

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 172
ADAMS COUNTY, ILLINOIS
HELD ON DECEMBER 22, 2010

Meeting Convened

The Board of Education of School District No. 172, Adams County, Illinois, met in regular session on December 22, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Round Room in the Baldwin Intermediate School Building located at 3000 Maine Street, Quincy, Illinois, in said school district.

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Niekamp, who directed the secretary to call the roll. On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, Lovelace, Mays, and Niekamp; and the following members were absent: None. Whereupon the President declared a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Attorney David Penn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Questions and Comments

President Niekamp opened the meeting to questions and comments to members of the Board, by members of the public and employees of the district, in compliance with state statutes.

- Mr. Mark Tuley, representative of the Tea Party, spoke in opposition to the increase in the Tort levy. He said the Rick Management Plan was designed improperly in the past and it is a back door way to raise taxes. He said the District is taking advantage of this loophole instead of letting taxpayers vote on the increase. He said it is not a good time to raise taxes and taxpayers' money should be used wisely. He referred to the increase as "Chicago-style politics."
- Mr. Jeff Kerkhoff commented that the Quincy Public School District has more non-certified staff than other comparable LUDA schools. He spoke about the finding in the audit regarding the co-mingling of the Special Education Association and Quincy Area Vocational Technical School funds with District funds. The Special Education and QAVTC agreements written in 1988 are being revised.

Public Hearing -
ISBE Waiver and
Modification for
Driver Education
Fee

President Niekamp opened the public hearing on the ISBE Waiver and Modification of the Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/27-24.2 to increase the maximum driver education fee from \$50.00 up to \$250.00 to offset costs associated with the program. Attorney Gorman explained that the waiver must be submitted to the State by January 7 in order to increase fees for next school year and a public hearing is required. Assistant Superintendent Christie Dickens explained that the cost to the District, not including instructor salaries, is \$292 per student. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch pay no fee or a reduced rate. There were changes at the State level which disallowed simulators and increased behind-the-wheel time for students. QPS must provide driver education for all students in the district, including private and home school students. The State is required to provide \$123,000 reimbursement for driver education.

President Niekamp commented that some families would not be able to pay the \$250 fee. Ms. Dickens reiterated that the practice of no fee or reduced fee for free/reduced lunch students would remain in place.

Hearing no further testimony from staff or others regarding the waiver, President Niekamp closed the hearing at 7:20 p.m.

Public Hearing -
Truth in Taxation
on Proposed Tax
Levy

President Niekamp opened the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing on the Proposed Tax Levy for 2010 at 7:21 p.m. He stated that the hearing would remain open for comments at any time until closed later in the meeting.

Business Manager Bud Martin presented the changes in the tentative levy. After audit adjustments this past year, the amount expended in the Tort Fund was \$75,000 less than previously reported. Consequently, the levy is reduced from \$2.2 to \$2.125 million.

Consent Agenda

It was moved by Member Dickerson and seconded by Member Krause to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- a. Treasurer's Report
- b. Board Minutes - November 17, 2010 (as revised)

On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, Lovelace, Mays, and Niekamp; and the following member voted Nay: None. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

Reports of
Superintendent

1. Horace Mann Award. Superintendent Lemon recognized Security Guard Stephen Selby who was recipient of the Horace Mann sweepstakes. Stephen received \$1,000 and \$1,000 for the school district. He chose the Montgomery Fund to receive the district award. The Montgomery Fund provides money for students' unmet needs such as shoes, clothing, eyeglasses, gas money for doctor and hospital visits, etc.

2. Safe Routes to School Update. The city and school district are still interested in realigning the QHS parking lot with the 33rd and Maine intersection. Superintendent Lemon said he will keep the Board updated.

3. Vespers. Superintendent Lemon congratulated Director Kathi Dooley, staff and students for the stunning Vespers performance which truly reflected the spirit of the holiday season.

4. Inservice. Superintendent Lemon reported on the inservice held for selected staff and community members with Dr. Joe Murphy on closing the achievement gap. He thanked Assistant Superintendent Viniard for organizing the inservice held December 16 and 17. A district-wide inservice will be held on Monday, January 3 with various offerings in the morning and an inservice with Attorney Brian Schwartz for all staff in the afternoon. Students return from winter break on Tuesday, January 4.

