

RECORD OF MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

October 13, 2016

The Bunker Hill Community Unit District #8 School Board of Education met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 13, 2016, in the library of Wolf Ridge Elementary and Junior High School. President David Monetti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Physically Present:

Bauer, Wieseman, Owen, Duckworth,
Miller, Fulton, Monetti.

Members Physically Absent:

None.

Members Electronically Present:

None.

Also present:

Dr. Victor C. Buehler, Stephanie Cann, Matt Smith, Rhonda Whitworth, Melisa Wright, Doug Dey, Misty Perez, Kacie Allen, Jessica Schley, Trista Manar, Whitney Mullink, Ethan Mullink, Will Manar, Andy Manar, Amanda Barte, Myah Harris, Jammie Tombinson, Kara Eden, Erin Bloodworth, Corey Hayes, Kenneth Loy, Regina Bassett, Miranda Cook, Alex Goltz, Shaun Radae, Heather Crisler, Tiffany VonBurg, Dawn Devall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President David Monetti asked those present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

The minutes were reviewed. Motion by Wieseman, seconded by Miller, to approve the minutes of the Regular and Executive Session Board Meetings of September 12, 2016 as presented. Roll call vote—Fulton, yes; Wieseman, yes; Bauer, yes; Miller, yes; Duckworth, yes; Owen, yes; Monetti, yes. Motion carried.

BOARD SALUTE

Mr. Smith congratulated the FFA on receiving a Bronze Award noting that this was the first time the FFA has received such an honor. Mrs. Cann then saluted Mr. Justin Sandbach and the Wolf Ridge History Club for improvements to the flag pole. She also thanked Mr. Sandbach for having Senator Manar and Congressman Davis make presentations to his history classes. Dr. Buehler then congratulated Vice President Owen for again receiving the IASB Master Board Member and LeaderShop Academy Program Award.

BILLS

The bills were reviewed. A motion was made by Duckworth, seconded by Fulton, to approve the bills as presented. Roll call vote—Miller, yes; Bauer, yes; Owen, yes; Duckworth, yes; Fulton, yes; Wieseman, yes; Monetti, yes. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Kenneth Loy was present to present a summary outline of the Annual Financial Report for the 2015-16 school year. He noted that the amount of property tax collected was down. Despite this, the district scored 3.9 of 4.0 earning it a recognition status. Also noted was the fact that

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the per capita tuition was up slightly from previous years at \$6,839 and that the student count was at an eleven year low. Financially, he felt it was a good year. For the last five years the District ended with a positive balance which is rare to see anymore in schools. With no comments, a motion was made by Miller, seconded by Wieseman, to approve the financial report and audit as presented. Roll call vote—Owen, yes; Duckworth, yes; Wieseman, yes; Fulton, yes; Bauer, yes; Miller, yes; Monetti, yes. Motion carried.

At this time Will Manar was allowed to discuss his action item.

Will Manar introduced himself as a nine year old fourth grader from Mr. Schultz's class. He was present with his friend Ethan. Will was asking permission from the Board to hold a fundraiser at the tennis court selling hot chocolate, coffee, lemonade and brownies to raise money for tennis court repairs. This fundraiser would be held on October 29 and the funds raised would be donated to the Kiwanis to continue the renovation fundraising. Senator Manar then spoke. He had met with Mr. Smith and Dr. Buehler to see if the District would be interested in renovating the tennis court to include tennis in the current curriculum. He outlined several avenues to receive grants and donations to eliminate costs to the school. Board member Duckworth asked that they also keep in mind maintenance of the courts when completed. President Monetti stated any meetings that needed to be held could be scheduled with the building and transportation committee. With no further comments a motion was made by Bauer, seconded by Miller, to allow the use of school property for a tennis court fundraiser. Roll call vote—Duckworth, yes; Miller, yes; Fulton, yes; Owen, yes; Wieseman, yes; Bauer, yes; Monetti, yes. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

Kara Eden—Questions on Common Core

Kara Eden was present to express the concerns she and several parents had with the Common Core Math Program. They felt that the higher grade levels did not understand the program and noted that several states had been overturning common core programs. She was present to request an opt out program for students who were struggling to end nightly homework frustration and low self-esteem. She noted that several parents were planning on homeschooling their children to avoid this frustration.

Jamie Tombinson then introduced herself. She stated her child started common core math in sixth grade and is now an eighth grade student who is struggling because of the math curriculum change.

The Board advised the audience that they were told there would be a learning curve when common core was introduced. They encouraged parents to reach out to their local representatives as a program change would need to come from the top down noting that schools were being forced to follow the common core curriculum. Parents were also encouraged to use the online component to assist their students in learning the math program along with reaching out to teachers to voice their concerns and receive extra assistance for struggling students.

The principals noted they had only received one parental complaint on the program, but stated they are willing to work to solve any problems students may be having.

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Amanda Bartee stated her child had been receiving tutoring and her grade had improved, but with the introduction of the Alex program, the tutoring had ceased. Principal Smith explained that the Alex program was used to assess a student's individual strengths and weaknesses. At this time the students were taking evaluation tests. Mrs. Bartee then questioned the grading scale noting that most schools have a 90 – 100 scale for an "A" while Bunker Hill had a 93 – 100 scale. The curriculum committee agreed to review this item in the spring.

