

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BELOIT
January 26, 2010

The Board of Education held its regular meeting on January 26, 2010 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.

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

Acomb led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Johnson announced upcoming activities in the district. She announced that centralized enrollment begins next month with extended hours until 6:00 p.m. There will be an open house on Tuesday, February 9th from noon to 6 p.m. The enrollment period is February 15-19 at the Kolak Education Center. She also announced the State open enrollment period begins February 1st and concludes on the 19th. She reminded parents that no early or late applications can be accepted. She encouraged the community and school families to attend the Aldrich Middle School Cultural Fair on February 18 from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. The annual Knight of Jazz spaghetti dinner fundraiser will be coming up and will be held at the high school from 5-8 p.m.

Melissa Badger, recognized the Robinson Elementary Students with Sam Carter, Principal and Shawn Pettit, professional educator. The students have had amazing achievements in the First in Math online math competitions. They have also been character leaders in beginning a John Doe club, devoted to helping others.

Badger, along with Steve McNeal recognized Dan Stauffacher and the Merrill Elementary Staff for their preparation and quick thinking during the recent incident at the school involving a motor vehicle and its driver.

Badger recognized the loss of Rev. Floyd Prude, Jr. and indicated that his passing is truly a loss for the City of Beloit. She asked the Board of Education to approve the resolution presented to his wife, Regina and family. Acomb moved approval of the resolution. Seconded by Winkelmann. Motion carried unanimously. Barb Hickman spoke on behalf of the (E)Quality Committee about the great work performed by Rev. Prude, Jr. Board members shared their thoughts as well.

Ramsdail opened the podium for citizens or delegations to speak on items not on the agenda.

Mary Henry, 1730 Gateway Boulevard, addressed the board on behalf of the minority coalition. The coalition is requesting that the board do whatever it can to retain Dr. Jenkins.

George Williams, 2170 Hayfield Lane, addressed the board regarding the possibilities of the city. He too, feels that Dr. Jenkins is an integral part of the process in the district.

Shirley Willams, 2170 Hayfield Lane, addressed the board echoing the sentiments stated above. She feels that Dr. Jenkins brings about the unity in the district like Rev. Floyd Prude, Jr. She also addressed the board regarding Human Growth and Development. She feels its time for the district to move forward on this topic.

Carol Hendrix 736 Kriss Road, addressed the board regarding the retention of Dr. Jenkins.

Ramsdail indicated that the board approved the formation of an ad hoc nutrition committee and at this time would look for approval of the list with the intent that the list would come back as the committee membership grows. Acomb indicated that he is looking for a cadre of persons to serve on the committee. Scharmer reminded members to be sure and follow the policy on ad hoc committee formation. Acomb moved to recommend Emma Ramsbottom and Julie Strutzbach to serve on the ad hoc nutrition committee as well as requesting others to put forth names. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried unanimously.

Thompson introduced Dan Stauffacher, Safety & Security Coordinator, who provided an update on safety in the district. Stauffacher highlighted the number of officer staff at the middle and high schools. Extra curricular and athletic events have officers in attendance. He indicated that the district employs 12 crossing guards as well, who receive training annually. He indicated that backpack searches, canine searches and other security activities have taken place like the district wide intruder lock down drill. Crisis plans are in place at the schools as well. He also stated that he and the high school nurse checked all of the AED equipment and the batteries are checked on a daily basis at each school. He also indicated that all of the mandatory trainings with custodial and district staff were completed. He belongs to crime stoppers, Beloit traffic review committee, heightened awareness team, crisis team, violence risk assessment team, just to name a few. He also stated that he has a great working relationship with the Beloit Police and Fire Departments. He also highlighted upcoming activities such as tornado drills, harassment and bullying policy development, graduation preparation, and more.

