

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BELOIT
November 27, 2012

The Board of Education held its regular meeting on November 27, 2012 at the Kolak Education Center in the Board Room. President Scharmer called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

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

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

Acomb led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Rand announced upcoming activities in the district.

Badger, along with Jon Condon, Band Instructor and Jennifer Paepke, Assistant Principal at McNeal, recognized Ethlyn Beeman for the JoLyn Beeman Memorial Children's Fund donation to the McNeal Music Program allowing the school to secure additional instruments for the students. Mrs. Beeman shared other donations JoLyn's funds have made to other schools in the district. Ramsdail moved acceptance of the donation of \$5,292.10 from the JoLyn Beeman Memorial Children's Fund to be used towards the McNeal Middle School Music Program. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Badger, along with Principal Kitslaar, recognized the Gaston Elementary School Staff who have generously given up their lunch supervision pay in order to pool funds for purchasing iPads for student use at the school.

Board members and McNeal shared their thanks to the Beeman family and the Gaston Staff for their generosity!

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

McNeal presented a referendum project update. He reviewed the progress of the buildings in phase One: Converse, Merrill and Robinson. He stated that the district is awaiting final approval from the DNR for the high school pool project awarded to CCI. He stated that the tennis court open bids will be going out soon. McNeal reminded the board and community that the construction meeting minutes are available on the referendum portion of the district website. McNeal also stated that bids will be going out in the next couple of months for projects in phases two and three. He stated that the intent is to break ground in the spring on the next phases. McNeal provided an update on the intermediate school including a meeting with Greg Britton, CEO, Beloit Health Systems, and a meeting with representative from Central Christian Church. He stated that the fitness center will be one of the last areas completed. He also gave a short update on projects at the middle schools and at the high school. McNeal also stated that the district has been able to secure lower than expected interest rates on the referendum bond funding. He also stated that next week the district is hoping to secure the final bond funding at the lowest rate in state history, which is far below the estimated

interested rate. He also stated that all of the information can be found on the district website. He also stated that if anyone has questions to contact the district and if there are any groups in the community wanting an update presentation should also contact the district to schedule a presentation time. Scharmer asked about the land the district owns in the Gateway. McNeal stated that it was great foresight for the board to purchase the land, however, with the tighter budgets, he feels the cost of bussing our students would be a burden to the taxpayers that would be a recurring expense each year. Scharmer clarified that at this time, the board is not selling or has not sold the property, but may be looking to do so in the near future.

Samantha DeForest-Davis, student board representative, reported on activities at the high school.

Winkelmann reviewed the topics of the November Finance, Transportation and Property Committee meeting.

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

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

Ramsdail moved approval of the consent list: 1) Bills, Payroll and Cash Position Statement; 2) Special Board Meetings of October 23 (2), November 1 and November 13, 2012; and 3) Regular Business Meeting of October 23, 2012. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Winkelmann moved approval of the 3 Year Media and Technology Plan. Seconded by Ramsdail. Scharmer shared some key points about the technology plan. Gard thanked the Victor and the technology department for putting the plan together. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Ramsdail moved approval of the tuition agreements for Easter Seals Autism Therapeutic School – Rockford, IL for the 2012-13 school year. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Ramsdail moved approval of the administration issuing requests for proposals for the purchase of fuel and to obtain foodservice, transportation and audit services. Seconded by Henderson. Gard asked clarifying questions. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Acomb moved approval of the student activity groups for the 2012-2013 school year, as presented. Seconded by Ramsdail. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Acomb moved approval of the proposed new courses: Digital Media Arts, Web 20.0, Spanish for Spanish Speakers, 21st Century Communications, Forensic Science, Financial Literacy; course change for Grade 8 Spanish and removal of Family and Consumer Education for the 2013-2014 school year. Seconded by Rand. Scharmer asked Mark Smullen, Aldrich Principal to review the courses briefly. He also stated that these changes will provide additional course opportunities for the middle school students. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Rand moved approval of the revisions and layover of Policy 345.4 RULE 1 Promotion Criteria for first reading. Seconded by Gard. Acomb clarified the credits on track and the removal of the credits

