

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF БЕLOIT**  
**November 24, 2009**

The Board of Education held its regular meeting on November 24, 2009 at the Kolak Education Center in the Board Room. President Ramsdail called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 Johnson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Acomb led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Acomb moved approval of the 2009-10 (E)Quality Committee Membership. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Everson announced upcoming activities in the district. She announced the Stateline United Way Campaign results and reminded parents of the fall break beginning tomorrow. She also highlighted activities at the schools in December. She reminded parents of the information on activities and board meetings on our website as well as important announcements.

Acomb moved to change the board business date to December 15, 2009. Seconded by Winkelmann. Scharmer noted that she would not be available on the 15<sup>th</sup>, as well as Everson. Scharmer made a friendly amendment to move the meeting to December 21<sup>st</sup>. Accepted by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Melissa Badger, along with Jon Condon and Tony Bosco recognized Sandi Sorely for her support at McNeel Middle School and the marching band program. Badger also recognized Mary Studedemann and Kathi Horvath for their work with the Soar to Success program and becoming National trainers. She then recognized Barb Hickman and Bob Pickett, the organizers of Family Fest. Finally, Badger recognized Tina Goecks and the participants in the Challenge Day workshop at BMHS. Jen Zart highlighted the results of the survey they issued. Student participants shared their experiences.

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

Caytena & Jackson, Yappa Films, from Beloit College making a documentary on teen pregnancy and parenting in Beloit informed the board of the project that they are currently filming. They also asked for board members to answer questions and be interviewed.

Dana Daringer, 700 College Street, urged board members to address the lack of sexual education curriculum in Beloit. She presented petition pages to the board members.

Alex Brower, 819 Clary Street, provided statistics to the members regarding teen pregnancy and births in the city. He requested a comprehensive and age appropriate curriculum in the district.

Ramsdail did indicate that the board is open to discussing this curriculum and needs to find an appropriate time and place to discuss this topic.

Thompson introduced John Kaminski, Administrator at BMHS, who reported on the New Directions program at the high school. He provided information to the board members along with the New Directions team. New directions is using FACE to describe the program...F stands for facility, A for the academics, C for the connections and E for the expectations. Teachers have worked collaboratively to design curriculum and assignments that cross the areas of study. The plan is to implement new directions programming slowly. They also want to build flexibility into the programming so students are not limited in courses they may take in the different paths that are offered. Link crew has been a successful program that helps incoming freshman connect with their upper classman. The Lunch and Learn program has also proved successful. They feel strongly that relationships with students and expectations and incentives are important for success. Members asked questions of the team. Members requested comparative results, clarification of course electives for next year, which electives are offered currently, skyward access for parents, formal assessment, parental advice for struggling students including tutorial services available, and student restrictions or mandates for struggling students until proficient.

Steve McNeal, Assistant Superintendent, highlighted the success of the Summer School program. He reviewed the information provided to the members. He indicated that the easiest measure is at the high school level and credits recovered. He also indicated that MAPS testing can assist in measuring at the elementary level for success. He shared that at the high school level over 300 credits were gained toward graduation by students in summer school. He also indicated that the instructional costs were reduced by over \$95,000 from the previous year. Claimable minutes were recovered by clarifying how we can count students in summer school. McNeal stated that the fiscal impact was that a year ago we lost over \$174,000 and this summer the revenue increased \$1.4 million. Members asked minimal questions and congratulated McNeal and the staff for the successful summer program.

Carlton Jenkins, BMHS Principal, informed the members of the board of the API grant or blended learning innovation grant from the Department of Public Instruction. He reviewed the grant summary information provided to the members. The grant is looking to increase the parent participation in their student's academics. The grant also requires the school to connect with students. The grant also provides money to low socio-economic students who successfully receive a 3, 4 or 5 on the AP exams. The grant will also pay for someone to come in and evaluate the success of the AP programming.

Melissa Gile, senior at BMHS, gave the student report. She highlighted the band programs hosting of the Battle of the Bands and thanked the president for judging. She reminded the members and community that the theater group is still fundraising for their Scotland trip. Competition cheerleading team is competing for the third year. First hockey game tonight against Oregon, first bb game is Saturday. She also indicated that there seems to be a lot of support from students on the topic of sex education curriculum.