Mrs. Eden then commented that there were no books with common core, only worksheets. Mrs. Perez explained that the explanation for the homework was in the previous pages of the workbook.

Alex Goltz then introduced himself as a seventh grade student that went from a C to an F student in math due to common core. He stated that when he asked his teacher questions he would forget the answer because she would answer a previous question. On his last assignment he had wrong answers on all questions because of missing information even though his answers were correct.

Heather Crisler then addressed Mr. Smith to see if the eighth grade students had their study halls taken away. Mr. Smith explained how the Alex program worked and noted that the work could be done at home. He is asking the students to plan their time wisely. If they need to study for an exam, they should do that. If they do not have work, or have an assignment that could be completed later, they should work on their Alex.

Parents were then reminded to contact their teachers at the parent/teacher conferences of October 25 and 27.

Regina Bassett then questioned how much additional math was being required of the students. Mr. Smith explained that the assessment assures that the students are being placed in the correct math class. He noted the higher the student scored in the Alex program, the less work they would have to do.

Discussion then followed on the I-Station and Alex programs.

Whitney Mullink then suggested that parents contact the SIUE helpline for homework assistance. Mrs. Cann stated she was in process of sending this information home to parents.

Kacie Allen then asked when the change in grading scale would be discussed. She was informed that it would be discussed at the next curriculum meeting. This meeting would probably be held in the spring as it was impossible to change a grading scale midyear.

ACTION ITEMS

Select IASB/IASA/IASBO Convention Delegate and Alternate

President Monetti asked for volunteers to be convention delegates. Vice President Owen and Board Member Bauer volunteered and were appointed as delegates. No motion was necessary.

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Mr. Derezotes—Presentation of 3D Printer

Mr. Derezotes was unable to attend the meeting. This presentation will be held at a later date.

Preliminary I-Station Report

Mrs. Cann stated that the Imagination Station was an intervention program that was game-like. Students were enjoying the program and teachers loved the reports they were able to print on individual students and their class as a whole, noting that they were able to change their lesson plans to meet student deficits. Mrs. Cann is working on getting more computers so the program can be utilized even more.

Proposal for Tennis Courts by Senator Manar

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Report on Transition of 8th Grade

Mr. Smith stated that the eighth grade transition was going well. Problems with schedule changes, lockers, and other items had been worked out. He noted that keeping the students tied to Wolf Ridge was a challenge, but both the students and teachers seem happy. Mrs. Cann noted that the move had allowed changes at Wolf Ridge such as students having recess before lunch and longer lunches. Board Member Miller commented that every eighth grader she spoke to loved the freedom they were experiencing. She had not heard any negative comments regarding the move.

At this time “Information Items” would be discussed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Dr. Victor C. Buehler

Dr. Buehler noted that the Chamber of Commerce Dinner would be held at 6:00 p.m. on November 3 in the Municipal Building. He encouraged the Board to attend. He noted that school board members seeking re-election were now able to pick up their election packets. He ended by stating that Robin Payne placed the winning bid for the pillar light fixtures. Her bid was in the amount of \$132.

Mrs. Stephanie Cann

Mrs. Cann stated that Title I held a very successful spaghetti dinner to introduce their program. She has plans in the works for a reading night on Dr. Seuss’s birthday. Principal Cann ended by stating that a student assistance program sponsored by the Mason’s had been established at Wolf Ridge. Both students and teachers like the program as it helps students to succeed.

Mr. Matthew Smith

Mr. Smith noted that the health fair went well. The number of participants had increased from five last year to twelve this year. He thanked Carrie Runde and Rachel Bouillon for their assistance in setting up the fair. He then noted that he was preparing for next week’s homecoming festivities. Vice President Owen questioned the status of the scoreboard for the softball field. He was informed that the District needed to obtain poles to install the scoreboard, but Dr. Buehler and Doug Dey had discussed the project status that morning.

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Miss Jalie Merritt

Miss Merritt stated that homecoming festivities for the week of October 17-21 included a can building competition, a volleyball competition, a class wiffle ball competition, and the yearly powder puff game. She then congratulated Ben Kahl on being named the October Student of the Month.

Brooke Morell

Miss Morell was not in attendance.

COMMITTEES

Policy – None.

Curriculum – A meeting to discuss the grading scale will be held in the spring.

Building/Transportation – None.

Public Relations – The committee will investigate a possibility of family passes for sporting events.

Special Education – A meeting will be held to interview two law firms next week. Also, there may be a need to hire another individual aid.

Education Foundation – Board member Wieseman and President Monetti stated that the adopt a classroom project is going well.

Staffing – None.

At this time Mrs. Allen questioned if she would be able to bring a parent advocate to an executive session meeting. She was informed that the Board would need to seek the advice of its attorney before answering.


Personnel—May Require Executive Session per Section 2 of the Open Meetings Act as Amended by P. A. 88-621:

An executive session meeting was not held as there were no items on the agenda.

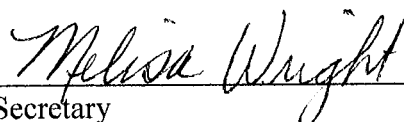
GENERAL DIALOGUE

ADJOURN

At 8:45 p.m. a motion was made by Owen, seconded by Fulton, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.



President



Secretary

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