

MINUTES
ABINDGON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 217
Board of Education
December 14, 2011

Call to order/Roll call

The Community Unit School District #217 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday December 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at 401 West Latimer St., Abingdon, IL. The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Sharon Lomax. The roll was read and the following Members responded: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser and Goehl. Absent: Schrodt

Consent Agenda

It was moved by Member Archer and seconded by Member Glaser to approve the consent agenda which include payment of monthly bills, minutes of the November 9, 2011 regular meeting, monthly money transfers and the cash balance sheet. Ayes: Archer, Emerick, DeCrane, Glaser, Goehl and Lomax. Nays: None

Correspondence

None

Good News Items

Hedding 3rd grader, Colton Cooper was acknowledged and given a certificate by Mrs. Andrews for his improvement in reading. Colton has improved his from reading 22 wpm to 56 wpm. Mrs. Andrews had taken him to Quinns for lunch as a reward. His next goal is to read 100 wpm and he told everyone he has not decided where he would like to go for lunch once he has achieved that milestone.

Mr. Hurder, AMHS principal and Stacy Nagel, Guidance Counselor recognized 4 senior young men who have been recognized as Illinois State Scholars. They are Nathan Johnson, Chaise Poland, Zachary Romero and Cain McKee. The Illinois State Scholar Program recognizes Illinois high school student for outstanding academic achievement. Students ranking in the top 10 percent of the state's graduating seniors are recognized as Illinois State Scholars. Rankings are based on a combination of ACT test scores and class rank at the end of the sixth semester in high school.

Chase Poland from the High School Student Council reported that the student council was still meeting each Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m. before school. They hosted Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 and collected 26 units of blood. On November 24, 2011 they hosted a wing eating contest in conjunction with Buffalo Wild Wings. It was a great success. He reported that other projects are currently in the works.

Shane Coleman and Taylor Dickerson represented the Middle School Student Council and reported that they collected \$517.00 for "Pennies for Patients". They also reported that 28 students attended the Leadership Workshop at Galesburg's Lombard Middle on November 18, 2011 and that their Christmas dance will be December 21, 2011 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in the MSHS gymnasium.

Public Participation

None

Amendment(s) To The Agenda

It was moved by Member Emerick and seconded by Member DeCrane to amend the agenda, adding item N. Early graduation request to New Business. Ayes: Archer, Emerick, DeCrane, Glaser, Goehl and Lomax. Nays: None

Reports

Ali Jones, Librarian:

Mrs. Jones reported on the Library Per Capita Grant. She informed the board that the purposed of the grant is to "enhance the school district's library program." With the grant money that was received, new books were purchased for both the Hedding and AMHS library. At the AMHS level, the libraries have been combined into one. This has worked well and all of the students are enjoying the change. The number of books being checked out by the students has dramatically increased this school year. The once AMS library is now a "computer lab". The automation of the MSHS library will be completed before the winter break and she reported she is currently working on completing the automation at Hedding. In an effort to work with the community, she will be assisting the John Mosser Public Library to initiate the process of manually entering their materials into the same library automation system that we use.

Committee of 10 Report:

Member Lomax reported that as of yet, no one is on the consolidation ballot to run in Districts 2 & 7. If anyone would like to be a "write in" candidate or knows someone who would, they can contact any Committee of 10 member or the Knox County Courthouse for procedural information. The Committee of 10 has set up an account with the Raritan State Bank. Donations can be made to any of their 3 branches; Raritan, Abingdon or Bushnell. This money will be used by the Committee of 10 to defray any expenses that have or will come during this process. The next meeting will take place on January 26, 2011 in Abingdon. She also informed the board that the committee will be looking into hosting several open houses within the "possible" consolidated district. Dates will be announced if and when this takes place.

Administrators:

Superintendent David Black reported to the Board that the August installments for both Warren County and Knox County Sales tax money have been received. In February the board will need to pass a resolution allowing the district to apply what has been collected at that point towards our outstanding bonds. He stated again that these monies will be applied toward the district's Bond debt and therefore lowering property taxes for property owners in District 217 in future years.

