

MT. PULASKI COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #23  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MT. PULASKI UNIT OFFICE  
JANUARY 25, 2010

President David Meister called the meeting to order on January 25, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Unit Office. Roll call was taken. Answering present: Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Kathy Boward, Joe Olson, Diane Deppe, and David Meister. Jeff Haley arrived late. Also present was Superintendent Phil Shelton and Principals Gene Newton and Terry Morgan.

Motion by Diane Deppe, second by Joe Olson to enter Executive Session at 6:02 p.m. for transportation contract, administrative evaluations, and evaluation of personnel. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Kathy Boward, Joe Olson, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Diane Deppe, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Kathy Boward to exit Executive Session at 7:08 p.m. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Kathy Boward, Joe Olson, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Diane Deppe, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:11 p.m.

Motion by Doug Martin, second by Mike Toohey to approve HS Special Ed Aide Cindy Stoll's request for medical leave. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Kathy Boward, Joe Olson, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Diane Deppe, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Doug Martin, second by Kathy Boward to hire Sue Adams-Snelson as a Special Ed Aide at MPGS on an hourly as needed basis for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school term. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Kathy Boward, Joe Olson, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Diane Deppe, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Diane Deppe to adopt the Consent Agenda items A and B:

- A. Approve December 21, 2009 Minutes
- B. Approve Payment of Bills

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

Stan Anderson appeared before the Board to present his concerns about the absence of the girl's softball program at the high school and the possible elimination of the sport at the grade school. He realizes the participation numbers are low at the grade school and were low at the high school when it was discontinued but thinks it is a beneficial sport for the girls who participate. He volunteered to help create a survey to be taken at both schools to determine interest in the sport for next year and thanked the Board for their consideration. President Meister thanked Stan for his comments.

Due to lack of action by the legislators to fix the financial problems of school districts caused by late payments of anticipated revenue, the District will be forced to return to reduction in force (RIF) for any grant funded programs. This would be done at the March Board meeting and would include teachers and non-certified staff. Superintendent Shelton said virtually every school district will be in this same position.

The Regional Office of Education annual building inspection is scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup>, having been rescheduled twice by the ROE.

District Librarian Kathy Miller gave the annual report for the State Library grant. Inter-library system book transfer requests are up with increased usage of the library by the high school students. Kathy Miller said Library Clerk Jill Siebert has stepped in after the retirement of former Librarian Roberta Ingram and kept things running smoothly at the grade school. Superintendent Shelton commended Kathy Miller and Jill Siebert for an efficient job which is a credit to them both. President Meister thanked Kathy Miller for her presentation.

Logan County Superintendents will be meeting to discuss the question of imposing a Logan County sales tax which would create restricted capital improvements revenue for their school districts. Even if Logan County voters would pass the sales tax, the County Board would still have the final say on whether or not the tax would be put in place.

Motion by Doug Martin, second by Mike Toohey to extend the bus transportation contract with Hinds Transportation through the 2012-2013 school term with a base contract increase of 3 ½% for 2010-11; 2 ½% for 2011-12; and 2 ½% for 2012-13. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Kathy Boward, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Diane Deppe, and David Meister. Answering nay: Joe Olson and Jeff Haley. Motion carried.

The girl's softball program was discussed. The reason there is no longer softball at the high school is due to lack of participation. There were ten softball participants last year at the grade school; seven were 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders; 1 was a 7<sup>th</sup> grader; 2 were 8<sup>th</sup> graders. To have a team you must have more than ten participants due to injuries, academic ineligibility, and sickness. You may have enthusiastic support of both students and parents, but you still have to have the participants in the sport. President Meister said he wishes there were enough finances for all sports to flourish, but as a small rural school district in the midst of a financial crisis he doesn't know how that is possible if participation in the sport isn't there. Principal Gene Newton said sports surveys are done but are never accurate. Many more students say they are going out for the sport than actually end up going out. The March Board meeting would be a good timeframe to decide about grade school softball. It was also noted that the problem with co-op sports is the high cost of transporting students to the site for practices as well as games. Mike Toohey said if we're talking about ridding teachers, we also need to look at eliminating some sports unfortunately.

Because the AYP for the federal No Child Left Behind law was not achieved by MPHS Math students in 2008-09, a revised school improvement plan was required. Principal Terry Morgan presented the plan to the Board and made recommendations to improve the test scores. The Board thanked him for his presentation and the work done in revising the school improvement plan.

Motion by Doug Martin, second by Jeff Haley to approve the School Improvement Plan as presented. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Kathy Boward, Joe Olson, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Diane Deppe, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Technology Coordinator Heather Fricke gave a presentation on the advantages of using Skyward grade book and family access software instead of the current Edline software used by the School District for the past three years. The Skyward software proposal cost for the first year is \$9,607. Superintendent Shelton will clarify costs between Skyward and Edline. The Board thanked Heather for her presentation.

Superintendent Shelton discussed the problems at the State Board of Education. The lack of payments from the State will have an impact on programs such as Title I, Reading Improvement, and Pre-K. Funding for these programs has decreased every year. He said we can't operate a school district with 40% of the money and the use of federal money to cover State payments. March is typically the month for the notice of reduction in force. We'll look at the grant progress, extra-curricular, and transportation costs. More information will be forthcoming as far as staffing for next year.

Motion by Doug Martin, second by Joe Olson to enter Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. for administrative evaluations and evaluation of personnel. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Kathy Boward, Joe Olson, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Diane Deppe, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Kathy Boward to exit Executive Session at 9:31 p.m. Voice vote. All aye. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Jeff Haley, second by Kathy Boward to approve Executive Session minutes reviewed tonight in Executive Session. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Kathy Boward, Joe Olson, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, Diane Deppe, and David Meister.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Jeff Haley to adjourn at 9:32 p.m. Voice vote. All aye. No nay. Motion carried.

Submitted By

Catherine J. Shull  
Board Recording Secretary

