

MINUTES — REGULAR MEETING –DECEMBER 8, 2009

- 1) The regular meeting of the Hillsboro Community Unit School District No. 3 Board of Education was called to order by President Bill Clinard, at the Hillsboro Unit Office, at 6:58 p.m.
- 2) The following members of the Hillsboro Board answered present to roll call: Barbara Adams, Greg Bellaver, Trina Britton, Lynne Hutchison, Earl Meier, and Bill Clinard. Bill Jurgena was absent.
- 3) Agenda Item 2.0. Good News.
Superintendent Powell introduced Hillsboro High School Principal Janet Ward who announced those students receiving the Illinois State Scholar award. These high school students rank in the top 10% of seniors across the state. Supt. Powell presented the award to the following students: Andrew Chiles, Paige Cullison, Brian Hayes, Lyndsey Hennings, Charlene Kessler, Denee Menghini, Shelby Niemann, Katie Thacker, Lauryn Vunetich, Brooke Whitlow, Zack Wiltshire. Those students not present to receive the award were: Connor Jachino, Nolan Rappe, Kim McBrain, Hannah Sweet, and Alexandra White.
- 4) Agenda Item 3.0. Approval of Minutes.
Supt. Powell sought Board approval of the minutes for the November 10, 2009 regular meeting and executive session. Upon a motion by Secy. Hutchison, seconded by Vice-President Adams, approve the minutes of the 11/10/2009 regular meeting and executive session. On roll call the following voted yes: Barbara Adams, Greg Bellaver, Trina Britton, Lynne Hutchison, Earl Meier, and Bill Clinard. Motion carried 6-0.
- 5) Agenda Item 4.0. Committee Reports. 4.1. Negotiations Committee.
Chairperson Lynne Hutchison reported the Negotiations Committee met on November 23, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. Those present for the meeting were: Board Committee Members, Pres. Bill Clinard and Vice-Pres. Barbara Adams, Supt. Powell, Asst. Supt. Hacke, Food Service Director Tracy Collins, Director of Risk Management Gaither, and herself. The committee went into executive session for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations. Executive session lasted 63 minutes. It was decided to meet again on November 30th at 6:00 p.m. The Negotiations Committee adjourned at 7:05 p.m.
- 6) Chairperson Lynne Hutchison reported the Negotiations Committee met on November 30, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. Those present for the meeting were: Board Committee Members, Pres. Bill Clinard and Vice-Pres. Barbara Adams, Supt. Powell, Asst. Supt. Hacke, Food Service Director Tracy Collins, Director of Risk Management Gaither, and herself. The committee went into executive session for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations. Executive session lasted 101 minutes and the Negotiations Committee adjourned at 7:43 p.m.
- 7) Agenda Item 4.0. Committee Reports. 4.2. Building and Grounds Committee.
Greg Bellaver reported the Building and Grounds Committee met on December 4, 2009, at 4:30 p.m. Those present for the meeting were: Board Committee Members, Pres. Bill Clinard, and Bill Jurgena, Supt. Powell, Asst. Supt. Hacke, Greg Brown, Director of Risk Management Gaither, and himself. Interviews of the three Construction Management Firms, S. M. Wilson, Holland, and Korte Construction, were conducted. One of these firms would be chosen to manage the high school building project. The firms were ranked and the Building and Grounds Committee adjourned at 7:57 p.m.
- 8) Pres. Clinard stated, “The Building and Grounds would like approval of the Board to go into negotiations with one of the firms. The Board would have the final approval. We would negotiate what we want them to do and the cost. Then it would come back to the full Board.” Consensus was reached to allow the Building and Grounds Committee to proceed.