Principal Andrews informed the board the Parent School Improvement Committee is meeting on Monday nights. Currently they have 10 people involved and it has been very successful. The PTO has been able to set aside \$8,000.00 at this point towards playground equipment and the Abingdon School Foundation has agreed to entertain a proposal for playground equipment for both playgrounds. The goal is to be able to replace the equipment through the summer months. Susan Wersman is in charge of the Volunteer/Mentor program. This will be starting up in January and will be after school on Tuesday s and Thursday s. Prior to the beginning of the program there will be a training session. More information will be forthcoming. Key Club members have been reading to all kindergarten students. The children are enjoying this very much.

Joe Nichols Dean of Students/Athletic Director reported that the boys bowling team has been assigned to the Alton Sectional on January 21st. Girls have been assigned to the Galesburg Sectional on February 4th. Girls basketball has been assigned to the Lewistown Regional which will take place February 6-10 and the boys basketball will host regionals February 20-24. IHSA assigned Abingdon as a regional host for boys baseball and sectional host for girls softball.

Principal Hurder reiterated that they were still working on the Parent/Student handbook and developing a new master schedule. He informed the board that 15-20 students were taking advantage of the after school tutoring program. Teachers and students are volunteering their time after school, 2 days per week. Their Holiday lunch for the staff will be December 20th. Mr. Hurder invited the board to attend if they wish. He explained that the students were enjoying using the new TV production/media room and that it is quite an impressive setup.

Mark Branch reported that the stage curtains at the MSHS will be replaced on December 27th. He stated that the Life Safety inspection with the Regional Office of Education on December 9th went well. He is currently having the thermostats on the boiler at Hedding updated, replacing the furnace in the weight room and moving forward with the Energy Grant projects. He also informed the board that the TV production/media room is complete and invited them to come and see it for themselves.

Mark Rogers reported that all is going well. He has met with leadership teams regarding students who currently do not have a home computer. They are still looking into the possibility of providing students with computers out of the District's surplus of older computer equipment that is no longer able to be used on the District's network.

Old Business

It was moved by Member Archer and seconded by Member Goehl to approve increasing the district's Insurance umbrella to 10 million dollars through Hanover Insurance Co. Ayes: Archer, Emerick, DeCrane, Glaser, Goehl and Lomax. Nays: None.

It was moved by Member Glaser and seconded by Member DeCrane to adopt the seconding reading of the Policy updates. Ayes: Archer, Emerick, DeCrane, Glaser, Goehl and Lomax. Nays: None

New Business

- A. Possible joint presentation of StandUP! Change! with Bushnell and Avon school districts
It is describes as "A poignant, cutting edge musical that hits top current issues of our day with powerful messages and sobering statistics." The board agreed that this should be discussed with the other districts in an effort to share the cost. It will be discussed again at future meetings.
- B. Accept Bus Driver Resignation
It was moved by Member Glaser and seconded by Member Goehl accept the resignation of Paul Branch. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser and Goehl. Nays: None

C. Approve Recall of Bus Driver

It was moved by Member Goehl and seconded by member DeCrane to approve the recall of Sharlene Branch as bus driver. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser and Goehl. Nays: None

D. RevTrack

Superintendent Black informed the board that he would like to discontinue using the Epay system for credit card payments and change to RevTrack. The RevTrack system ties directly into the Skyward Student Management piece. There are more options with RevTrack including being able to have an on-line Booster store. At this time a new school website is being developed. Once it is up and running RevTrack will be implemented.

