

MT. PULASKI COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #23
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY FEBRUARY 27, 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 of Personnel, Administrative Evaluations, Bus Transportation Contract)**
- IV. Recognition of the Public**
- V. Adoption of Consent Agenda**
 - A. Approve January 23 and February 7, 2006 Minutes**
 - B. Approve Payment of Bills**
- VI. Reports**
 - A. H. S. Construction Update**
 - B. Group Workcamp – MPGS – July 2006**
- VII. Unfinished Business**
 - A. Transfer of Elkhart Grades 6-7-8 to MPGS (2007-2008)**
Discussion Item Only
 - B. H.S. Curriculum Recommendations**
 - C. IASB – Abe Lincoln Division Meeting March 2, 2006 at Lincoln H.S.**
- VIII. New Business**
 - A. FY 06 School Library Per Capita Grant**
 - B. Joint Agreement Resolution for Lincolnland Technical Education Center**
 - C. Seniority List Approval**
- IX. Items of Information**
- X. Adjournment**

**MT. PULASKI COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #23
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MT. PULASKI UNIT OFFICE
FEBRUARY 27, 2006**

President Meister called the meeting to order on February 27, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Unit Office. Roll call was taken. Answering present: Joe Olson, Tina Smith, Jeff Haley, David Meister, and Mike Toohey. Julian Wubben was absent, and Laurie Rhodes arrived late. Superintendent Phil Shelton and Principals Scott Doerr, Russell Galusha, and Gene Newton were also present.

Motion by Jeff Haley, second by Joe Olson to enter Executive Session at 6:01 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of evaluation of personnel, administrative evaluations, the bus transportation contract, student placement in special ed programs, and student discipline. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Joe Olson, Tina Smith, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. Voice vote. All aye. No nay. Motion carried.

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:00 p.m. in the MPGS Learning Center to accommodate the number of people in attendance.

Motion by Laurie Rhodes, second by Jeff Haley to hire Jim Jumper as MPHS track coach for the 2005-2006 school year. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Tina Smith, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

President Meister introduced the members of the Board, the Superintendent, building Principals, and Board recording secretary to those in attendance at the meeting. He then explained the guidelines expected to be followed when addressing the Board.

Elkhart residents Angela Ford, Linda Smith, Steve Anderson, Edith Fairchild, and William Fairchild individually addressed the Board with concerns about the transfer of the junior high to Mt. Pulaski Grade School that ranged from the questioning of financial facts and figures, increased class size and the effect on the student's overall academic performance, the effect on the development of the two village subdivisions, and athletics as the driving force.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Jeff Haley to adopt Consent Agenda Items A and B: A: Approve January 23 and February 7, 2006 Minutes
 B: Approve Payment of Bills

Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Tina Smith, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Superintendent Shelton reported on the progress on the MPHS addition. Things are moving along pretty well with the help of the good weather in February. Steel trusses and the metal roof deck are in place over the classrooms, hallway, and kitchen. Plumbing and electrical work is being coordinated with the masonry

work. The final two exterior block walls and the load bearing walls in the elevator are next on the list to complete. The contractor is estimating a completion date of the third week in May. If it's finished by June 1st, he'll be happy. David Meister said it should be a really nice addition when it's done. Jeff Haley asked how the District is doing as far as the budget for the addition. Superintendent Shelton said two construction change orders have reduced the cost, and the District is in good shape right now.

The Group Workcamp is scheduled for July 9th through 13th at the Mt. Pulaski Grade School building. Food service and custodial service are still in the planning stages. Superintendent Shelton asked Bill and MaryAnn Radtke if they had any comments to make regarding the upcoming workcamp. MaryAnn said 341 students from different parts of the country are signed up. She said these are top notch kids; the cream of the crop. There will be programs in the evening that the community will be welcome to attend.

Discussion commenced between Board members on the transfer of the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades from Elkhart Grade School to Mt. Pulaski Grade School for the 2007-2008 school year.

Tina Smith wanted to know the impact of a bill providing for smaller class sizes. Superintendent Shelton said this is only a proposed bill and relates to K-3rd grades. Sometimes the legislature discusses a proposed bill, and the bill gets stopped due to a technicality such as the lack of classroom space. Also, these bills may only provide money for one year. Mike Toohey said the Board has looked at the facts and figures, and there are not large class sizes at Mt. Pulaski Grade School.