Curriculum
Committee

The Curriculum Committee report was presented by Chairpersons Mays and Krause. The committee heard a proposal from QHS administration to require a third year of science for graduation and began the review of the

District Improvement Plan.

Third Year Science Requirement

It was recommended by the Curriculum Committee and moved by Member Mays to approve a third-year science requirement for graduation beginning with next year's freshman class and being fully instituted by 2015. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, Lovelace, Mays, and Niekamp; and the following member voted Nay: None. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

Building Committee

The Building Committee did not meeting in December.

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee did not meet in December.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee report was presented by Chairperson Daniels. The Committee reviewed the line of credit, monthly financial update, self-insurance fund, a recommendation for repairs to the junior high band room and the tentative tax levy.

Member Daniels pointed out that in a comparison with similarly sized districts in down-state Illinois, Quincy's Tort levy for 2010 is still below average at .265. The average is .33. He also addressed Mr. Tuley's comments at the beginning of the meeting regarding the Risk Management Plan. Member Daniels stated that the district hired the foremost expert in the state to make certain the Risk Management Plan was in compliance with Illinois law. The plan was upheld in the courts and was found valid.

Business Manager Bud Martin explained the tax levy process and how individual tax bills are determined. The assessed valuation of property (1/3 market value) times the multiplier (usually 1)--minus any exemptions--times the tax rate = tax bill. Mr. Martin said the district only controls the tax rate and if the District maintains a consistent rate and provides the same services, it is doing a good job.

Approve Check #25355

It was recommended by the Finance Committee and moved by member Daniels to approve check #25355, reimbursement check to Member Lovelace. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, Mays, and Niekamp; and the following member voted Nay: None; and the following member abstained: Member Lovelace. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

Check Register JH/SH Activity Account

It was recommended by the Finance Committee and moved by Member Daniels to approve the balance of the check register dated December 17, 2010. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, Lovelace, Mays, and Niekamp; and the following member voted Nay: None. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

Reports from
Representatives of
the Board

1. Special Education. Superintendent Lemon reported that superintendents from member districts and Director Kristen Kendrick are working on revising the joint agreement last updated in 1988.

2. Area Vocational Technical Center. Superintendent Lemon said that the AVTC joint agreement is also being updated.

3. Large Unit District Association. No report.

4. Insurance. Representative Daniels reported that an Insurance Committee meeting was held last Tuesday. He did not attend because there was only one day notice and he had a prior commitment. No financial information was available for the committee because the meeting was held prior to the Board meeting.

Driver Education
Waiver

It was moved by Member Daniels and seconded by Member Krause to approve submission of the application for request for waiver of Illinois School Code provision relating to Driver Education Program (Doc. Reg. No. 2497). On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, Lovelace, and Mays, and the following member voted Nay: Member Niekamp. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

Close Hearing on
Truth in Taxation

President Niekamp asked if there were any comments regarding the Truth in Taxation. Hearing none, he closed the hearing at 8:05 p.m.

Resolution - Risk
Management Plan

It was moved by Member Daniels and seconded by Member Lovelace to approve the Resolution Regarding the Risk Management Plan (Doc. Reg. No. 2498). Member Mays commented that the extraordinary tax should not be used for salaries directly as indicated in the plan but for loss prevention. He asked Attorney David Penn some questions about the plan. Attorney Penn stated that the Risk Management Plan helps keep insurance costs down. The district can never have enough insurance to cover any eventuality. Member Daniels stated that preventing and avoiding risk is much better than addressing it after the fact. Member Mays said the plan allocates salaries and justifies what the district is doing. He suggested the plan is built on a deck of cards and should be fully reviewed as whether it is legally sound. Attorney Penn said the plan was upheld in the courts.

On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, and Lovelace; and the following members voted Nay: Members Bemis, Mays, and Niekamp. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

Amend the
Tentative Tax Levy

Business Manager Bud Martin presented the amended tentative tax levy. He explained that the levy will be reduced by \$75,000 in the Tort Fund. This change is due to audit adjustments and reflects the actual costs in the Tort Fund. Member Mays asked some questions about specific expenses in the Tort Fund. Business Manager Martin explained that the district budget as a whole is based on last year's expenditures and holding at that level for next year. In contrast, the Tort Levy is based on actual expenses. Increases in unemployment claims due to cuts last spring increase have contributed to increased Tort costs.

