

MINUTES — REGULAR MEETING –NOVEMBER 10, 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, Bill Jurgena, Earl Meier, and Bill Clinard.
- 3) Agenda Item 2.0. Good News.  
Superintendent Powell reported the sewer issue at the Building Trades house has been resolved with donated funds from Nina White and Rex Fuller. He also reported Hazardous Areas regarding bus routes, which was approved by the Board at the October meeting, has been established with no additional cost.
- 4) Supt. Powell introduced Hillsboro Junior High Principal Mark Fenske, who reported on a new community activist group called Dragon Fire. Any child can sign up for any of the individual projects such as a Fall Fest at Tremont Ridge and Hillsboro Rehabilitation and Health, and purchased school supplies for a children's charity in Africa. With the help of the Free Methodist Church, R.P. Lumber, Holcomb Construction, Jeffers Construction, and twelve Junior High students a new ramp with a roof and rails was built for one of the wheelchair children at Junior High.
- 5) Director of Risk Management Mike Gaither reported just over fifty-four percent of the staff and students of District #3 have been vaccinated for the swine flu. Dir. Gaither commended Montgomery County Health Department, the building principal and staff and the families for working together.
- 6) Agenda Item 3.0. Approval of Minutes.  
Supt. Powell sought Board approval of the minutes for the October 13, 2009 regular meeting and executive session. Upon a motion by Secy. Hutchison, seconded by Bill Jurgena, approve the minutes of the 10/13/2009 regular meeting and executive session. On roll call the following voted yes: Barbara Adams, Greg Bellaver, Trina Britton, Lynne Hutchison, Bill Jurgena, Earl Meier, and Bill Clinard. Motion carried 7-0.
- 7) Agenda Item 4.0. Approval of Financial and Business Transactions. 4.1. Bills and Salaries.  
Supt. Powell reported on the financial transactions for the fifth month. For the month of October, there were 342 checks written with a total amount of just over \$958,0000.00. The final payment on the HVAC project at Beckemeyer has been made. This completes the project. Upon a motion by Secy. Hutchison, seconded by Bill Jurgena, approve the paying of all bills as presented for the 5<sup>th</sup> month. On roll call the following voted yes: Greg Bellaver, Trina Britton, Lynne Hutchison, Bill Jurgena, Earl Meier, Barbara Adams, and Bill Clinard. Motion carried 7-0.
- 8) Agenda Item 4.0. Approval of Financial and Business Transactions. 4.2. FY09 Audit Presentation.  
Supt. Powell introduced CPA Henry Siekmann of Allison, Knapp, & Siekmann, who made comments on the FY09 audit. Mr. Siekmann commented, "In general, it was a good audit. The budget is very close to your actual, which is a good indication that your staff has a good idea of what numbers are coming in." Copies of the audit were given to Board members and action would be taken at a subsequent meeting.
- 9) Agenda Item 4.0. Approval of Financial and Business Transactions. 4.2. Presentation and Adoption of Preliminary 2009 Tax Levy.

Supt. Powell used a power-point presentation to illustrate the EAV and the preliminary levy. Last year's bond and interest levy was for \$1,122,000.00 and this year the District will be levying for \$1,148,000.00. The Board will be approving how much will be levied in each of the individual funds. Supt. Powell explained, "The levy amount is actually the dollar amount that you ask for. That amount divided by the EAV produces the tax rate. One of the tasks in preparing a levy is to estimate the EAV we are going to have. You have to decide now what the levy is going to be but we will not know the actual EAV for some time. Last year the District used an estimated EAV of \$144,000,736.00 and it was off. It was off close to \$7,000,000.00. You got the amount you asked for but the tax rate was lowered to 4.97. When you prepared the levy this rate was actually planned to be 5.21. Had you known the EAV was this amount you could have gotten levy amounts using 5.15. It would have been 5.15 if you would have known the EAV. The result of not having the accurate EAV did not maximize the tax revenues. In fact, we lost about \$256,300.00 in tax revenue that could have been gained. That is not to say, we lost \$256,300.00 of net revenue. The actual amount of revenue lost was about \$105,000.00. This is because when the revenue from property tax increases the general state aide drops." Supt. Powell stated, "Some of the projections I have seen from the last couple of years did not account for this. They were off significantly. I'm referring to the AMEREN power plant and the coal mine projections. One projection you received said 6.9 million dollars over an eight or nine year schedule. My calculations are closer to 2.6 million dollars. It is a similar situation with the coal mine projection." Supt. Powell continued explaining the levy, "In case we are off again, to avoid missing that available revenue we could use an EAV figure that is a little bit higher than we think it is. You ask for more than you think you will get to make sure you get all you are entitled to because you will not get anymore than what you ask for. We have been told by the supervisor of assessment that for our calculations we should plan on the EAV increasing by between 4% and 7%. My recommendation is to not go below 4% and I think it makes good sense to go higher than that. If we use 5%, in the actually levy we would submit, we would ask for these dollar amounts. This estimated EAV, 161.8 million, and a maximum tax rate of \$2.40 would produce these levy amounts. The tax rate would go from \$4.97 to \$5.03. That is asking for what we are going to need and trying to maximize tax rates. This number is the important one. The increase in your aggregate levy is what triggers the need for a "Truth and Taxation" hearing. If this amount is more than 5%, and in this scenario it is well over that. Then you need the "Truth and Taxation" hearing. This is to me the most important part of this. If this is the scenario we went with, we have to put the "Truth and Taxation" hearing notice in the paper. You have to put in 10.65%, so the uneducated reader would think taxes would be raised by 10.65%. If you notice it barely raises the tax rate. The reason for the increase in the levy amount is the increase in the EAV, which half comes from AMEREN." Having talked to the other superintendents in the county, Supt. Powell reported they are taking the 10% recommendation to their Boards. If the increase in the EAV only goes to 8%, it will cause the rate to go up slightly but you will get all you could. A preliminary levy would need to be adopted tonight and then in twenty days adopt the final levy. Supt. Powell stated, "I recommend you adopt the 10% scernerio as the preliminary levy." Upon a motion by Secy. Hutchison, seconded by Bill Jurgen, approve the adoption of the preliminary 2009 tax levy as presented. On roll call the following voted yes: Trina Britton, Lynne Hutchison, Bill Jurgena, Earl Meier, Barbara Adams, Greg Bellaver, and Bill Clinard. Motion carried 7-0.

