

**MT. PULASKI COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #23
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2006
6:00 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION
7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING**

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Executive Session (Employment, Compensation, Evaluation, Dismissal, Transfer of Personnel, Bus Transportation Contract)**
- IV. Adoption of Consent Agenda**
 - A. Approve October 16, 2006 Minutes**
 - B. Approve Payment of Bills**
- V. Recognition of the Public**
- VI. Reports**
 - A. State Library Grant – Roberta Ingram**
 - B. IASB Convention – Chicago - November 16-19, 2006**
 - C. High School Gym Sound System**
 - D. Mobile Dentist Program**
- VII. Unfinished Business**
 - A. Elkhart Grade School – Closure Options**
 - B. Illinois Textbook Loan Program – Grades 9-12**
- VIII. New Business**
 - A. Tax Levy Hearing Date – Monday, December 18, 2006, 7 p.m.**
 - B. School Board Election – April 17, 2007**
 - C. Abe Lincoln Governing Meeting – IASB – December 5, 2006**
- IX. Items of Information**
- X. Adjournment**

MT. PULASKI COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #23
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MT. PULASKI UNIT OFFICE
NOVEMBER 20, 2006

President Meister called the meeting to order on November 20, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Unit Office. Roll call was taken. Answering present: David Meister, Julian Wubben, Laurie Rhodes, Doug Martin, Joe Olson, Jeff Haley, and Mike Toohey. Superintendent Phil Shelton and Principals Scott Doerr, Russell Galusha, and Gene Newton were also present.

Motion by Jeff Haley, second by Julian Wubben to enter Executive Session at 6:01 p.m. for the purpose of employment, compensation, evaluation, dismissal, transfer of personnel, litigation, teacher negotiations, and the bus transportation contract. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Julian Wubben, second by Laurie Rhodes to exit Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:05 p.m.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Julian Wubben to accept the resignation of Pam Buckles as MPHS assistant secretary effective November 17, 2006. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Jeff Haley to accept the resignation of Theresa Moore as EGS cook effective December 31, 2006. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Julian Wubben to accept the resignation of Joe Zimmerman as MPHS assistant softball coach. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Jeff Haley to hire John Niebrugge as MPHS softball coach for the 2006-2007 school year. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Julian Wubben to approve Executive Session minutes as reviewed tonight in Executive Session. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Jeff Haley to create a junior high school volleyball assistant coach position with the increment established after agreement with the MPEA and District #23 at a later date. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Joe Olson to authorize Miller, Hall, & Triggs to proceed in the Dennis Gleason litigation. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Julian Wubben, second by Doug Martin to adopt Consent Agenda Items as presented. A: Approve October 16, 2006 Minutes
B: Approve Payment of Bills

Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

District librarians Kathy Miller and Roberta Ingram reported on the items they were able to purchase last year as a result of the highly competitive \$10,000 Weed and Feed grant they received last year. \$4,000 at MPHS, \$4,000 at MPGS, and \$2,000 at EGS was used to purchase reference books, science books, and DVD's. The purpose of the Weed and Feed grant is to weed out old reference material and books and replace with the new. The Board expressed their appreciation for the work involved in this project.

Board members individually gave a brief summary of the sessions they attended during the recent IASB convention in Chicago November 16th – 19th. Collective bargaining, budgeting and cost control, consolidation with transition suggestions, legislative and financial issues were a few of the topics discussed. The consensus of the Board was that the sessions were better this year than last.

The MPHS Booster Club has been getting quotes on replacing the sound system in the high school gym. The cost is around \$10,600 for a system of wireless microphones and speakers in the cafeteria and gym foyer. Several businesses have made contributions to the Topper Boosters for the cost of this project, and the Board expressed their thanks.

The mobile dentist program was received well in the District with about sixty grade school students being examined by a dentist during the two day program.

Superintendent Shelton reported that the MPHS addition punch list items should be completed by the December School Board meeting.

Superintendent Shelton said weighing the total cost of operation of Elkhart Grade School compared to the whole District combined with low enrollment makes continued operation of Elkhart Grade School not financially feasible. Also, there is no guarantee that farmland assessment will not decline 10% again this year as it has the past five years. This is due to a variety of reasons, one of which is digital analysis of farmland. Since farmland makes up a large portion of the District's EAV, this means less tax money available to the District once again. The EAV has gone from about \$86,000,000 in 2000 to possibly \$72,000,000 in 2006.

Mike Toohey said the closing of Elkhart Grade School allows many of the educational cost cuts such as textbooks, library books, technology supplies, athletic uniforms, and classroom supplies to be put back into the budget, which benefits all of the students in the school district.

Laurie Rhodes suggested options to reduce costs at Elkhart Grade School and keep it open such as eliminating the administrative position, assigning dual duties to teachers, and combining classrooms.

Julian Wubben said it's not easy to close a school, but the suggested options won't save nearly what needs to be saved. Enrollment numbers are declining everywhere but especially at Elkhart Grade School. He stressed that nobody wants to close a school, but it's time to do it.

Mike Toohey said closing Elkhart Grade School will provide a lot more opportunities for all the students. District funds need to be built back up for the future. He doesn't see any other way around it.

Jeff Haley said closing Elkhart Grade School is for the benefit of all the children in the district.

David Meister said we have to weigh what's best for the kids.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Julian Wubben to close Elkhart Grade School at the conclusion of the 2006-2007 school year. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, and David Meister. Answering nay: Joe Olson and Laurie Rhodes. Motion carried.

Superintendent Shelton reported that the Illinois textbook loan program this year will provide \$8,651.91 for replacement of math textbooks at the 9-12 grade level. The ADA grant also supplements textbook costs.

Doug Martin and Julian Wubben will meet with Superintendent Shelton and Cathy Shull prior to the tax levy hearing.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Julian Wubben to set the tax levy hearing date for Monday, December 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

The School Board election is April 17, 2007 with three 4-year terms and two 2-year terms. January 29th is the first day and February 5th is the last day to file nominating papers at the Superintendent's office.

Board members are to notify Superintendent Shelton by December 1st if they plan on attending the Abe Lincoln governing meeting Wednesday, December 6th, in Springfield.

The Board expressed it's thanks to the MPEA for the cake and cards they received tonight for education week.

Motion by Julian Wubben, second by Joe Olson to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Voice vote. All aye. No nay. Motion carried.

Submitted By


Catherine J. Shull
Board Recording Secretary