

Mt. Pulaski Community Unit District #23  
Board of Education  
Mt. Pulaski Unit Office  
February 15, 2010

President Meister called the meeting to order on February 15, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the unit office. Roll call was taken. Answering present: Doug Martin, Kathy Boward, Joe Olson, Diane Deppe, Jeff Haley, David Meister. Mike Toohey was absent. Also present were Superintendent Phil Shelton, and Principals Gene Newton, and Terry Morgan.

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

Motion by Diane Deppe, second by Kathy Boward to exit Executive Session at 7:06 p.m. Roll Call vote. Answering aye: Joe Olson, Jeff Haley, Doug Martin, Diane Deppe, Kathy Boward, David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Doug Martin, second by Diane Deppe to accept the resignation of Cathy Shull as School Board recording secretary. Roll Call vote. Answering aye: Joe Olson, Jeff Haley, Doug Martin, Diane Deppe, Kathy Boward, David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Joe Olson, second by Diane Deppe to approve the consent agenda items

- A. Approve the January 25, 2010 minutes
- B. Approve payment of bills

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

## **Reports**

Linda Schilling gave a report on the Summer History Grant that she was able to obtain. This is a two year grant that allows teachers to make and share lesson plans based on sites and places they have visited. Mrs. Schilling gave a presentation on her trip this past summer to Civil War sites between Memphis and New Orleans. This upcoming summer she will be touring the Boston and Philadelphia areas. President Meister thanked her for her time and presentation.

## **Unfinished Business**

The Skyward grade book and family access software were discussed. Superintendent Shelton discussed the costs and software currently used in the district. There was a discussion of the cost to run the current program versus the cost of implementing the new Skyward software. The new software would be more efficient and user friendly, but there is an upfront cost to implement the software in the first year. Doug Martin said it looked like the district could save money over a five year period. Jeff Haley stated that it looked like the payback would be one year if implemented. Superintendent Shelton will make sure there are no hidden costs and have more information at the March meeting.

Superintendent Shelton discussed budget, program, and personnel cuts. He said that due to the State of Illinois not funding grant programs such as Pre-K and the Reading Recovery program that a reduction in force (RIF) will have to be made at the March meeting. He also said that the reduction in force will become a standard practice in future years. He said that our district is not the only one facing these issues and that every district in the state is having the same problems. He said that a reduction in force will be made in almost every district. He pointed out some other districts that have already made the reductions. He also pointed out that the district has only received 1 of the 4 transportation reimbursement payments that is owed to the district. He said the district receives approximately \$750,000 - \$800,000 in total state aid per year. Joe Olson asked what we are currently owed by the state. Superintendent Shelton said that we are currently owed approximately \$700,000. He said the Pre-K grant is for \$100,000 and to date we have received \$2,400. He also noted that we are still eligible for the \$800,000 construction

grant from the state for the addition at the high school. All of the paperwork and updates have been completed and that we were still waiting along with several other districts. He stated the reason the reductions have to take place in March is because the state may not make any announcements about payments until after July 1. By this time it is too late to notify employees about the reduction.

There was a discussion about the possibility of a Logan County Sales Tax. Superintendent Shelton discussed how revenue from the tax could be used for capital improvements only. He will be talking to other administrators in the county to see if there would be enough support to put it on the ballot. President Meister stated that it will not effect property tax owners and would be a way to obtain revenue from people outside the district. Superintendent Shelton said that the tax is getting a lot of attention from surrounding counties and he will continue to gather information.

### **New Business**

Superintendent Shelton discussed a FY 2010-2011 budget projection. He said that there will be an increase in property tax revenue due to the increase in EAV in the county. However, the probable decline in state aid will offset any increase received in tax revenue. He stated the best case scenario is that the revenue will be the same as FY2009-2010. On the expense side we will be in the last year of our contract with the MPEA teachers. They will be receiving a 4.5% increase which will amount to about \$120,000-\$130,000 increase in salary costs.

IASB – Abe Lincoln Division Meeting will be held on Thursday March 4, 2010. Superintendent Shelton asked that anyone interested in attending please let him know as soon as possible.

### **Items of Information**

Principal Newton stated the February students of the month:

6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Bret Huff, 7<sup>th</sup> grade – Justin Dunakey, 8<sup>th</sup> grade – Emma Stewart.

He also said that they had just hosted a successful grade school boy's state tournament at the high school. He said that the IESA was impressed with our facility and how the tournament was handled.

Principal Morgan said that the senior of the month was Justin Knauer. He also stated that Ashley Southerlan was the Lincoln Courier Student Athlete of the month for January.

A motion was made by Joe Olson, second by Diane Deppe to re-enter Executive Session at 8:13 p.m. for evaluation of personnel and student discipline. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Joe Olson, Jeff Haley, Doug Martin, Diane Deppe, Kathy Boward, David Meister. No Nay. Motion carried.

Motion made by Diane Deppe, second by Kathy Boward to exit Executive Session at 9:39 p.m. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Joe Olson, Jeff Haley, Doug Martin, Diane Deppe, Kathy Boward, David Meister. No Nay. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Kathy Boward, second by Joe Olson to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. Voice vote. All aye. No nay. Motion carried.

Submitted by :

Doug Martin

School Board Secretary

\*\*The March School Board Meeting will be March 22\*\*