fairly minimal; however it was a concern that was apparent in the survey feedback from families. He stated that they could not find demonstrable evidence that school uniforms had any impact on student achievement. The committee felt this was a significant piece of the research and that the district had other priorities at this time. He also stated that the board should not ignore the fact that 57% of the responses received were favorable to school uniforms. Johnson commented that she did tally the responses and provided some additional information on enrollment. Members asked questions regarding the committee's work. Members thanked the committee members for serving. One member asked for another committee to study a pilot program at one or two elementary schools.

Acomb moved approval to form another committee to specifically investigate a pilot program on school uniforms. Seconded by Johnson. Board members asked additional questions. Weeden addressed questions on the brief survey that was utilized. He also indicated that the report did suggest a three year pilot program. Members shared additional comments. Motion carried 5-2 with Everson and Winkelmann voting in the negative.

Barb Hickman reviewed the topics of the September (E)Quality Committee meeting. Board representative Johnson asked the members of the committee to focus on seven points this year. They are: Believe, engage, love to learn/learn to love, overcome, inspire, and teach. She highlighted the upcoming fall parent conference and the committee membership. The next meeting of the (E)Quality Committee will be held on October 8, 2009.

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

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

Henderson reviewed the topics of the August Special and September Regular Policy and Personnel Committee meetings.

Henderson moved approval of the consent list: 1) Bills, Payroll and Cash Position Statement; 2) Special Board Meetings of August 19, August 20, August 25, September 8 and September 15, 2009; and 3) Regular Business Meeting of August 25, 2009. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously.

Winkelmann moved approval of using \$19,073 to bring salaries for elementary principals to a minimum of \$78,000. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously.

Winkelmann moved approval of the quote from HCC Life Insurance Company for medical plan reinsurance coverage. Seconded by Everson. Motion carried unanimously.

Lisa Voisin, from Robert W. Baird, highlighted information for the board regarding debt restructuring and QZAB's.

Winkelmann moved adoption of the resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of \$1,365,000 taxable general obligation refunding bonds. Seconded by Johnson. Winkelmann amended the amount to \$1,360,000. Accepted by Johnson. Motion carried on a roll call vote unanimously 7-0.

Everson moved adoption of the resolution awarding the sale of \$1,785,000 general obligation qualified zone academy refunding bonds (tax credit). Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried on a roll call vote unanimously 7-0.

Winklemann moved approval of the 08-09 final budget amendment. Seconded by Everson. Motion carried unanimously.

Acomb moved approval of the proposed Technical Math new course for 2010-2011. Seconded by Henderson. Members discussed this topic and asked questions. Motion carried unanimously.

Acomb moved approval of the Title I Supplemental Funds for 2009-10. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried unanimously.

Acomb moved acceptance of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Education for Homeless Children and Youth Project Grant Award for 2009-10 in the amount of \$54,000. Seconded by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Winkelmann moved acceptance of the Internship Work Program grant award. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously.

Acomb moved approval of the Preschool to Grade 5 2009-10 proposal. Seconded by Henderson. Members shared concerns with feedback regarding this program. Motion carried unanimously.

Henderson shared that the Policy/Personnel Committee reviewed this topic at an earlier meeting. Henderson moved approval of hiring Michael Holland as the Expulsion Officer for the 2009-10 school year subject to renewed appointment. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously.

Henderson moved approval of the revision and layover of Policy 362.2 Video Media Usage in the Classroom. Seconded by Winkelmann. Scharmer made a friendly amendment to add an opt-in option at the middle school level. Seconded by Winkelmann. Motion carried unanimously.

Scharmer moved approval of the revision of Policy 183 Voting Method for final reading. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried unanimously.

Winkelmann moved approval of adding health care benefit dollars to retirement benefits for Steve McNeal. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried 6-1 with Johnson voting in the negative because President Ramsdail ignored her right to speak during discussion.

Scharmer moved approval of the personnel recommendations Exhibit A as revised and printed, noting that this motion was different than the Policy/Personnel Committee's motion at an earlier special meeting. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried unanimously.

Henderson moved approval of the personnel recommendations Exhibit B – Tabled Item. Seconded by Everson. Motion carried 6-1 with Johnson voting in the negative.

Items requested for future agendas included curriculum review at the high school, report on K4 program, and hiring procedures at the site level.

Ramsdail announced that the committee meetings will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, and the Board Business meeting will be held on October 27, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Michelle Shope, Board Secretary

Approved at the regular meeting of October 27, 2009

Michael Ramsdail, President