E. Weather Related Procedures for Sporting Activities

It was moved by Member Glaser and seconded by Member Emerick to change the procedure regarding the cancellation of sporting activities with relationship to weather related school cancellations. This will give the district more flexibility to make changes if necessary. It was noted that there are days that school is cancelled because of the weather, but by midday, it has cleared off. The procedure will state *"Extracurricular practices and games are allowable. Practices can NEVER be mandatory. Reasonable discretion will be exercised by the Athletic Director and Principal, no later than 1:00 p.m. to permit/deny scheduled practices and/or games. We will cancel all extracurricular activities on days in which school is dismissed early for inclement weather."* Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser and Goehl. Nays: None

F. Purchase of IASA Software for SB7 Feb. 1 RIF List Compliance

It was moved by Member Glaser and seconded by Member DeCrane to purchase this software at an annual cost of \$750 for the new education reform law that recently passed. It will be available December 21st. This software will eliminate any errors with regard to the RIFing process. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser and Goehl. Nays: None

G. Elimination of Middle School Football

Mr. Nichols reported that the numbers are dwindling at the Middle School level. They will have 11 returning players in the 7th and 8th grades combined next year and that currently we will need to purchase 30+ helmets to restock our supply. Games had to be cancelled this season due to lack of players.

The board suggested drafting a letter to other neighboring school districts seeking their input on consolidating Middle School Football. It was moved by Member Glaser and seconded by Member Goehl to table the cancellation until further contact has been made with neighboring districts to see if there is an interest in co-oping this sport. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser and Goehl. Nays: None

H. Purchase of Electrostatic Painter

It was moved by Member Emerick and seconded by Member Archer to purchase an electrostatic painter at a cost of 8,695.00. This will be used to paint lockers, fences, door and window frames, etc. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax and Goehl. Nays: Glaser.

I. Tax Levy

It was moved by Member DeCrane and seconded by Member Goehl to approve the Certificate of Tax Levy. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser and Goehl. Nays: None

J. Renewal of Property/Casualty Insurance

It was moved by Member DeCrane and seconded by Member Archer to approve the renewal of the property/casualty insurance effective January 1, 2012. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser and Goehl. Nays: None

K. School Calendar

It was moved by Member Emerick and seconded by Member Archer to approve the amendment of the 2011-2012 school calendar to include 2 extra SIP days during second semester. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser and Goehl. Nays: None

L. Boys Bowling Team Overnight Trip

Board approval is necessary anytime a trip involving 200 miles and/or overnight accommodations are necessary is planned. The boys bowling team is planning on going to a meet in Alton that starts at 8:00 a.m. on January 21st. They are asking to go down the day before to stay the night. They will be taking the school van and the bowling coach will be driving. They are currently in the process of taking on fundraisers and 50/50 drawings to offset the cost. All board members approved the trip.

M. (Amended Agenda Item) Early Graduation

It was moved by Member Archer and seconded by member DeCrane to approve the early graduation request of Rachel Hook. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser and Goehl. Nays: None

Closed Session

At 8:55 p.m. it was moved by Member Emerick and seconded by member DeCrane that the meeting move to Closed Session. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser and Goehl. Nays: None

Adjourn to Open Session

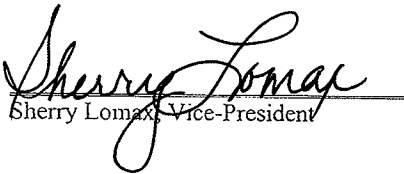
At 9:47 p.m. it was moved by Member DeCrane and seconded by Member Glaser that the meeting return to Open Session. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser and Goehl. Nays: None

It was moved by Member DeCrane and seconded by Member Glaser to hire Bill Rees as interim superintendent while in Superintendent Black's absence due to upcoming surgery and recuperation starting December 21, 2011 and continuing until David Black's return. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser and Goehl. Nays: None

It was moved by Member Emerick and seconded by Member Archer to accept the resignation with regrets of High School English teacher Tom Nelson effective December 31, 2011. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser and Goehl. Nays: None

Adjourn

At 9:50 p.m. it was moved by member Archer and seconded by Member DeCrane that the meeting be adjourned. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser and Goehl. Nays: None


Sherry Lomax, Vice-President


Jeff Emerick, Secretary