

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2007
6:00 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION
7:00 P.M. REGULAR SESSION

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Executive Session (Sale of Property, Bus Transportation Contract, Employment, Evaluation, Compensation of Personnel)
- IV. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approve October 15, 2007 Minutes
 - B. Approve Payment of Bills
- V. Recognition of Public
- VI. Reports
 - A. Elkhart High School Alumni Association (Grade School Trophies)
 - B. IASB Convention - Chicago - November 15-18, 2007
 - C. MPHS Girls Volleyball State Champions - Class 1A
 - D. Annual Bleacher Inspection
- VII. Unfinished Business
 - A. Elkhart Grade School Property
 - B. Boiler Replacement
- VIII. New Business
 - A. Tax Levy Hearing Date - Monday, December 17, 2007, 7 p.m.
 - B. Abe Lincoln Governing Meeting - IASB, December 5, 2007, 6:00 p.m.
 - C. Approval of "Bus Route Safety Hazard Reports" for Illinois Department of Transportation
 - D. Athletic Officials - Proposed Fee Changes of 2008-09
 - E. Annual Test Score Report
- IX. Items of Information
- X. Adjournment

MT. PULASKI COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #23
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MT. PULASKI UNIT OFFICE
NOVEMBER 19, 2007

President Meister called the meeting to order on November 19, 2007 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. Also present was Superintendent Phil Shelton and Principals Scott Doerr and Gene Newton.

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

Motion by Julian Wubben, second by Doug Martin to exit Executive Session at 6:58 p.m. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:03 p.m.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Julian Wubben to approve Brian Alexander's request for family medical leave. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Julian Wubben, second by Laurie Rhodes to adopt the Consent Agenda:

A. Approve October 15, 2007 Minutes

B. Approve Payment of Bills

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

Gary Durchholz, Karen Gleason, Marlene Lanterman, Eleanor Lanterman, and Susan Selenik, members of the Elkhart High School Alumni Association steering committee, were present. Gary Durchholz addressed the Board and made a formal request that all of the Elkhart Grade School's memorabilia, along with trophies, be given to them for storage and display. He said the purpose of the Alumni Association, which has been in existence since 1980, was to promulgate memories of the Elkhart High School by the display of the high school memorabilia and the organization of alumni banquets to provide continued interest in the school. With the closure of Elkhart Grade School, the committee is now interested in the proper display of the grade school memorabilia. Asked by Mike Toohey whether the Elkhart Village Board was in agreement with the Alumni Association receiving the Elkhart Grade School memorabilia, Chairman Marlene Lanterman replied that she had talked to Steve Anderson; and he has no problem with the Alumni Association having all the memorabilia from the high school and the grade school. Currently some of the high school memorabilia is displayed at the local library. Superintendent Shelton said the committee's request sounds logical and reasonable. A decision will be made by the Board once the sale of the Elkhart Grade School property is finalized. The Board thanked Gary Durchholz and the Alumni Association for their report.

The annual IASB Convention held this past weekend was attended by Superintendent Phil Shelton and the School Board members. A summary of the workshops attended was given by the Superintendent and each of the seven Board members. Workshops included Technology and Governance; How to Protect District Funds, especially Student Activity Funds; the Superintendent Contract and Evaluation; Preventing Sexual Abuse of Students; What's New in School Law; and How to Have a Difficult Conversation. Legislative sessions, exhibits, and the Ag Science school tour were also discussed.

Congratulations were extended to MPHS Coach Donna Dulle and the players for being Class 1A Volleyball State Champions. Superintendent Shelton said the student cheering section also represented the school well.

The annual bleacher inspection report was discussed. Superintendent Shelton said a pretty good job is being done keeping the bleachers well maintained, but within the next few years the bleachers at the high school will have to be replaced.

The sale of the Elkhart Grade School property was held last Tuesday. There was one bidder. A \$5,000 earnest money deposit and a signed contract for the minimum purchase price of \$40,000 was received from the buyer. The closing date is set for December 13th. David Meister thanked Superintendent Shelton for his hard work.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Doug Martin to approve the Elkhart Grade School real estate purchase agreement for \$40,000 as signed on November 13, 2007. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

A report from Xcell Mechanical Systems concerning replacement of the steam boiler at the high school was discussed. Xcell blamed the condition of the boiler on poor chemical treatment and weekly maintenance. Due to the significant cost of a new boiler, Superintendent Shelton wants to get another opinion. If immediate replacement is necessary, a life safety amendment would have to be done in order for Life Safety funds to be used for this expense.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Julian Wubben to set the Tax Levy Hearing date for Monday, December 17, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

The Finance Committee will meet with Superintendent Shelton on Wednesday, December 5th, at 8:30 a.m. prior to the Tax Levy Hearing on December 17th.

The IASB Abe Lincoln Governing meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 5th, at 6:00 p.m. at Mariah's Restaurant in Springfield. Board members interested in attending are to contact Superintendent Shelton so reservations can be made.

The District is not required to provide bus transportation for those students residing within 1 ½ miles from the school unless there is approval from the Illinois Department of Transportation of a serious safety hazard finding. Bus route safety hazard reports, one for a residence on McDonald Street and one for the Danbury Place subdivision area, were discussed. Points are established for each type of safety hazard from the residence to the school location. The Board first approves the report, and then it's submitted to IDOT. After investigation of the proposed safety hazards, IDOT makes the final decision and issues a determination within thirty days of the receipt of the report.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Julian Wubben to approve the proposed bus route safety hazard reports. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Julian Wubben, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Proposed athletic official fee increases were presented to the Board for their review and approval at the December Board meeting.

Annual test score results were reported by Principals Scott Doerr and Gene Newton.

Gene Newton reported that ISAT Science scores were down, but Math scores have improved with the new Saxon series. He is looking into updating the Reading series that aligns with the learning standards. Scott Doerr reported the ACT average stayed constant with the State at a score of 20; however, the composite score was barely above the State level. By setting higher expectations for students and teachers, he is hoping the scores will improve. He is looking at revamping the entire English curriculum to concentrate on grammar and writing and literature books that teach strategy. The goal is that 11th grade scores will improve and get back up to the 2004 and 2005 eras. Superintendent Shelton said weaknesses in some curriculum areas will be looked at and changes made. He said learning standards need to be emphasized as well as the importance of the tests. President Meister thanked the administration for their report.

Motion by Julian Wubben, second by Joe Olson to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Voice vote. All aye. No nay. Motion carried.

Submitted By

Catherine J. Shull
Board Recording Secretary