Barb Hickman reported on the (E)Quality Committee meeting from October and November. Family Fest was held on October 19<sup>th</sup> with great success. The guest speaker also addressed students in the schools prior to the Family Fest day.

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

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

Henderson reviewed the topics of the October Special and November Regular Policy and Personnel Committee meetings.

Winkelmann moved to extend the meeting. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Winkelmann moved approval of the consent list: 1) Bills, Payroll and Cash Position Statement; 2) Special Board Meetings of October 27 (2), October 29, October 31, November 10 and November 17, 2009; and 3) Regular Business Meeting of October 27, 2009. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Winkelmann moved approval of the donation from Exxon-Mobil for use at Merrill and Robinson Elementary Schools for incentives and math/science achievement and the Wisconsin Promise School gifts in the amount of \$2,000 to both Gaston and Robinson Elementary Schools. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Scharmer moved approval of the formation of an ad hoc nutrition committee to examine nutrition in the district lunch program and appoints John Acomb as the board representative on this committee. Seconded by Everson. Acomb clarified the work of the committee for members with the understanding. Motion carried 6-1 with Winkelmann voting in the negative.

Winkelmann moved approval of the extra curricular activity group and their activities for the 2009-10 school year as presented. Seconded by Everson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Jim Weise, Executive Director of Business Services reviewed the topic of refinancing the WRS prior service liability. Weise did caution the board members that there is some risk to the refinancing and that the longer the issuance, the greater the chance that interest rates may change. Lisa Voisin, from Robert W. Baird, presented two options to the board members both of which result in savings with no loss of benefits to the employees. She highlighted the differences in the two options. Members asked questions about borrowing capacity and receiving the funds.

Winkelmann moved approval of refinancing the district's prior service liability (seeking the note). Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Kevin Miller, Director of Career and Technical Education highlighted the Education for Employment plan for the board members. The plan is a five year plan but may be revised annually. Acomb did request that as the plan gets revised and meshed with New Directions, the plan should come to the curriculum committee prior to full board approval. Acomb moved approval and support of the Education for Employment Plan presented. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried unanimously 6-1 with Scharmer voting in the negative.

Tony Bosco, McNeel Principal reviewed the proposal for the school signage. Acomb moved approval of the McNeel Middle School signage. Seconded by Everson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Winkelmann moved approval of the Director of Academic Information Services position with a salary range up to \$95,000. Seconded by Henderson. Members discussed what was recently posted versus the description that has been presented this evening. Winkelmann amended the motion to include a reposting of the position and return with a final job description that correlates. Seconded by Acomb. Scharmer made a friendly amendment to move forward with the posting as is and change the job description. Winkelmann clarified that the motion would approve the position and the posting with returning a modified job description. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Winkelmann moved approval of the principal evaluation system tools as presented. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Winkelmann moved approval of the revision and layover of Policy 343.41 Youth Options Program, Policy 420 School Admissions, Policy 420 RULE 1 Kindergarten Registration Procedures, Policy 420 RULE 2 Enrollment Procedures for New Student, Policy 420 RULE 6 Homeless Enrollment Guidelines, Policy 751 Student Transportation, and Policy 751 RULE 1 General Transportation Guidelines for first reading. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried unanimously of the members present 7-0.

Winkelmann moved approval of the revision of Policy 342.10 Homeless Education Program and Policy 342.10 RULE 1 Homeless Education Program for final reading. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously of the members present 7-0.

Winkelmann moved approval of the request for a 40% additional Title I Professional Educator at Gaston Elementary School. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

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

Items requested for future agendas included policy review for policies that are out of date, human growth and development, update on the first impressions committee work, opportunity to share experiences from school visits, etc.

Ramsdail announced future meetings on Tuesday, December 8 and the Board Business meeting will be held on December 21, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

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Michelle Shope, Board Secretary

Approved at the regular meeting of November 24, 2009

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Michael Ramsdail, President