

1st Regular Board Meeting
June 2, 2015
Board Conference Room

Call to Order:

President Nick Aguinaga called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Room, whereupon roll was subsequently taken. Leroy Duncan, Rebecca Leggett, Mark St. Peters, Melissa Walter-Bock, and Nick Aguinaga answered the roll call to establish a quorum. Absent: Jennifer Murray and Michelle St. Peters. Also present were administrators John Pearson, Leigh Robinson, Kevin Gockel and Adam Miller; Ed. Tech Director Gerry Mattix-Wand; and District Groundskeeper, Dave Zimmerman.

Public Comments:

None.

Review of Agenda Items for the June 9, 2015 Regular Meeting:

Prevailing Rate of Wages for June 2015. The superintendent reviewed the Board's responsibility for adopting the Prevailing Wage rates for June 2015 for Madison County. These rates are ascertained and published by the Illinois Dept. of Labor, and represent minimum rates that shall be paid to tradesmen who work for contractors performing work for the school district.

[Mrs. St. Peters joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m.]

Driver Education Fee Hearing. Dr. Pearson reminded the Board of its need to conduct a hearing to keep the Driver Education behind-the-wheel fee at \$200. The statute has always authorized a \$50 maximum fee, but formerly required school districts that wished to charge more for driver education instruction to go through the cumbersome waiver process with the Illinois General Assembly. The superintendent reminded the Board that it had received two consecutive five-year waivers of the school code maximum since 2005 and had been charging \$200 since then.

The law has now been changed so that school boards can simply conduct a public hearing to exceed the \$50 statutory maximum (for any dollar amount from \$51 to \$250) instead of using the waiver process.

The hearing will be conducted at the June 9th Board meeting.

Amended Tentative FY 15 Budget. Dr. Pearson highlighted three additional budget amounts in the tentative amended FY 15 Budget in the Education Fund, which would be acted upon at the Special Meeting / Budget Hearing to be conducted on June 23, 2015. The three additional amounts would add another \$376,000 to the deficit. This added expenditure amounts were for utilities, special education out-of-district tuition, and a transfer from the Education Fund to the Debt Service Fund. This added expenditure would trigger a requirement for the Board to adopt a 3-year budget plan included with the state budget form to address the deficits.

To emphasize the bleak fiscal picture, the superintendent showed a graphic, which portrays the decline in General State Aid (GSA) since 2011. The District's GSA has been reduced over \$600,000, while - at the same - local tax revenues and Federal grants have been stagnant or in slight decline. This, of course, is an unsustainable position. The primary culprit in loss of state and Federal revenues has been the precipitous decline in enrollments - going from the low-mid 700's down to the low-mid 500's in the last five years. GSA and Federal dollars are pegged to those student counts.

The District has been drawing down its cash reserves to the point that action must be taken to reduce spending and increase revenues. He recommended that the Board take a hard look at expenditures this year, in preparation for FY 17 and beyond.

He also remarked that he was dismayed as to the downward trend of revenues - especially since the Board had worked hard over the last ten years to become a district in the top state financial ratings and, until the enrollment decline - in healthy financial shape.

The Board would more full review the tentative FY 15 Amended Budget at its June 9th Meeting, and would be asked to adopt that amended budget on June 23, 2015, following the budget hearing.

Special Recognition of Board Member:

President Aguinaga presented a plaque to outgoing Board member, Mrs. Michelle St. Peters, in recognition of her four years of outstanding service to the Board of Education. Mrs. St. Peters and her husband, Chris, are re-locating to Missouri. The Board wished her well in her move and thanked her for her dedication to the school district.

Added Discussion Topic:

Mr. St. Peters asked the administration about whether there was any school policy related to students drinking soda or eating in classrooms or the hall. An employee had informed him that there had been a practice of some students drinking beverages and eating snacks in some classrooms. Mrs. Robinson responded that there was not necessarily a blanket district-wide policy and that each teacher could forbid that practice

by adopting a classroom rule and enforcing such a rule. She also discounted the notion that this practice was widespread.

Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mr. St. Peters, to adjourn to executive session to: a) Discuss individual student matters, b) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District, c) Discuss collective bargaining matters, and c) Discuss pending or current litigation. Aye: Mr. Duncan, Ms. Leggett, Mr. St. Peters, Mrs. St. Peters, Mrs. Walter-Bock, and Mr. Aguinaga. Nay: None. Motion Passed at 6:35 p.m.

Come Out of Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mr. Duncan, to come out of executive session. Aye: Mr. Duncan, Ms. Leggett, Mr. St. Peters, Mrs. St. Peters, Mrs. Walter-Bock, and Mr. Aguinaga. Nay: None. Motion Passed at 6:55 p.m.

Action Items Following Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Ms. Leggett, to employ Mr. Kyle Herron as a Classroom Aide. Mr. Herron fills a position that was created by the resignation of two aides within the last couple of months. Although he has been recently employed as a substitute classroom aide this past spring, the superintendent noted that his work performance was such that he should be employed to this position. Mr. Herron is also newly employed as an Asst. Football Coach. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mr. Duncan, to accept the retirement letters from Joe Parmentier as Physical Education Teacher and Dave Sobol as Industrial Arts Teacher, both effective at the end of the 2016-17 school year. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Motion by Ms. Leggett; second by Mrs. St. Peters, to accept the resignation of Maj Luckert as Cafeteria Director, effective June 30, 2015. Mrs. Luckert informed the superintendent that she had taken a similar position with the Roxana School District. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Ms. Walter-Bock, to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried Voice Vote at 6:58 p.m.