for retention. Johnson explained that the credits on track are what are needed to move to the next grade level and to also be on track. Winkelmann requested a full board discussion on this policy and the specific graduation requirements policy prior to a second reading by the committee. Scharmer also stated she had many questions. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Acomb requested to bring Policy 345.6 RULE 1 Specific Graduation Requirements to the table for joint discussion with Policy 345.4 RULE 1 Promotion Criteria. Rand and Gard were amenable to adding the specific graduation requirements policy to the table for joint discussion. Dr. Johnson explained the reasons for bringing these policies to the committee and board in an effort to bring rigor to the students at the high school. He also stated that interventions and supports are being put into place to help students who need it. He stated that he is not concerned about the graduation rate dropping. He also stated that the staff has had extensive conversations regarding courses, scheduling, and how to make the staffing work. Johnson is not asking for an increase in FTE. He also stated that approximately 55% of students already exceed the credits required for graduation. He stated that he reviewed 17 districts in the district's conference or regional area. Johnson also stated that one of the draws to BMHS is the number of electives. He also stated that students had the potential to earn 32 credits and with these changes will now have the potential to earn 35 to 36 credits. Winkelmann stated that he is interested in how students will look when they graduate; he would like a breadth of options for the graduating student. Ramsdail pointed out a correction in the crossed out language on the promotion policy. Scharmer shared her concerns with students who take upper level math in middle school and course options for them at BMHS, youth option course potential for accelerated students. She requested review of the computer science 1/2 credit requirement in light of the middle school course change as well as the health science credit, and changes in statute for students more technology focused.

Student Representative Davis stated that she is very excited about the changes Dr. Johnson presented and the rigor being proposed for students.

Acomb moved to table discussion on Policy 345.4 RULE 1 Promotion Criteria and Policy 345.6 RULE 1 Specific Graduation Requirements. Seconded by Winkelmann. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Winkelmann moved approval of the revisions and layover of Policy 412.1 Full-Time Students, 420 RULE 3 Procedures for Placement of Transfer Students and 424 RULE 1 State Public School Open Enrollment – Full Time (Resident & Nonresident) for first reading. Seconded by Ramsdail. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Ramsdail moved approval of the revisions and layover of Policy 425 Enrollment of Expelled Students for first reading. Seconded by Rand. Winkelmann shared his concern with eliminating the team review. Scharmer agreed with this concern. Gard explained that the policy was moved forward on the advice of the administration, but sees the value of the team approach. Ramsdail suggested changing the language to have the review occur in concert with individuals. Buffington explained the reason for her recommendation in changes due to difficulty in pulling a team together, but stated that she does discuss situations with the Superintendent and other key persons. Winkelmann explained his concern with not using a team for review and that he would like additional discussion. Acomb suggested language stating a review in consultation with the stated individuals in the policy. Henderson agreed with Acomb's suggestions. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Ramsdail moved approval of the revisions and layover of Policy 432 RULE 2 In-District Transfer Guidelines for first reading. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Ramsdail moved approval of the revisions and layover of Policy 447.1 Corporal Punishment/Use of Physical Force (New – Use of Seclusion and Physical Restraint) for first reading. Seconded by Rand. Acomb shared his thoughts on the policy. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Gard moved approval of the revisions and layover of Policy 447.3 RULE 3 dc Procedures for Considering Expulsion of Students with Disabilities for first reading. Seconded by Rand. Winkelmann asked the legislative board representative to bring this mandate to the state legislators for discussion. Acomb requested a copy of the guidelines for IDEA be given to the board. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Winkelmann moved approval of the revisions and layover of Policy 453.32 Control and Treatment of Head Lice/Nits in the Schools and the revisions and layover of Policy 453.6 Vision and Hearing Screening Programs and Policy 456.3 RULE 1 Staff Responsibilities Relating to Vision/Hearing Screening Program for first reading. Seconded by Ramsdail. Gard expressed a conflict in the head lice policy and Scharmer also asked for better clarification. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Gard moved approval of Policy 480 Student Employment for first reading. Seconded by Rand. Winkelmann asked for consideration at second reading because he feels the language states that only students with special needs can work part time, he is wondering if regular education students can work part time. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Ramsdail moved approval of Policy 671.2 Expense Reimbursements and Policy 671.2 RULE 1 Guidelines Regulating Expense Reimbursement for first reading. Seconded by Acomb. Winkelmann asked about the financial affects on the meal receipts and per diem expenses. Scharmer also asked about the meal reimbursement information being struck containing the times of travel as well as the lodging expense at single rate unless sharing a room. Marotz explained that the language was being struck since the language states per state rates. Ramsdail stated that if the language remains then when the state rates change, the policy also needs to return for changes.