Joe Olson questioned the difference between cost per student figures Angela Ford had supplied to the Board and those they had received from the Superintendent's office. In response, the next day after studying the figures presented by Angela Ford, the inconsistency lies in Angela Ford's misinterpretation of the financial audit. The operating expense per pupil for fiscal year 2005 was \$8,435.37 as stated on page 32 of the District's financial audit. She failed to subtract expenditures not applicable to the regular K-12 program, which made the \$9,118.37 cost per student she presented to the Board incorrect. The operating expense per pupil for fiscal year 2004 was \$8,126 as stated on the 2005 School Report Card. She had asked for and received a breakdown by building of the actual expenses for fiscal year 2005. It was explained on the bottom of the summary that expenses not included in the breakdown were those charged to the Unit District and not the individual attendance centers. This involves administrative, extra-curricular, technology, and transportation expenses as well as District building maintenance expenses. Also, the summary noted that Federal and State program expenses were not an individual building expense.

Jeff Haley said if the enrollment goes down, the cost per student goes up. He said his initial recommendation is to close the whole school. The Board has come up with a compromise to keep the building open. The alternative is close the building.

Laurie Rhodes asked at what point a school is considered too small. Is there a point where ISAT scores don't count. MPGS Principal Gene Newton said if a class gets below 10 students, the scores don't count because it's too easy to identify the students.

Mike Toohey said this is not all about athletics. Athletics do play a part of the junior high experience, but this is not a driving force. It's about economics. He has heard from people from Elkhart and Mt. Pulaski, and the Board does represent the voters. An Elkhart K-5 building allows for growth. Down the road it might come to something else, and the building will have to be closed. You can't guarantee anything in the future. We are trying to do what's best for everybody. He is comfortable with the Elkhart junior high being moved to Mt. Pulaski Grade School.

David Meister said the Board represents everybody and shares their concerns, even if he doesn't agree with all of them.

Laurie Rhodes said Superintendent Shelton took her through the classrooms at Mt. Pulaski Grade School, and she didn't see large class sizes. Mt. Pulaski Grade School Principal Gene Newton said there are two classes for each grade with about 16 or 17 students in each class.

Jeff Haley said this is a district-wide issue; it's not an Elkhart/Mt. Pulaski situation.

Superintendent Shelton said since 2001 the District's EAV went from \$86 million to \$76 million due to the 10% reduction in farmland assessment for the last five years. Yearly salary increases for employees account for about a \$130,000 increase each year in expenses. Budget cuts have been made across the board where possible with \$4,467,544 budgeted for the Education fund expenses in 2002 compared to \$4,454,243 budgeted in 2006. Good programs are offered in this District, and test scores have been good in all the buildings. The Elkhart junior high students will be absorbed in the current classrooms at Mt. Pulaski Grade School without any additional expenses and an annual savings of over \$70,000.

Motion by Jeff Haley, second by Joe Olson to approve the MPHS curriculum recommendations for 2006-2007 as presented. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Tina Smith, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

The Board extended their thanks to Guidance Counselor Nancy Baker and Principal Russell Galusha for all their hard work in compiling the proposed curriculum additions and changes.

Superintendent Phil Shelton and Board members David Meister, Mike Toohey, Joe Olson, Jeff Haley, and Laurie Rhodes will be attending the IASB dinner meeting March 2nd at Lincoln High School.

Motion by Laurie Rhodes, second by Tina Smith to accept the FY06 State Library Grant in the amount of \$462.08. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Tina Smith, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Tina Smith to approve the LincolnLand Technical Education Center Joint Agreement Resolution for 2006-2007. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Tina Smith, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Laurie Rhodes to approve the certified and non-certified seniority lists for 2005-2006. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Tina Smith, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

President Meister extended his thanks to the public for their attendance at the School Board meeting.

Motion by Jeff Haley, second by Joe Olson to enter Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of evaluation of personnel and administrative evaluations. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Tina Smith, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Laurie Rhodes, second by Joe Olson to exit Executive Session at 9:37 p.m. Voice vote. All aye. No nay. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Joe Olson to adjourn at 9:38 p.m. Voice vote. All aye. No nay. Motion carried.

Submitted By


Catherine J. Shull
Board Recording Secretary