It was moved by Member Daniels and seconded by Member Dickerson to amend the tentative tax levy by reducing the Tort section by \$75,000. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, and Lovelace; and the following members voted Nay: Members Mays and Niekamp. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

Reduce Tort Levy
to .13

It was moved by Member Niekamp and seconded by Member Mays to lower the Tort tax levy rate from the proposed .265 to .13 which was the rate for 2009. Member Krause asked where would the money come from if the Tort expenses are under levied because the Education Fund is already \$8 million in the red. Member Mays stated that there is a balance in the Tort Fund and the lower rate would just spend it down faster. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Mays and Niekamp; and the following members voted Nay: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, and Lovelace. Whereupon the president declared the motion did not pass.

Reduce Tort Levy
to .20

It was moved by Member Mays and seconded by Member Bemis to lower the Tort tax levy rate from the proposed .265 to .20. Member Krause commented that if the Tort Levy rate generated a surplus in 2010 at the .265 rate, it could be then be reduced in 2011 to spend down the surplus as has been done the last several years. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Mays, and Niekamp; and the following members voted Nay: Members Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, and Lovelace. Whereupon the president declared the motion did not pass.

Resolution
Establishing Tax
Levy

It was moved by Member Daniels and seconded by Member Krause to approve the Resolution to Establish the 2010 Tax Levy (Doc. Reg. No. 2499). On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, and Lovelace; and the following members voted Nay: Members Bemis, Mays, and Niekamp. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

Resolution Tax
Anticipation Note

It was moved by Member Mays and seconded by Member Daniels to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a Tax Anticipation Promissory Note in a principal amount not to exceed \$8,000,000 and confirming the sale thereof; authorizing the executive and delivery of a Line of Credit Agreement with the Bank of Springfield (Doc. Reg. No. 2500). On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, Lovelace, and Mays, and the following member voted Nay: Member Niekamp. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

Lease with the
YMCA

It was moved by Member Lovelace and seconded by Member Krause to approve the Lease Agreement with the Young Men's Christian Association of Quincy Illinois (Doc. Reg. No. 2501). This agreement allows the YMCA to use district baseball fields during the summer. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, Lovelace, Mays, and Niekamp; and the following member voted Nay: None. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

Laptop Program
Grant

It was moved by Member Krause and seconded by Member Mays to approve the submission of the Children's Low Cost Laptop Program Grant. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, Lovelace, Mays, and Niekamp; and the following member voted Nay: None. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

QJHS Band Room
Bids

It was moved by Member Daniels and seconded by Member Lovelace to approve a low bid of \$32,220 by Entrup Drywall and Painting to complete a Life Safety Project previously approved for the Quincy Junior High band room. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, Lovelace, Mays, and Niekamp; and the following member voted Nay: None. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

Executive Session

It was moved by Member Lovelace and seconded by Member Daniels that the Board suspend the rules and go into executive session to discuss student discipline, collective bargaining, pending litigation, sale of real estate, emergency security procedures and employment of personnel. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, Lovelace, Mays, and Niekamp; and the following member voted Nay: None. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

Resumption of
Rules

It was moved by Member Lovelace and seconded by Member Bemis to resume the conduct of the regular meeting under rules. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, Lovelace, Mays, and Niekamp; and the following member voted Nay: None. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

Student Discipline

It was moved by Member Mays and seconded by Member Krause to confirm the recommendation made in executive session to expel one Quincy Senior High student and four Quincy Junior High students. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, Lovelace, Mays, and Niekamp; and the following member voted Nay: None. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

Personnel
Addendum

It was moved by Member Daniels and seconded by Member Dickerson to approve Item #14 (Reappointment of Erika Lovelace) of the Personnel Addendum. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, Mays, and Niekamp; and the following member voted Nay: None; and the following member abstained: Member Lovelace. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Member Daniels and seconded by Member Krause to approve the balance of the Personnel Addendum as Amended. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, Lovelace, and Niekamp; and the following member voted Nay: Member Mays. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

PERSONNEL ADDENDUM AS AMENDED

Quincy Board of Education

DECEMBER 22, 2010**PERSONNEL ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION****CERTIFIED****MATERNITY/MEDICAL LEAVE**

- 1) **JAMIE HAMBY** - Berrian. Maternity leave effective approximately April 5 through May 17, 2011.
- 2) **EMILY LEPPER** - Sped. Ed. Maternity leave effective approximately March 29 through May 10, 2011.
- 3) **MICHELLE PETERSON** - QHS. Medical leave effective September 22, 2010 until released from her physician.
- 4) **KRISTEN WALKER** - QJHS. Maternity leave effective approximately April 4 through May 13, 2011.
- 5) **SUSAN WILLIS** - Speech Pathologist. Maternity leave effective approximately February 22 through April 5, 2011.
- 6) **JEAN RISKU** - Berrian. Medical leave effective November 25, 2010 through the end of the 2010-11 school year.