- 9) Agenda Item 5.0. Approval of Financial and Business Transactions. 5.1. Public Hearing on Administrative Cost Limitation.
The Regular Board Meeting was suspended at this time to allow for a Public Hearing on the Administrative Cost Limitation.
Supt. Powell reported the reason for the public hearing is due to the Assistant Superintendents position being reinstated. The reinstatement of this position causes an increase of over 5 % in administrative costs, which are costs of the central office only; these costs are then reported to the State Board of Education. Supt. Powell stated, "There is an application to the state legislator for a waiver. We do not have to do that because our administrative costs are defined as being in the lowest fourth of the state. If you are in the lowest quartile and you increase your costs more than 5% then you do not have to get a waiver. You do have to have a public hearing and invite public comment." Supt. Powell asked for public comments on the Administrative Cost Limitation. Board Member Earl Meier responded, "I think it is a position that has been needed in the District. It is a position I filled before and a district this size certainly has the work and responsibility commensuring with this position." There were no other questions. The Regular Meeting was resumed.
- 10) Agenda Item 5.0. Approval of Financial and Business Transactions. 5.2. Approval of Bills.
Supt. Powell reported there were checks totaling \$692,000. This is not including the bond interest payment, which was \$955,000. Supt. Powell asked for questions. Secy. Hutchison stated, "It looks like we are in a deficit in the Child Care Fund." Supt. Powell responded, "Sheri told me she expected that she would have to run in the red for a while. I will meet with her and report back." Earl Meier asked, "How much state funding is there with this program?" Pres. Clinard stated, "The problem last year was they weren't billing and collecting." Upon a motion by Secy. Hutchison, seconded by Greg Bellaver, approve the bills for the sixth month as presented. On roll call the following voted yes: Greg Bellaver, Trina Britton, Lynne Hutchison, Earl Meier, Barbara Adams, and Bill Clinard. Motion carried 6-0.
- 11) Agenda Item 5.0. Approval of Financial and Business Transactions. 5.3. Approval of FY2009 Audit.
Supt. Powell reported the audit was presented at the November meeting and asked if there were any questions or concerns. There were none. Supt. Powell asked for the Boards approval. Upon a motion by Secy. Hutchison, seconded by Earl Meier, approve the 2009 audit as presented. On roll call the following voted yes: Trina Britton, Lynne Hutchison, Earl Meier, Barbara Adams, Greg Bellaver, and Bill Clinard. Motion carried 6-0.
- 12) Agenda Item 5.0. Approval of Financial and Business Transactions. 5.4. Approval of 2009 Tax Levy.
Pres. Clinard asked for comments and questions. There were none. Upon a motion by Secy. Hutchison, seconded by Vice-Pres. Adams, approve the 2009 Tax Levy as presented. On roll call the following voted yes: Lynne Hutchison, Earl Meier, Barbara Adams, Greg Bellaver, Trina Britton, and Bill Clinard. Motion carried 6-0.
- 13) Agenda Item 6.0. Recognition of Audience.
Pres. Clinard asked, "If anyone in the audience wished to address the Board, saying this would be a good time for any questions or concerns anyone may have to present them to the Board."
- 14) Agenda Item 7.0. Old Business. 7.1. Consideration and Adoption of PRESS Policy and Procedure Recommendations from Issue 68.
Asst. Supt. Hacke asked for questions. There were none. He asked for their adoption of the Policy and Procedure Recommendations from Issue 68. Upon a motion by Secy. Hutchison, seconded by Greg Bellaver, approve the recommended policy and procedure changes as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried.

15) Agenda Item 8.0. New Business. 8.1. Consideration of Montgomery County Enterprise Zone Extension.

Supt. Powell introduced Chris Daniels, Montgomery County Coordinator and County Board Chairman, Mike Plunkett. Supt. Powell explained, "As a taxing body, the School Board is being asked to approve an Enterprise Zone extension of ten years. It would have expired in February of 2010; however the county has applied for and received an extension of ten years for the Enterprise Zone. As a taxing body you are asked to join in abating the taxes for new construction and improvements on properties in the Enterprise Zone. What affects us is the property tax issue. Whatever we would have gained in revenue is given to us a year later through the general state aide formula. You just have to wait a year. We all benefit from economic development and this is an enticement for companies to improve or move into the Enterprise Zone." At this time, Supt. Powell turned the floor over to Ms. Daniels and Mr. Plunkett. Ms. Daniels stated, "Montgomery County filed an application with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and it was approved in March of 1990 for a twenty year Enterprise Zone. The Enterprise Zone Committee, which is made up of the municipalities of Coffeen, Schram City, Hillsboro, Taylor Springs, and Litchfield, voted to apply for an extension of the Enterprise Zone by ten years. I was then given a year to go to the taxing bodies to ask for a resolution to be passed by their board to extend the termination date of the existing Enterprise Zone." Secy. Hutchison asked, "What are the advantages for us to sign on as a school district." Mr. Plunkett responded, "One of the biggest advantages is there is never a chance of you losing revenue on an Enterprise Zone. When you enter an Enterprise Zone, you are saying you are willing to forgo revenue for a couple of years to try and get those increases here." Greg Bellaver asked, "How were ten years chosen?" Mr. Plunkett replied, "It is a statute." This agenda item would be voted on at the January meeting.

