

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BELOIT**

**April 27, 2010  
Published Proceedings**

The Board of Education held its regular meeting on April 27, 2010 at the Kolak Education Center in the Board Room. President Ramsdail called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

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

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

Acomb led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Johnson announced upcoming activities in the district.

Ramsdail asked board members to consider holding the Board meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> instead of May 25<sup>th</sup>. Acomb pointed out that the meeting would fall on the same night as the CESA 2 meeting. He also pointed out that Memorial Day is not celebrated until May 31<sup>st</sup>. Ramsdail decided that the meeting would not need to be moved to the earlier date and will keep it at May 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

Shirley Williams, 2170 Hayfield Lane, addressed the board members.

Thompson began the superintendent's report by referring to the progress the district is making. He then introduced Steve McNeal who presented information that was shared at a day of celebration with our elementary educators on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The information also included secondary information on RtI's (response to interventions), PLC's (professional learning communities. Tracy Donich, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator assisted McNeal in his presentation. She highlighted what is being done at the elementary level currently including reading, language arts and math. McNeal indicated that the district had tremendous growth in many areas tested and in some areas tremendous growth. He also indicated that anyone can go to the Department of Public Instruction's website and under the WINS portion see the districts data for any of our schools. He shared charts showing district progress by school and their increases.

Milt Thompson presented an update on meetings he has been having with teachers and departments on the grading proposal. He thanked everyone for their rich conversation and feels he will be bringing forward a better proposal because of these conversations and teachers' suggestions.

Daniel Luebke, senior at BMHS, gave the student report.

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

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

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

Ramsdail indicated that he, Acomb and Scharmer attended the National School Board conference in Chicago. Each gave a brief synopsis of the conference and the information they obtained.

Winkelmann moved approval of the consent list: 1) Bills, Payroll and Cash Position Statement; 2) Special Board Meetings of March 23, March 25, April 6, April 13, April 20 workshop and April 20; 3) Regular Business Meeting of March 23, 2010; 4) Donations from Altrusa International of Beloit, Surs Basketball Club, Stateline Community Foundation – AED and Stateline Community Foundation – Youth Service Day and 5) DPI grant Proposal: Beloit Asthma Initiative. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

John Kaminski presented information on the New Directions program including data on credits earned, grades, and breakdowns by ethnicity. Board members asked questions regarding success of the program, the data presented, and goals. Some board members felt that there should be data from the beginning of the program available and that it should be presented. They also questioned how a student gets to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade if they can only read at a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade level.

Scharmer moved at 9:00 p.m. to extend the meeting by 30 minutes. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously.

Board members continued to share their concerns and thoughts on the topic of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade academy. Members also talked about teaching to the WKCE test. McNeal clarified that teachers are teaching the curriculum which is aligned to the state standards. Some members questioned the cost of the program each year, especially during budget cuts. Kaminski indicated that he believes the students can continue to achieve and excel more than they have already. He also indicated that the 9<sup>th</sup> grade staff are not satisfied with the data either, but they are taking steps, perhaps baby steps at improving.

Jennifer Zart, social studies teacher, addressed the board as well. She feels that there has finally been some consistency in the administration of the program and feels that progress is being made. She highlighted what would be missing if the academy was not renewed. She shared information about the other opportunities offered like link crew and lunch time tutoring.

Mark Smullen, interim principal, addressed the board on this topic as well indicating that successes being seen at the elementary and middle school level with RtI are being addressed at the high school level this year.

Winkelmann moved to table this item since a budget discussion is coming shortly for the board members. He also asked for better data. He also is looking for a recommendation from the team after hearing board members comments. Seconded by Scharmer.

Board members asked for data on MAPS testing and indicated they would email additional questions to Mr. Smullen.

Acomb moved at 9:30 p.m. to extend the meeting by another 30 minutes. Seconded by Winkelmann. Motion carried unanimously.

Ramsdail shared his thoughts about tabling the item and cautioned the board about the complexity if the board would move to not renew the program with scheduling, staffing, etc.

Motion to table the topic carried 5-2 with Ramsdail and Johnson voting in the negative.

Winkelmann moved approval of the bid from Finley-Dencker for the cube van as presented and the bid from Finley-Dencker for two cargo vans as presented. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously.

Winkelmann moved approval of the purchase order with Technology Resource Advisors Inc for 32 computers for Budget in the amount of \$18,272, the purchase order with Technology Resource Advisors Inc for 30 computers for McLenegan in the amount of \$17,130, the purchase order with Core BTS Inc. for Norton antivirus for the district in the amount of \$18,894, and the purchase order with Skyward for annual license fees for the district in the amount of \$63,685. Seconded by Everson. Motion carried unanimously.

Acomb moved approval of the purchase order with Houghton Mifflin for Soar to Success Kits in the amount of \$20,550.42 and the purchase order with Achieve 3000 for KidBiz & TeenBiz licenses in the amount of \$249,462 over the next three school years. Seconded by Everson. Winkelmann questioned committing spending from future budgets. McNeal indicated that by committing for the three years, he was ensured a further \$30,000 savings in addition to what he has already negotiated. He stated that if the motion would be for only one year, the board would have to add an additional \$10,000 to the price. Thompson indicated that he feels the long term commitment is the way to go since it is working and we are award winning in this area. Acomb indicated that he likes the program especially for the transition for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Motion carried 6-1 with Ramsdail abstaining.

Winkelmann moved approval of extending the banking services contract with Blackhawk Band through June 30, 2011. Seconded by Everson. Motion carried 6-1 with Acomb abstaining.

Winkelmann moved approval of the Strategies for Active School Grant proposal. Seconded by Acomb. Motion carried unanimously.

Acomb moved approval of the planning of the Beloit Entrepreneurial Academy charter high school. Seconded by Johnson. Kevin Miller presented information on this charter high school. Winkelmann addressed concerns with funding, but indicated that he would not recommend the funding formula as previously used for charters. Scharmer talked about the proposal being self-sustaining and that the board would be looking at data, goals and charter graduates compared to BMHS graduates. Miller indicated that there are lessons that have been learned from the other charters and that there have been changes to the grant requirements like a detailed budget showing self-sustainability and others. Motion carried 6-1 with Ramsdail voting in the negative.

Acomb moved approval of the Youth Options applications for first semester 2010-11. Seconded by Henderson. Winkelmann indicated that about one-third of the anticipated cost ends up as the actual cost. Motion carried unanimously.

Henderson moved approval of the revision and layover of Policy 143 Official Board Representatives for first reading. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously.

Henderson moved approval of the revision and layover of Policy 431 dc Compulsory School Attendance for first reading. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously.

Henderson moved approval of the revision of Policy 432 RULE 1 New Student Placement Guidelines for final reading. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously.

Henderson moved approval of the revision of Policy 432 RULE 2 In-District Transfer Guidelines for final reading. Seconded by Scharmer. Motion carried unanimously.

Winkelmann moved approval of the personnel recommendations Exhibit A. Seconded by Henderson. Acomb questioned educators who leave for a year of career exploration are they guaranteed their position when they return. Cabelka clarified that they are guaranteed a position, not necessarily their previous position. Motion carried 6-1 with Johnson voting in the negative.

There were no items for consideration at future meetings.

Ramsdail announced future meetings on Tuesday, May 4, May 11 and the Board Business meeting will be held on May 25, 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

---

Michelle Shope, Board Secretary

Approved at the regular meeting of May 25, 2010

---

Michael Ramsdail, President