

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BELOIT
February 23, 2010

The Board of Education held its regular meeting on February 23, 2010 at the Kolak Education Center in the Board Room. President Ramsdail called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

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

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

Acomb led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Everson announced upcoming activities in the district. She announced the official enrollment period for Kindergarten is over, however, parents still enroll their child in K4 and KG programming. The curtain for the spring musical, Cinderella opens on March 5th with shows also on the 6th, 12th, 13th and 14th of March. Tickets are general admission and sold at the door. This Saturday, February 27 is the third annual Father/Daughter dance from 3 to 5 p.m.

Melissa Badger, announced that Emily Busam is now a finalist for the National Merit Scholarship program! Badger then recognized the students and staff from Art and the Environmental Club for their volunteerism and leadership. Mary Haakensen, Heidi Andre and Megan Slavish informed the board of the programs, improvements and projects they have been working on this year.

Badger along with Steve Kincaid, recognized the schools who participated in the United Way Campaign. Kincaid indicated that the drive this year exceeded the United Way's goal. He feels the school support is valuable and contributed to exceeding the goal. He recognized the following schools for their increase in employee giving over the prior year: Merrill, Todd, McLenegan, Robinson, Royce, Cunningham, McNeel Middle School, and the district overall. Wright had a 50% increase in employee giving. Aldrich, Converse, Kolak and the retirees from the district all had a 100% increase. Gaston had a 20% increase, over 50% participation and a per capita gift between \$75-99 and received the bronze award while Hackett had a 10% increase with 100% participation and per capita giving between \$75-99 and also received the bronze award. Kincaid acknowledged and thanked the district for its continued support! Board members also thanked the staff for their support of the community.

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

Thompson introduced Melissa Badger and Perry Tinsley who provided a marketing update for the board members and community. Badger presented on the communication revolution highlighting the types and changes in communication. She highlighted how the district uses social media and showed a brief video about social media. She also mentioned that PR is not a one person job. She also highlighted how hard Tinsley works to update our website and produce podcasts as well as many other projects in the district. Badger also showed a small portion of the video she and Tinsley created about the high school entitled, "Learn, Prepare, Succeed!" Board members made comments. Thompson stated that the district has a lot of very creative people in our district.

Thompson gave an update on the action teams that are working on the strategies in the proposed strategic plan. He explained that the strategies tell us what the district wants to do and the action teams are developing plans of how the district will achieve the strategies. He indicated that he met with the action team leaders and got updates on their work as well as community members who are serving have nothing but positive comments to say. When the process is complete, the school board members will then review the plan. Once the plans are approved and completed, there will be brochures and information made available to everyone. Thompson also thanked everyone for their participation in this process.

Daniel Luebke, senior at BMHS, gave the student report. He indicated that the video was very well received by students at the high school. He also stated that the newest issue of the Increscent came out last week. Hockey season is over, however the Boys and Girls basketball teams continue to do well and there are two students going to state for Wrestling. A Black History Month assembly was held two weeks ago and was also well received by the students. Concerns at the high school include that the guidance office is closed this week and students are not able to meet with counselors. Students have also expressed feelings about Dr. Jenkins leaving the high school and indicated that he will be missed. Luebke also mentioned that Cinderella will be coming up in the high school theater. He also commends the work of the finance and facility committee looking to the districts future, since he feels strongly that students take pride in their schools.

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

Acomb reviewed the topics of the February Curriculum and Instruction Committee meetings. Members commented on topics of the curriculum meeting.

Henderson reviewed the topics of the January Special and February 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 January 26, February 9, and two on February 16 and 3) Regular Business Meeting of January 26, 2010. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Winkelmann moved approval of the counseling services contract. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Everson moved approval of the Truancy Intervention Coordinator agreement with the City of the Beloit. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

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

Winkelmann moved approval of the purchase order with Technology Resource Advisors, Inc. for 25 mini notebook computers, a printer and a cart for Royce in the amount of \$19,265 and the purchase order with Tierney Brothers, Inc. for 12 Smart boards and speakers for Converse in the amount of \$37,500. Seconded by Everson. Scharmer asked questions regarding information on how educators can best use Smart boards in the classroom. Weise indicated that there is a share point where educators can sign up for a series of trainings for utilizing Smart boards. He does want to work with principals to ensure that staff receiving the Smart boards are utilizing them properly. Scharmer also asked if the district is properly allocating this technology. Members discussed this concern and Weise agreed that there needs to be more utilization as well as the proper utilization of this technology. Motion carried 6-1 with Everson abstaining.

Weise introduced the financing resolution. Lisa Voisin of Robert W. Baird & Co. who explained the interest rate and the significant savings. The bond rating, fund balance and board policy have all added to the ability to obtain a low interest rate which is creating over \$1 Million savings in the first four years. With the financing options that have occurred since 2007, the district has now saved over \$3.5 Million. Scharmer requested clarification on how the fund balance helped with the rating. Voisin explained the components used in the rating report and how fund balance played that role. Voisin explained how to begin working toward an even higher rating.

Winkelmann moved approval of the resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of \$6,270,000 taxable general obligation refunding bonds. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried on a roll call vote 7-0.

Henderson moved approval of a 1.0 FTE para-educator position for one on one support for a visually impaired student. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Henderson moved approval of the revision of Policy 424 Public School Open Enrollment and Policy 424 RULE 1 District Procedures for Dealing with Public School Open Enrollment Applications for final reading. Seconded by Winkelmann. Acomb questioned why we wouldn't want to allow a student coming from a district where K4 programming is not available. Winkelmann indicated that it may be what the law states on open enrollment. Henderson confirmed that it is the law. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Winkelmann moved approval of the revision of Policy 424 RULE 2 State Public Open Enrollment – Part-time (High School Resident and Nonresident) for final reading. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Scharmer moved approval of Policy 432 School Attendance Areas. Seconded by Everson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Winkelmann moved approval of the revised personnel recommendations. Seconded by Acomb. Johnson asked if the district would be hiring a new dean of students before the end date of the current dean. Thompson indicated that the executive team began discussions today on staffing for next year and put a moratorium on staffing at this time. Discussions will continue but until staffing decisions are made for next year, this position will not be posted. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Items for consideration at future meetings included unfunded mandates and the new directions additional information.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Michelle Shope, Board Secretary

Approved at the regular meeting of February 23, 2010

Michael Ramsdail, President