

MINUTES
ABINDGON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 217
Board of Education
November 9, 2011

Call to order/Roll call

The Community Unit School District #217 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday November 9, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at 401 West Latimer St., Abingdon, IL. The meeting was called to order by President Roger Schrodt. The roll was read and the following Members responded: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser, Goehl and Schrodt. Absent: None

Consent Agenda

It was moved by Member DeCrane and seconded by Member Lomax to approve the consent agenda which include payment of monthly bills, minutes of the October 11, 2011 regular meeting, monthly money transfers and the cash balance sheet. Ayes: Archer, Emerick, DeCrane, Glaser, Goehl, Lomax and Schrodt. Nays: None

Correspondence

It was reported that we received the 2011 Library Per Capita Grant that is applied for each year by Allison Jones, Librarian. The grant will be spent on items for the MSHS library along with Hedding Library.

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 will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 from 7:00 a.m. – 12 noon on the MSHS auditorium stage and November 24, 2011 they will be hosting a wing eating contest in conjunction with Buffalo Wild Wings. They are also working on the Melinda K. Allen perfect attendance award.

Shane Coleman from the Middle School Student Council reported that they are currently in the process of a few fundraisers with one being "Pennies for Patients". The class raising the most money will be rewarded with a pizza party. Through the Illinois Junior High Student Council Association they are looking to raise money for Autism. More information will be forthcoming. The entire Middle School Student Council consisting of 28 students will be attending the Leadership Workshop at Galesburg's Lombard Middle on November 18, 2011.

Mr. Black reported that he had received an email on November 9, 2011 from Steve Batson, assistant bowling coach informing the board that he would donate his time rather than be paid for his services. He asked that they money that would have been paid to him be used to purchase equipment for the team.

Good News Items

Hedding Kindergarten guest readers, Clayton Gardiner, Joshua Peterson and Abby Smith demonstrated their newly acquired reading skills by reading before the entire Board of Education. All 3 students did an excellent job.

Mrs. Stacy Nagel, AMHS guidance counselor, reported that Alexa Allison and Allyson Cordel were nominated to compete in SkillsUSA. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA helps each student excel in the vocational field of their choice. Competitions are held annually where students compete in many vocational specialties. Allyson and Alexa were chosen to compete in the skill area of Nursing.

Public Participation

None

Amendment(s) To The Agenda

Reports

Afton Booth – Unland Insurance

Mr. Booth spoke to the board regarding Abingdon CUSD #217 umbrella liability insurance coverage and his recommendations regarding the limits. The information was taken under consideration by the board.

Committee of 10 Report

Member Lomax reported that on October 27, 2011 there was a legal hearing led by John Meixner, Hancock/McDonough Regional Superintendent. The information then went to the State Superintendent and he has 21 days in which to make a decision. If approved, it will go to the election authorities by January of 2012 to be on the March 2012 ballot. The Committee of 10 members are also meeting with community members/groups to discuss the proposed consolidation. If anyone has any questions, they are free to contact any of the

Committee of 10 members. She encouraged anyone interested in being on the Board of Education for the new district to pick up a packet at the District 217 office

Administrators

Superintendent David Black reported to the Board regarding financial projections for the District through 2015. Although budgets are currently balanced and the District has recently received financial recognition by the State of Illinois, further cuts in General State Aide and/or transportation funding will put them in deficit spending in the near future. There are currently healthy fund balances to deal with any short term issues regarding the State not paying their obligations to the District like the situation that happened just a couple of years ago. Costs will have to continue to be contained as the District will be in deficit spending in the near future if the levels of funding by the State are not restored to the levels prior to Governor Quinn's budget cuts. Of course, these projections are merely educated guesses. Instability with the economy and the State of Illinois make it difficult to project future revenues and expenditures with a high level of certainty.

Superintendent Black also informed the board that we have received the July installment of Sales tax money from Warren County in the amount of \$935.77. The District has been told that the Knox County July installment is due to be released on November 18, 2011 in the amount of \$30,001.96. These monies will be applied toward paying down the district's Bond debt and therefore lowering property taxes for property owners in District 217 in future years.

In his legislative report he spoke regarding the fact that he attended a Superintendent's meeting at Western Illinois University on Friday, November 4, 2011. State Superintendent Chris Koch was the speaker. He informed those attending that the funding cuts for transportation will not be restored and that the 5% General State Aid cuts are here to stay. The Regional Superintendent's are still not being paid and have not received a check since July 1, 2011 nor has their staff. The house did approve to overturn this, but the senate still has to approve the motion.

A report on District 217's student achievement testing was given by Mr. Black. Comparisons were drawn with other unit districts in Illinois with a rate of poverty similar to that of District 217. In this comparison, Abingdon was in the lower half, but showed signs of improvement. Mr. Black also discussed all of the new requirements being placed on schools by the State of Illinois regarding curriculum, evaluations, teacher improvement, etc. Although there are many new mandates put on the District, the Union contract does not allow for more than one meeting per month outside of normal school hours.