CHANGE IN MATERNITY LEAVE

- 7) **HEATHER HUMPHREY** - Berrian. Increased her maternity leave from six weeks to 12 weeks effective approximately December 10, 2010 through March 1, 2011.
- 8) **NIKKI FINNEY** - Washington. Change in leave dates. Effective December 13, 2010 through approximately February 28, 2011.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT**APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS**

- 9) **JOYCE POSTIGLIONE** - Para Dewey. Cat. A - Step 0 - \$8.96/hr. 110 days = \$6,899.20. Effective November 29, 2010.
- 10) **LINDA REINOLD** - Para Berrian. Cat A - Step 0 - \$8.96/hr. 112 days = \$7,024.66. Effective November 23, 2010/
- 11) **EMELY HERNANDEZ** - Para Baldwin South. Cat. C - Step 0 - \$10.60/hr. 105 days = \$7,791.00. Effective December 6, 2010.
- 12) **STACI BURKLUND** - Para Washington. Cat. C - Step 2 - \$11.13/hr 104 days = \$8,102.64. Effective December 7, 2010.
- 13) **DEBRA HOSKIN** - Para Monroe. Cat. C Step 10 - \$13.20/hr. 103 days = \$9,517.20. Effective December 8, 2010.
- 14) **ERIKA GOMEZ-LOVELACE** - rehired as QHS Cafeteria Coordinator. 8 hrs/day - 40 hrs/week - \$11.50/hr. Effective December 6, 2010. She was previously released due to fiscal reductions.
- 15) **NATHAN HENRIKSEN** - PM IFT bus driver route - 2 hrs/day 5 day/week. He resigned his AM-PM IFT route. December 8, 2010.
- 16) **JOHN PETERSON** - PM IFT bus driver route - 2 hrs/day - 5 days/week. He was a substitute. Effective December 9, 2010.
- 17) **ROD GILES** - AM-MD-PM SEIU bus driver route - 5 hrs/day - 4 day/week. Effective November 8, 2010.

MATERNITY/MEDICAL LEAVE

- 18) **FLOYD HIVELY** – QJHS custodian. Medical leave FMLA - December 2, 2010 through approximately February 24, 2011.
- 19) **JESSIE KRETZER** - Para Baldwin North. Maternity leave approximately January 17 through February 22, 2011.
- 20) **KATHY PETERS** - QJHS attendance secretary. Medical leave approximately November 29, 2010 through January 10, 2011.
- 21) **BRENDA GRAMC** - Bus Driver. Medical leave effective November 29, 2010 through approximately January 31, 2011.

RESIGNATIONS

- 22) **HEATHER CARVER** - Para Berrian. Effective December 10, 2010.
- 23) **ALAN COMSTOCK** - District Technology Technician. Effective January 3, 2011.
- 24) **TOM REGNER** - Para QJHS. Effective January 15, 2011.

RETIREMENTS

- 25) **KATHY KOETERS** - Library Para Washington/Monroe. Effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year.
- 26) **BARB STRIEKER** - Para QJHS. Effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

AMENDMENT - CONTRACT EXTENSION

- 27) **TRISH VINIARD** - Assistant Superintendent Curr/Inst. Contract extended to June 30, 2013.

Freedom of
Information
Request

Attorney Gorman reported on behalf of the Superintendent that multiple Freedom of Information Requests have been received and are in process.

Adjournment

It was moved by Member Daniels and seconded by Member Krause that the regular meeting adjourn. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, Lovelace, Mays, and Niekamp; and the following member voted Nay: None. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried and the regular meeting was duly adjourned.

MELVIN J. "BUD" NIEKAMP

Melvin "Bud" Niekamp
President

Phyllis Stewart

Phyllis Stewart
Secretary