

**MT. PULASKI COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #23
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY DECEMBER 18, 2006
6:00 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION
7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING**

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Executive Session (Evaluation, Dismissal, Compensation, Resignation, Employment of Personnel, Bus Transportation Contract, Administrative Evaluation and Litigation)**
- IV. Tax Levy Hearing**
- V. Recognition of the Public**
- VI. Adoption of Consent Agenda**
 - A. Approve November 20, 2006 Minutes**
 - B. Approve Payment of Bills**
- VII. Reports**
 - A. High School Addition – Punch List Completion**
 - B. Recent Storm Related Damage**
- VIII. Unfinished Business**
 - A. Tax Levy Adoption**
 - B. 2007-08 School Year Planning**
- IX. New Business**
 - A. Mt. Pulaski Booster Club Dinner Dance Fundraiser Proposal**
 - B. Elkhart Grade School Future Use and Sale**
 - C. Technology Assistant Position – Expansion of Duties**
- X. Items of Information**
- XI. Adjournment**

MT. PULASKI COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #23
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MT. PULASKI UNIT OFFICE
DECEMBER 18, 2006

President Meister called the meeting to order on December 18, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Unit Office. Roll call was taken. Answering present: Julian Wubben, Laurie Rhodes, Doug Martin, Joe Olson, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, and David Meister. Superintendent Phil Shelton and Principals Scott Doerr and Gene Newton were also present.

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

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

The meeting reconvened in Open Session.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Laurie Rhodes to hire Lynda Letterle as MPHS assistant secretary effective November 27, 2006 at an annual salary of \$12,000 for the 2006-2007 school year. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. Answering nay: Joe Olson. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Doug Martin to hire Charissa Howe as MPGS assistant volleyball coach for the 2006-2007 school year at the 4% increment. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

The Public Hearing for the 2006 tax levy was held. President Meister asked for any questions or public input on the proposed levy. Hearing none, the proposed levy will be adopted later in the meeting.

Motion by Julian Wubben, second by Doug Martin to adopt the Consent Agenda.
A: Approve November 20, 2006 Minutes
B: Approve Payment of Bills

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

Superintendent Shelton reported the contractor is very close to having things completed on the punch list for the high school addition. Once the designated items are finished, the architect will authorize the District to make the final payment to the contractor.

The recent ice storm caused four heating units located on the north side of the lower level of MPGS to freeze. Rebuilt coils that the District saved from a similar occurrence twelve to fourteen years ago were used by Binder Plumbing to replace the damaged units with a labor cost to the District of \$3,600. In the future these heating units may be

rerouted and moved inside the classroom suspended ceilings to prevent this from happening again. The EGS office area sustained leaks when the foam roof cracked on a seam due to the weight of snow and ice. About \$600 worth of food was spoiled due to the electricity outage. It was noted the District has a \$2,500 deductible on property damage.

Board finance committee members Julian Wubben and Doug Martin met with Superintendent Shelton and Cathy Shull early in December to set the 2006 tax levy. It appears the farmland assessment is going down 10% again, making another negative impact on the EAV which is estimated at around \$73 million. The recommendation is to levy as if the EAV would be \$77 million. If there is a serious increase the county is not expecting, the District should receive the maximum fund rates which would not happen if the levy was set too low. The rate, including the outstanding bonds, would be 4.90848 compared to the rate of 4.87252 last year. This levy represents a 3.66% increase over the previous year's extension, with a total 3.49% increase including the outstanding working cash and life safety bonds. Julian Wubben said this is a conservative levy. We are at the mercy of the EAV, which will probably be less than last years. Superintendent Shelton said he appreciated the finance committee's work, and he appreciated the work Cathy does contacting the counties for their assessment estimates. It's critical to try to levy as accurately as possible.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Julian Wubben to adopt the 2006 tax levy as presented with a 3.66% increase over the previous year's extension. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Superintendent Shelton reported the Principals are working on a letter that will be sent to all parents of grade school students explaining the transition to one grade school attendance center next year. Laurie Rhodes questioned why something hasn't already been sent out. Superintendent Shelton said the letter will be sent out in due time. It's better to take time and do it right then sending something out that isn't accurate. MPGS Principal Gene Newton said there will be an Open House at MPGS in the Spring.

A summary of a Booster Club dinner dance fundraiser proposed by Brent Grisham was discussed as an informational item only. It was noted that this would not be a school sponsored event and required no action by the Board.

Superintendent Shelton and David Meister met with Steve Anderson and Tim Gleason last month to discuss the future use of the EGS building and property. It would be possible for the School Board to transfer the building and property to a unit of government such as the Elkhart public library, the park district, township, or the village. If there isn't any interest shown in acquiring and maintaining the property by the government agencies, the sale will be done by public auction with a minimum bid set. Superintendent Shelton said we'll see what develops.

The Board discussed the expansion of duties of the technology position next year. The assistant technology position would be expanded to a technology coordinator requiring a teaching certificate with a revised job description. Superintendent Shelton said this would have been done earlier had it not been for the budget cuts the past five years. The Board suggested adding the responsibility to maintain and update the district

website and building websites to the revised technology coordinator job description. Superintendent Shelton said this would be done.

Motion by Julian Wubben, second by Jeff Haley to expand technology to a full-time certified position and move forward with a parental access website. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Julian Wubben, second by Mike Toohey to enter into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. to discuss bus transportation and administrative evaluations. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Joe Olson, second by Doug Martin to exit Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Joe Olson, second by Doug Martin to adjourn at 9:06 p.m. Voice vote. All aye. No nay. Motion carried.

Submitted By


Catherine J. Shull
Board Recording Secretary