

MT. PULASKI COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #23  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MT. PULASKI UNIT OFFICE  
DECEMBER 21, 2009

President David Meister called the meeting to order on December 21, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Unit Office. Roll call was taken. Answering present: David Meister, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Kathy Boward, Joe Olson, Diane Deppe, and Jeff Haley. Superintendent Phil Shelton and Principals Gene Newton and Terry Morgan were also present.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Diane Deppe to enter Executive Session at 6:01 p.m. for transportation contract, evaluation, compensation of personnel, and student discipline. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Diane Deppe, Kathy Boward, Joe Olson, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

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

The meeting reconvened in Open Session.

The Public Hearing for the 2009 tax levy was held. President Meister asked for any questions or public input on the proposed levy. Hearing none, the proposed levy will be approved later in the meeting.

Motion to hire Wyatt Waterkotte as HS Home Economics teacher and FCCLA sponsor for the 2010-2011 school year. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Diane Deppe, Kathy Boward, Joe Olson, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Diane Deppe to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented:

- A. Approve November 16, 2009 Minutes
- B. Approve Payment of Bills
- C. Approve Freedom of Information Act School Officials as the Superintendent and the Bookkeeper/Treasurer

Roll call vote. Answering aye: Diane Deppe, Kathy Boward, Joe Olson, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Superintendent Shelton reported he received notification from AmerenCilco on the approval of the District's \$10,000 energy assistance grant application. The high school and grade school buildings will each receive a \$5,000 credit on their electric account. President Meister thanked Superintendent Shelton for his work on the grant application.

Kevin Heid with First Midstate Investment Bankers presented a synopsis of the County School Facility Occupation Tax Law. Basically it allows the County Board to impose a county sales tax to be used exclusively for school facility purposes. The tax may be imposed only in .25% increments and may not exceed 1%. Passage of the tax proposition would require a broad base of support. Assuming a majority of voters at a regular election would approve the tax, the County Board still has the final say whether to impose the tax and in what increment. The taxes are collected by the State Treasurer, certified to the State Comptroller, disbursed to the Regional Superintendent of Schools, and distributed to the School District based on the number of students who reside within the county collecting the tax. The taxes would be deposited in a restrictive School Facility fund and could only be used for school facility purposes. Some uses include energy conservation, disabled accessibility, school security, and installation of durable equipment attached to the buildings. School Board members thanked Kevin Heid for his presentation.

Board members Jeff Haley, Joe Olson, David Meister, and Superintendent Phil Shelton attended the recent IASB convention in Chicago. Workshops on the levy process, county sales tax, and the new FOIA law were a few of the better sessions they attended. They felt it was a good conference and well attended.

Doug Martin asked about the possibility of reinstating the sport of girl's softball at the high school. Superintendent Shelton responded that there is nothing in the current budget for high school girl's softball, and the decision was made to not offer the sport for lack of high school participation. He said the participation numbers for girl's softball at the junior high level are not good either. Future Board discussion will include whether junior high softball needs to be eliminated also. With transportation costs a factor and low participation numbers, common sense needs to be used about what sports the School District can provide for.

President Meister reported he has received phone calls about the lack of winter weather maintenance by the Logan County Highway Department on the Elkhart road intersections, curves, and hill. Superintendent Shelton replied that there is also a different pitch to the road, and it needs early attention by the Logan County Highway Department when snow and ice are present.

The bus transportation contract will be discussed at the January Board meeting.

The School District diesel fuel advance purchase agreement with Ag-Land FS for the past six months has been \$2.28 a gallon plus taxes for 8,000 gallons, and the six month renewal would be at \$2.45 a gallon plus taxes for 8,000 gallons.

Motion by Doug Martin, second by Jeff Haley to approve the Liquid Fuel Forward Contract with Ag-Land FS as presented. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Diane Deppe, Joe Olson, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Doug Martin, second by Mike Toohey to approve certified and non-certified seniority lists as presented. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Diane Deppe, Joe Olson, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Finance committee members Doug Martin and Diane Deppe met with Superintendent Phil Shelton and Cathy Shull to set the 2009 tax levy rate. The estimated 2009 tax rate of 4.72666 is close to the current 2008 tax rate of 4.72552. The Technology Lease fund was decreased from the maximum .05% rate to .04%. The IMRF levy request was increased \$2,000 due to an increase in the IMRF employer rate. Farmland EAV is expected to increase at least 10% from last year; therefore an estimated 8% increase in the total EAV was used to set the rate.

Motion by Doug Martin, second by Jeff Haley to adopt the 2009 tax levy as presented with an estimated 8.03% increase over the previous year's extension. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Diane Deppe, Joe Olson, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Board members who want to register for the January 26<sup>th</sup> IASB Basic School Law workshop in Springfield will need to notify Superintendent Shelton as advance registration is required.

President Meister thanked the MPEA for hosting the recent Christmas get together.

Doug Martin thanked elementary teacher Kathleen Tarrant and her students for their letters written to the School Board members.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Diane Deppe to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Voice vote. All aye. No nay. Motion carried.

Submitted By

Catherine J. Shull  
Board Recording Secretary