Acomb introduced Ramsbottom and Stutzbach, students from Beloit College, who presented on nutrition in the school district. They provided information to the members. Ramsbottom and Stutzbach highlighted their charge from Acomb and the research that they have put into this project. They highlighted food and its correlation to test scores as well as drop out rate. Additional correlations included hunger and emotional/behavioral tendencies. They indicated that childhood obesity is on the rise and has been which creates health problems in children. They stated that their research proves that breakfast improves academic performance. They stated that skipping breakfast can actually cause an increase in weight. They compared and contrasted gym breakfast versus classroom breakfast. The highlighted their observations from the breakfast program. The also highlighted their observations of the lunch program such as students prefer to eat fresh fruit, especially if it is packaged in a fun, cute way. They recommended a lunch buddy program expounding on the program at Cunningham Elementary. They also recommended the Americorps Farm to School program. Volunteers promote healthy eating while educating students on the process food goes through from farm to fork. Cooking demonstrations and planting school gardens would be incorporated into this program. The Movin' and Munchin' Schools program is another program they also are highly recommending. Their project also included studying programs in surrounding districts. They provided information on Appleton, Whitewater and Milwaukee programs. The students highlighted short term goals they would recommend for the nutrition committee as well as long term goals.

Johnson thanked the district for the opportunity to attend the joint convention in Milwaukee. She attended sessions regarding HSA's. She also learned that leadership starts from the top and that we are all individuals. She and Acomb divided up sessions to attend to cover more areas. She also attended sessions about the ARRA funds.

Acomb indicated that he has attended two year in a row as the delegate and feels the opportunities for learning are incredible. He attended sessions on character education and indicated how interesting it is hearing similar messages in each session such as teaching students not subjects, or curriculum. He learned statistics about students graduating from high school and the success rate of those in post-secondary education. As a delegate, he voted on resolutions, one of which the district submitted and it passed. He addressed other resolutions as well.

Melissa Gile, senior at BMHS, gave the student report. She highlighted that the Jazz Bands I & II just returned from a competition in Purdue, taking 2nd place. The hockey team is currently playing against Sun Prairie with two additional games this week. Students plan to attend and show their support. The expo is tonight as well and has had much support from student organizations. The Student Senate supported its first Black Light Dance and it was successful. Second semester has just begun this week.

Hickman highlighted the topics of the December and January (E)Quality Committee meetings. The next (E)Quality Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2010.

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

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

Henderson reviewed the topics of the December Special and January 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 December 21, 2009, January 6 (2), January 12; 3) Regular Business Meeting of December 21, 2009; 4) Kolak Education Center 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant Proposal and 5) Aldrich and McNeel Middle Schools 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant Proposal. Seconded by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Winkelmann moved approval of the audited financial report for the year ended June 30, 2009. Seconded by Everson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Winkelmann moved approval of the payment of invoice S0165734 to Blackhawk Technical College in the amount of \$68,632 for the period of August 25, 2009 to December 17, 2009 AND the additional funds up to \$62,457 for HSED programming. Seconded by Everson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Everson moved approval of the purchase order with Technology Resource Advisors Inc. for 30 computers for Cunningham in the amount of \$16,980, the purchase order with Technology Resource Advisors Inc. for 34 computers for the SEAP program in the amount of \$19,244 and the purchase order with Technology Resource Advisors Inc. for 37 computers for the BMHS library in the amount of \$20,942. Seconded by Winkelmann. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Henderson moved approval of the reinstating of one FTE para-educator position at BMHS with the stipulation that the funds come out of the existing budget. Seconded by Winkelmann. Members asked questions regarding the position and volunteers or other mechanisms that could be used to negate the contract issue and still provide the service. Winkelmann urged a job description utilizing the educational components of the para position. Motion carried 6-1 with Ramsdail voting in the negative.

Henderson moved approval of the revision and layover of Policy 424 Public School Open Enrollment, Policy 424 RULE 1 District Procedures for Dealing with Public School Open Enrollment Applications, Policy 424 RULE 2 State Public Open Enrollment – Part-time (High School Resident and Nonresident), and Policy 432 School Attendance Areas for first reading. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Winkelmann moved to extend the meeting. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried.

Henderson moved approval of the revision of Policy 421 Entrance Age, Policy 421 RULE 1 Early Admission to Kindergarten and First Grade Guidelines, Policy 423 Admission of Non-Public School Students, and Policy 423 RULE 1 Dual Enrollment Regulations for final reading. Seconded by Winkelmann. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Henderson moved approval of the personnel recommendations Exhibit A as revised. Seconded by Winkelmann. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Items for consideration at future meetings included transportation to students attending Aldrich Middle School living in the Lather's Woods area, superintendent report updating on Mychal Wynn.

Ramsdail announced future meetings on Tuesday, February 9 and the Board Business meeting will be held on February 23, 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Michelle Shope, Board Secretary

Approved at the regular meeting of February 23, 2010

Michael Ramsdail, President