Winkelmann moved to extend the meeting until the business items are completed. Seconded by Gard. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Scharmer asked for clarification on the striking of language in section D Lodging of the expense reimbursement rule. Marotz stated that the struck language was incorporated in D1. Scharmer also requested for a references regarding the state per diems be added at the end of the policy. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Acomb moved approval of the revisions of Policy 111 Effective Schools for deletion. Seconded by Rand. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Acomb moved approval of the revisions of Policy 112 RULE 1 Employee Discrimination Compliant Procedures for final reading. Seconded by Rand. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Gard moved approval of the revisions of Policy 162 New Board Member Orientation for final reading. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Acomb moved approval of the revisions of Policy 652 Revenues from Investments for final reading. Seconded by Rand. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Gard moved approval of the revisions of Policy 691 Purchase, Sale and Disposal of Assets for final reading. Seconded by Rand. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Acomb moved approval of the revisions of Policy 760 Food Services Management for final reading. Seconded by Rand. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Ramsdail moved approval of the deletion and layover of 400 series policies: 435 RULE 1 Procedures for Student Transfers/Withdrawals, 443 RULE 2 Student Conduct – Sexual Misconduct, 443.3 dc Student Tobacco Enforcement Regulations, 443.3 RULE 1 dc Administrative Guidelines for Student Tobacco Violation, 443.5 dc Threats To or By Students, 443.5 RULE 1 Procedures for Handling Threats To or By Students, 443.7 dc Youth Gangs, 443.7 RULE 1 dc Disciplinary Actions for Specific Gang Related Activities, 443.8 dc Weapons in School, 443.9 dc PK-12 Code of Classroom Conduct, 447.2 Student Detentions, 452 Student Aid Programs, 456 dc Student Assistance Program, and 456 RULE 1 dc General Guidelines for Student Assistance Program and approval of the deletion and layover of Policy 110 Educational Philosophy and Policy 110 RULE 1 Specific Areas of Responsibility Relating to the Attainment of Educational Objectives for first reading. Seconded by Rand.

Acomb shared concerns with deletion of the gang policies and does not feel that all the areas of the gang policies are included in the Code of Conduct. He also feels that if the code is going to be relied on, then it should be an actual policy with a policy number. He also recommended tabling the two gang related policies. He requested that the Policy/Personnel Committee make the Code of Conduct a policy. He then moved to table Policies 443.7 dc Youth Gangs and 443.7 RULE 1 dc Disciplinary Actions for Specific Gang Related Activities as a friendly amendment. Ramsdail accepted the friendly amendment. Scharmer also asked that Policy 447.2 Student Detentions be removed from the list. Winkelmann stated that the dc policies were all part of the code of conduct. He recommended tabling all of the dc policies for deletion. Ramsdail accepted the friendly amendment. Rand was not amenable to the friendly amendment.

McNeal shared some of the boards concerns and stated that he would be in favor of putting everything in the code of conduct from these policies and then approve the code of conduct yearly.

Rand is now amenable to tabling all of the policies for deletion until further discussion and code of conduct consideration can be made. Motion to table carried unanimously of the members present.

Ramsdail moved approval of the revised personnel recommendations - Exhibit A. Seconded by Rand. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

Items for consideration at future meetings included keeping agendas manageable, what BMHS graduates look like, code of conduct. Gard asked for clarification on timeline for the graduation requirements and code of conduct discussions. McNeal stated that the administration will work on

these two items within the next couple of months. Gard also thanked Buffington for her time on the policy revisions brought forth.

Scharmer announced future meetings on Tuesday, December 4 and the Board Business meeting will be held on December 18, 2012.

The meeting adjourned at p.m.

Michelle Shope, Board Secretary

Approved at the regular meeting of December 18, 2012

Shannon Scharmer, President