16) Agenda Item 8.0. New Business. 8.2. Consideration of Establishing Elementary ED Program.

Supt. Powell introduced Brandy Buske, Mid-State Program Coordinator, who was present to answer questions and explain the ED Program. Supt. Powell explained, "We always have a few students whose disability is not one of having learning challenges but is more an emotional frailty, a behavior disorder, or a mental illness. Sometimes we find what we have on our five campuses is not sufficient. The law only addresses what does student "A" need to provide the educational opportunity that the law affords them. What we have to consider is, what impact those decisions have on the rest of our educational program. That is on the safety of our kids, on the learning environment, on the resources and time of administrators, counselors and teachers. Then we work through what is the best way to satisfy that individual education plan. Sometimes we send them to another facility, which is another option. There are considerable funds involved with this option. Now we have five very young students, which have very significant mental illness issues. The number of the students and their age makes sending them to an outside facility problematic. Another direction we could take is to create a program just for those students." At this time Supt. Powell asked Mrs. Buske to describe what a program like this would be like. Mrs. Buske explained, "We have been servicing these students in the least restrictive environment. A behavioral program would contain a special education teacher, paraprofessional, related services, a 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. program, and special transportation. It would allow those students to get help for those specific behaviors that they have." Supt. Powell stated, "We would have to hire a teacher and an aide. This would be a Mid-State cost, with the entire cost billed back to us." Mrs. Buske explained that if the number of students would fall below five or six it would be a possibility to open the program to other districts. At this time, the program would be full with the five students from District #3. Trina Britton asked, "These students would be in this program all day and not with the other students?" Mrs. Buske replied, "At the start of it, yes. However, when the student's progress and can handle the social skills then you would give them the opportunity. Your ultimate goal would be to get them back to their home school." Vice-Pres. Adams asked, "Do any of the other schools have such programs with openings?" Mrs. Buske responded, "Stonington has a program. However, because their numbers have risen they are keeping it just for their district." Earl Meier asked, "How much does it cost to send a student to the Alton program?" Supt. Powell replied, "After reimbursement, between \$15,000 and \$18,000." Mr. Meier replied, "So you

are looking at about \$75,000 to send all five students.” Supt. Powell added, “The location of the program is problematic and will not be an easy thing to accomplish. Where we have the most room is at Witt but there are some problems with that. What makes Beckemeyer a good choice is the central location because we are talking about students from the Coffeen and Witt area. Beckemeyer also has the availability of more services.” Vice-Pres. Adams commented, “It is a lot of resources to serve five students. Financially we have to watch where we are headed.” Greg Bellaver commented, “I agree, but you are serving more than five students by putting them in a different environment.” Trina Britton added, “This will not only benefit these children but also the ones trying to learn.” Secy. Hutchison asked, “I would like to hear from the Beckemeyer administrators as to how much administration time and instruction time is currently involved.” Beckemeyer Principal Pam DeLong responded, “Currently a lot. There was such a severe melt down by one of the second grade students last week that the social worker, Rick Cena, went in and talked to them. The students admitted that they were afraid.” The Board of Education’s consensus was to let Supt. Powell proceed with gathering more information in regard to establishing an Elementary ED Program.

- 17) Agenda Item 8.0. New Business. 8.3. First Reading of PRESS Policy and Procedure Recommendations from Issue 69.
Asst. Superintendent Hacke reported on the Policy and Procedure changes from Press Issue #69. One of the changes is the raising of the mandatory bid amount which is raised from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Other changes include the claiming of attendance. There was no action necessary at this time.
- 18) Agenda Item 9.0. Communications.
Secretary Hutchison read a thank you note from the family of Cecil Hart for the memorial given to the Hillsboro Education Foundation.
- 19) There was no executive session.
- 20) Agenda Item 10.0. Adjournment.
Upon a motion by Secy. Hutchison, seconded by Trina Britton, move to adjourn. Voice vote.
Motion carried.
- 21) Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Hillsboro, Illinois
December 8, 2009

Thomas William Clinard, President
Board of Education

Lynne Hutchison, Secretary
Board of Education

Date minutes approved