10) Agenda Item 5.0. 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. High School student Derek McIntyre addressed the Board. He requested the Board consider changing the High School Child Development Class from an elective to a requirement. Derek stated, "I believe this would have an impact on teen pregnancy." Supt. Powell suggested, he talk to Principal Ward regarding this matter.

- 11) Agenda Item 7.0. New Business. 7.1. Presentation of Recommendation from Hillsboro High School Task Force.

Mark Noyes presented the recommendation of the Hillsboro High School Task Force to the Board. This recommendation is designed to help District #3 make a decision about the building project. The Task Forces previous recommendation to the Board was for the consideration of a phased project with the first phase being the portion looked at for a tax referendum to fund. Mr. Noyes explained the Task Forces' change in the recommendation. "We have a perfect situation right now. We are dealing with historically low interest rates, with an economy that is suffering, which means we have contractors willing to work, and construction costs, where we will never be able to build as cheaply as now. We think this is a prime opportunity for the District to look at the entire project and try to have it passed in referendum form to fund the entire thing. It will still be a phase project but we think the time is now. It is the recommendation of the Task Force to consider the entire project now as we approach the referendum." This project would be at a projected cost of 35 to 38 million. Supt. Powell explained the procedure for putting this on the February 2, 2009, ballot. A resolution would have to be adopted and filed by December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Supt. Powell stated, "My recommendation would be to have a Special School Board meeting on November 24<sup>th</sup>. We have put out the requests for proposals from five construction management firms. The deadline is November 23<sup>rd</sup>. On the 24<sup>th</sup> we will have more information. I'm hopeful that those construction management proposals are going to give a cost opinion for the project. The decision the Board would have to make is what is the dollar amount to move forward with. The Board could pick a number based on all these things and that goes on the referendum. This will be above our statutory bond debt limit. Then we will have to appeal to the General Assembly to allow us to do that." Mr. Noyes continued, "I'm not crazy about taxes going up but I'm crazier about that than my grandchildren sitting in our High School right now in the state it is in. Also, as the school goes so will the community."

- 12) Agenda Item 7.0. New Business. 7.2. Consideration of Special Board Meeting for Tuesday, November 24, 2009.

The date of a Special Board Meeting to decide the referendum was chosen. Upon a motion by Secy. Hutchison, seconded by Bill Jurgena, approve the setting of a Special Board Meeting for Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. to adopt a resolution. On roll call the following voted yes: Lynne Hutchison, Bill Jurgena, Earl Meier, Barbara Adams, Greg Bellaver, Trina Britton, and Bill Clinard. Motion carried 7-0.

- 13) Agenda Item 7.0. New Business. 7.3. First Reading of PRESS Policy and Procedure Recommendations from Issue 68.

Assistant Superintendent Hacke reported there have many Policy and Procedure changes due to the most recent legislative session. The changes before the Board are from Press Issue #68. There will be no action necessary tonight.

- 14) Agenda Item 7.0. New Business. 7.4. Presentation of School Report Card.

Supt. Powell asked the individual building principals report on their buildings School Report cards. Hillsboro Junior High School Principal Mark Fenske reported the over all achievement has steadily increased since 2006. From a year ago, the over-all achievement has increased 1%. This is a good increase considering the reading and math are in the high ninety meets and accedes. Hillsboro Junior High school did not make AYP for reading because of their students with disabilities sub-group. The lowest achievement was in the now 7<sup>th</sup> grade group. This is the group with the highest amount of disabilities. This will be where the focus will be for this year. Prin. Fenske stated, "We are going to rectify this by extending our Reading Academy, our skills program, a morning academy, an after school academy, and an after school literacy program." Even with the increase of low-income students by 5% the scores remain high. This will be something to be concerned about even though at this time there has been no impact.

