

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BELOIT
December 21, 2009

The Board of Education held its regular meeting on December 21, 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.

Scharmer moved approval of the agenda. Seconded by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Acomb led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Henderson announced upcoming activities in the district. She announced winter break beginning December 23 and classes resuming on January 4th, a listening session on facilities by the Board of Education at the Beloit Public Library. She also announced the return of Mychal Wynn to the Superintendent's Family Roundtable on January 25th at the Hendricks Education Center. She provided information on the school board election and deadlines. She wished the community a happy holiday season.

Melissa Badger, along with Sandy Thorpe, recognized Cody Schober for his outstanding speech at a presentation at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Thorpe feels Schober is a bridge builder, a professional, and did an excellent job presenting on an important topic, communicative disorders.

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

Thompson introduced Melissa Badger who provided an update on First Impressions. She indicated that in the past seven months the committee has made approximately \$30,000 worth of improvements including lettering over the entrance, lighting enhancements, landscaping, and entrance enhancements. She also indicated that donations have come from alumni in 20 different states. She also indicated that staff and alum are being asked to donate to a new sound system in the Barkin, hopefully before graduation.

Mark Dax presented an update on the Hendricks Education Center. He began with a video of some of the students attending the center. He provided information about the charter schools including the definition and the choices available for students. He reminded the audience that they are not an alternative program or extension of other schools in the district. Jesse Garza, counselor at the center indicated how they differ from other schools. He stated they have an application and interview process. They also have individual learning plans for each student and student/parent contracts. Garza indicated they also differ because they are a small setting, with differing methods of instruction, math and science emphasis, and automotive technology studies are available. He stated that each charter has a separate governance board. Community partnerships set them apart from other schools. They also request all parents to attend conferences. Dax highlighted upcoming changes such as RCAA will be a 6-12 charter school located at the Hendricks Education Center. They are also working on a technology plan and fundraising to sustain what has occurred with grant funding that is no longer available. At the center, they assume that all students will attend some type of post-secondary education.

Superintendent Thompson provided an update to the community and board members on strategic planning. He began by thanking all of the members who participated in the planning. He highlighted the mission, beliefs, objectives, parameters and strategies that the committee approved on December 18th. He described that the next step is forming action teams that will determine how the district will achieve its objectives through action plans and action steps. The plan is pending board approval.

Everson moved to amend the agenda to include the student report. Seconded by Winkelmann. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Daniel Luebke, senior at BMHS, gave the student report. He highlighted the sports successes this past week as well as a new *Incrscent* issue. He thanked the board and city for their discussions on the pool and other topics.

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

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

Henderson reviewed the topics of the November Special and December 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 November 23, November 24, December 1, December 2 and December 8, 2009; and 3) Regular Business Meeting of November 24, 2009. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Winkelmann moved approval of the payment of the invoice of 11/10/2009 to Fresh Start. Seconded by Everson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Winkelmann moved approval of the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$6,125,000 Taxable Note Anticipation Notes Pursuant to Section 67.12(1)(b), Wisconsin Statutes. Seconded by Acomb. Jim Weise provided information on this financing proposal. Phil Hohlweck from Robert W. Baird provided additional information. He stated that the WRS is an amount owed from every district to the state. Many districts chose to refinance this at a lower rate in the commercial market at a significant savings. Board members asked questions and Weise provided clarification on how the district came into this funding situation. Motion carried on a roll call vote 7-0.

Scharmer moved to reconsider the vote on the consent list in order to correct board minutes. Seconded by Johnson. Motion carried.

Scharmer moved to amend the minutes of the regular board meetings to reflect the meeting on November 24, 2009 instead of October as well as the approval of the remaining items on the consent list. Seconded by Johnson. Motion carried.

Winkelmann moved approval of the revision and layover of Policies 421 Entrance Age, 421 RULE 1 Early Admission to Kindergarten and First Grade Guidelines, 423 Admission of Non-Public School Students, and 423 RULE 1 Dual Enrollment Regulations for first reading. Seconded by Scharmer. A member asked questions about these policies. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Winkelmann moved approval of the revision of Policy 343.41 Youth Options Program for final reading. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Scharmer moved approval of the revision of Policy 420 School Admissions for final reading. Seconded by Winkelmann. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Henderson moved approval of the revision of Policy 420 RULE 1 Kindergarten Registration Procedures for final reading. Seconded by Everson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Scharmer moved approval of the revision of Policy 420 RULE 2 Enrollment Procedures for New Students for final reading. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Henderson moved approval of the revision of Policy 420 RULE 6 Homeless Enrollment Guidelines for final reading. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Henderson moved approval of the revision of Policy 751 Student Transportation for final reading. Seconded by Winkelmann. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Henderson moved approval of the revision of Policy 751 RULE 1 General Transportation Guidelines for final reading. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Henderson moved approval of hiring four part-time para educators at Merrill Elementary School. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Scharmer indicated that Mr. McNeel is getting a corrected job description for the personnel recommendations.

Ramsdail stated, in the meantime, he would consider items requested for future agendas. Those items included approval of phase 2 for new directions, GPA requirement for all activities as well as athletics, personnel committee's request for Ad Hoc Uniform Committee be considered by full Board, Race to the Top funding opportunity.

After job description clarification, Winkelmann moved approval of the personnel recommendations Exhibit A as revised. Seconded by Everson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Members provided observations from school visits.

Ramsdail announced future meetings on Tuesday, January 12 and the Board Business meeting will be held on January 26, 2010. He also reminded members and the community of the listening session on January 6 at the Beloit Public Library.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Michelle Shope, Board Secretary

Approved at the regular meeting of January 26, 2009

Michael Ramsdail, President