Principal Hurder and Principal Andrews gave a presentation together regarding where we are now on Unarticulated Curriculum and Instruction and how they plan to raise student achievement. They informed the board that the time will be taken to align curriculum, unite all staff toward a common goal and familiarize staff with Common Core standards. They explained their action plan and recommendations for AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) results. Principal Hurder also gave his report on SLT Plan on a Page. He informed the board that so far they have 81 students with perfect attendance and have 30-40% parent attendance at parent teacher conferences.

Joe Nichols Dean of Students/Athletic Director reported that the Fall Sports Banquet will be November 30, 2011. November 18, 2011 is "Meet the Commandos" and November 14 – 16, 2011 is the High School Girls Basketball Cranberry Classic. The bowling schedules are updated and inter-school meets will be starting November 19, 2011. Schedules are posted on the district website.

Mark Branch Transportation/Building & Grounds reported that work is coming along well regarding the improvements to the MSHS building through the Energy Grant. The windows are finished and they are starting on the doors. He also informed the board that they will have someone here Friday, November 11, 2011 to perform a painting demonstration on some of the student lockers. They will be using an electrostatic painter as a method of evaluating whether or not to purchase a painter for the district. It can be used to paint anything metal such as lockers, doors, window, door frames, fencing, etc.

Mark Rogers Technology director informed the board that he had attended a Skyward Student Management Group workshop in October and found the information very useful. He also wanted to discuss with the board uses for old computer equipment. There is a small amount of surplus computer equipment that is no longer able to be used on the District's network.

Student Achievement Data:

Mrs. Stacy Nagel gave a description of standardized testing types and tools regarding the ISAT and PSAE tests. She explained that the ISAT tests are based on standards that the students meet and the PSAE are a combination of the ACT test and Work Keys.

Old Business

It was moved by Member Emerick and seconded by Member Glaser to approve the revised Facilities Agreement/Procedure Form. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser, Goehl and Schrodt. Nays: None

New Business

A. Possible Action Resulting from Insurance Presentation

It was moved by Member Lomax and seconded by Member Glaser to table the Insurance discussion until the December 2011 board meeting. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser, Goehl and Schrodt. Nays: None

B. First Reading of Policy Updates – Policies: 2:250, 3:60, 4:80, 5:90, 5:100, 5:200, 5:240, 6:60, 6:150, and 7:305 was presented.

It was moved by Member Archer and seconded by member DeCrane to approve the representatives for the RIF (Reduction in Force) Committee. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser, Goehl and Schrodt. Nays: None

- i. Primary – David Black, Jay Hurder
- ii. Alternate – Michelle Andrews

C. Food Service Negative Balance Letter – Tabled until after Executive Session

D. It was moved by Member Lomax and seconded by member Archer to consider a request for additional time for Professional Development beginning in 2nd Semester at the discretion of the administration. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser, Goehl and Schrodt. Nays: None

E. It was moved by Member Goehl and seconded by Member Lomax to consider request to amend calendar for 2 additional SIP days (April 27, May 11) Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser, Goehl and Schrodt. Nays: None

F. It was moved by Member Lomax and seconded by Member Goehl to approval the sale and/or donation of used computer equipment. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser, Goehl and Schrodt. Nays: None

G. It was moved by Member Lomax and seconded by Member DeCrane to approve Tax Levy at 14.2% for adoption in December. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser, Goehl and Schrodt. Nays: None

- H. It was moved by Member DeCrane and seconded by Member Emerick to set the date and time for a Truth in Taxation Hearing. It will be at 6:45, 15 minutes prior to the December 14, 2011 board meeting. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser, Goehl and Schrodt. Nays: None

Closed Session

At 10:10 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, Goehl and Schrodt. Nays: None Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser, Goehl and Schrodt. Nays: None

Adjourn to Open Session

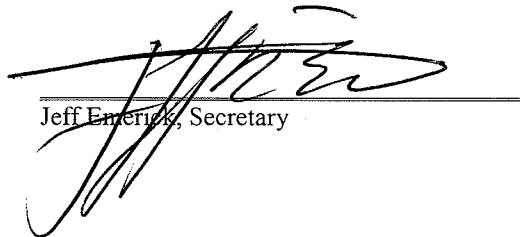
At 10:43 p.m. it was moved by Member Archer and seconded by member DeCrane that the meeting return to Open Session. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser, Goehl and Schrodt. Nays: None

It was moved by Member DeCrane and seconded by Member Emerick to approve a letter to be sent home to parents if their student's food service account goes below \$5.00. The board also gave its approval to substitute a peanut butter sandwich as the main course for those students. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser, Goehl and Schrodt. Nays: None Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser, Goehl and Schrodt. Nays: None

Adjourn

At 10:44 p.m. it was moved by member Glaser and seconded by member DeCrane that the meeting be adjourned. Ayes: Archer, DeCrane, Emerick, Lomax, Glaser, Goehl and Schrodt. Nays: None


Roger Schrodt, President


Jeff Emerick, Secretary