- 15) Coffeen Principal Francine Lockett reported on her buildings report card. Coffeen School did meet AYP. The immediate concern is the low-income rate which has increased by 10% in the last four years. The fifth grade is with the district average in reading and math, the third and fourth grade tend to be just below the district rate. Prin. Lockett believes this is because of the economically disadvantaged students.
- 16) Witt Principal Michelle Reeves reported on the Witt Elementary School's Report Card. The Witt Report Card reflects a low-income rate of 52.2% and a mobility rate of 61%. This is considerable higher than the state average. Witt Elementary School did make AYP. The student' performance is improving with good reading skills and even better math skills. The focus for this year will be on the reading goals.
- 17) Beckemeyer Assistant Principal Zach Frailey reported on Beckemeyer Elementary School's Report Card. The low income rate at Beckemeyer School has increased from 33% low income rate in 2001 to 46.5% in 2008. The school did make AYP even though reading skills were down a few percent. Asst. Prin. Frailey contributed this to a new reading series with a projection of improvement as students and teachers become accustomed to the series and the implementation of RtI.
- 18) Hillsboro High School Principal Janet Ward report on the High School's Report Card. The test that is used at the High School is the PSAE, which is entirely different from the ISAT used in the lower grades. The low income rate at High School is 31.4%, probably due to the students not reporting for the lunch program. The ACT assessment score is just under the state average in math and science however reading score was above the state average. The graduation rate at High School is 82.7% which is below the state average. With the PSAE there are many children within five points of the meeting stage. The High School has started working with math consultants to boost math scores and looking at how students learn to boost the scores. This is along with the curriculum maps and the sequence of classes. There is also an intensive reading program planned for next year along with RtI to help boost the reading scores.
- 19) Supt. Powell added, "There are all sorts of games played across the state with reporting the graduation rate. It is basically an honor system. I don't believe our graduation rate is below the state average."
- 20) Agenda Item 7.0. New Business. 7.5. Consideration of Sports Booster Request for Improvements to Concession Stand.  
Supt. Powell reported on a request from Dawn Young of the Hillsboro Sports Association to make improvements to the football concession stand at Hillsboro High School. These improvements would include security windows, a rolling garage door, and exhaust fan. They are requesting District #3 share in the expense of the doors. This would be a total cost of \$2,000.00 with the District pay half the cost. Barbara Adams commented, "I think the Sports Booster have enough money to cover it." Asst. Supt. added, "They would say, 'They raise money to put that money directly to the kids. They see this as part of our facility.'" Earl Meier commented, "Personally, it is District #3 property and if there are renovations we should share in them." . Upon a motion by Earl Meier, seconded by Bill Jurgena, approve the sharing of the cost of the improvements to the High School concession stand. On roll call the following voted yes: Bill Jurgena, Earl Meier, Greg Bellaver, and Lynne Hutchison. On roll call the following voted no: Barbara Adams, Trina Britton, and Bill Clinard. Motion carried 4-3.
- 21) Agenda Item 7.0. New Business. 7.6. Appointment of Hillsboro Education Foundation Board Member.

Upon a motion by Bill Jurgena, seconded by Secy. Hutchison, approve the appointment of Gene White to the Educational Foundation Board to replace Scott Niehaus. Voice vote. Motion carried.

- 22) Agenda Item 8.0. Communications.  
There were none at this time.
- 23) Agenda Item 9.0. Executive Session.  
Upon a motion by Secy. Hutchison, seconded by Bill Jurgena, move to go into executive session at 8:51 p.m. to discuss employment and retirement. On roll call the following voted yes: Earl Meier, Barbara Adams, Greg Bellaver, Trina Britton, Lynne Hutchison, Bill Jurgena, and Bill Clinard. Motion carried 7-0.
- 24) Agenda Item 9.0. Executive Session.  
Upon a motion by Secy. Hutchison, seconded by Bill Jurgena, move to go out of executive session at 9:01 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.
- 25) Agenda Item 10.0. Personnel. 10.1. Action on Employment.  
Upon a motion by Secy. Hutchison, seconded by Bill Jurgena, approve the employment of Lisa Green as Freshman Girl's Basketball Coach at Hillsboro High School. On roll call the following voted yes: Barbara Adams, Greg Bellaver, Trina Britton, Lynne Hutchison, Bill Jurgena, Earl Meier, and Bill Clinard. Motion carried 7-0.
- 26) Agenda Item 10.0. Personnel. 10.2. Action on Retirement.  
Upon a motion by Secy. Hutchison, seconded by Bill Jurgena, to accept Hillsboro High School Secretary Charlene Russell's letter of intent to retire at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. Voice vote. Motion carried.
- 27) Agenda Item 11.0. Adjournment.  
Upon a motion by Secy. Hutchison, seconded by Bill Jurgena, move to adjourn. Voice vote. Motion carried.
- 28) Meeting adjourned at 9:07p.m.

Hillsboro, Illinois  
November 10, 2009

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Thomas William Clinard, President  
Board of Education

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Lynne Hutchison, Secretary  
Board of Education

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Date minutes approved

