

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

The Board of Education held its regular meeting on March 23, 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.

Henderson moved approval of the agenda. Seconded by Winkelmann. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Acomb led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Henderson announced upcoming activities in the district. She announced spring break and the Modern Woodman Oratorical contest which will be held in the next few weeks. She also announced that three teams competing at Destination Imagination have successfully moved on to the state level of competition. Henderson also announced successes in sports and the start of Spring sports.

Melissa Badger, recognized Alex Polizzi, state wrestling champion this year for his talent, and outstanding athletic achievements. Board members commented on his achievements. She also recognized Heidi Andre, professional educator at BMHS who was the recipient of the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Teacher Fellows award. Carlton Jenkins, BMHS Principal, shared accolades of Ms. Andre's achievements. Andre shared her love for the district and the students in the district. She shared her appreciation for the decisions the board members have to make. She feels she is a reflection of the staff the district has at all levels. Board members shared comments on working with Andre.

Badger also recognized Carlton Jenkins, BMHS principal on his recent success in obtaining the superintendent position in Michigan. Board members shared comments on their work with Jenkins. Everyone wished him well as he moves forward in his career. Jenkins shared final thoughts and comments about the district and community.

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

Thompson highlighted discussions he has had with staff regarding the proposed grading policy. He is looking forward to meeting with several other department staff to discuss the proposal. He feels that many staff members are already utilizing many of the concepts contained in the policy. He highlighted that the strategic planning facilitator, Howard Feddema met with the action team leaders who are making great progress and he is looking forward to the planning committee's review of the action team work in May and reviewing the entire plan with the Board of Education. He also thanked those who are serving. He stated that he is looking at student grade point averages at the end of terms at the middle school and high school level. He stated that over 600 students have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. He is hoping to receive grant monies to celebrate students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher at the end of the year. He is also hopeful that strategies can be determined to raise this number even higher.

Melissa Gile, senior at BMHS, gave the student report. She highlighted students' positive comments as well as concerns with the proposed grading system. She also shared that the spring sports have started with tryouts and practices. The Environmental Club is hosting a poetry contest for students and the Miss Beloit Pageant will be held this Saturday at the high school. She also highlighted the Destination Imagination teams going on to the state competition. Board members asked questions of Gile with regard to the grading proposal.

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

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

Henderson reviewed the topics of the February Special and March Regular Policy and Personnel Committee meetings.

Winkelmann moved approval of the consent list: 1) Bills, Payroll and Cash Position Statement; 2) Special Board Meetings of February 23, March 9 and March 16; 3) Regular Business Meeting of February 23, 2010 and 4) Federal Grant Proposal: Integration of Schools and Mental Health Systems/Beloit Mental Health Collaboration. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Winkelmann moved approval of the proposal from Reilly, Penner, & Benton, LLP to conduct the various financial, single, membership and integration aid audits for the three years ending 2010, 2011, 2012. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Winkelmann moved approval of the purchase order with Tierney Brothers, Inc for 14 smart boards and speakers in the amount of \$43,750; the purchase order with First Technologies, Inc. for a Tormach CNC machine for the Industrial Tech classes at BMHS in the amount of \$18,409 and the purchase order with CESA 9 for the Safari Montage service for the district in the amount of \$46,657.30. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Winkelmann moved approval of accepting the bid of \$14,603 from Kessenich's for the food service equipment for Beloit Memorial High School. Seconded by Everson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Acomb moved approval of the proposed new course, Spanish for Native Speakers. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Winkelmann moved approval of the revision and layover of Policy 345.1 Grading System and the addition and layover of Policy 345.1 RULE 2 Grading Systems Guidelines for first reading. Seconded by Everson. Johnson clarified language in the policy. Scharmer applauded Thompson for this effort and cautiously would like to move forward with continued conversations. Winkelmann also encouraged continued conversations and clarified that he likes that the policy is trying to focus on student learning and not just grades. Thompson shared his thoughts as well about the discussions occurring. He feels that they have been important in leading to additional discussions to move the district forward with higher achievement. He also stated that few teachers are taught about the research of grading. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Scharmer moved approval of the revision and layover of Policy 432 RULE 1 New Student Placement Guidelines for first reading. Seconded by Everson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Scharmer moved approval of the revision and layover of Policy 432 RULE 2 In-District Transfer Guidelines for first reading. Seconded by Everson. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

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

Items for consideration at future meetings included new directions approval for next year, report on how new health care bill will impact the district's health care costs, trash bags and budget on buildings and grounds items.

Ramsdail announced future meetings on Tuesday, April 13 and the Board Business meeting will be held on April 27, 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Michelle Shope, Board Secretary

Approved at the regular meeting of April 27, 2010

Michael Ramsdail, President