

WOOD RIVER-HARTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT #15
Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2012

Call to Order:

The Regular Meeting of the Wood River-Hartford School District #15 Board of Education was called to order by President Rodney Green at 6:30 p.m. on February 21, 2012 with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in the Board Room at the Lewis and Clark Complex. Amy Harding, Darin Redden, Susan Sabolo, and Rodney Green answered the roll call to establish a quorum. Absent: Karen Ferguson, Lena Hartsock, and Sheila Sorgea. Also present were Interim Superintendent James Whiteside, Principal Michelle Lee, Principal Heather Johnson, Principal Mark Begando, Business Manager Carol Elliott, and Recording Secretary Ann Chandler.

Agenda:

Motion by Harding, second by Sabolo, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

Guests and Visitors:

Those who signed in as present were District employees Carol Fowler-Dixon, Sheryl Ross, Lisa Kaman-Ammon, Chris Edwards, Patty Redman, Cyndi Duncan, Jill Christeson, Erin Plumb, and Michelle Meyers. FGM representatives Mike Staub and Art Hayhurst were also present.

Community/Staff Comments:

President Green greeted the visitors and asked if anyone wished to make a comment. There were no comments.

Business Manager's Report:

Mrs. Elliott explained this was a light month. There is a payment to Phone Masters for 85% of their total bill for the new phone system. There is nothing unexpected on the Financial Statement. We finally received two Pre-K grant payments. We should get the third payment in May or June. We will have received 43% of our grant by the end of the school year. We did receive one payment for the Birth-3 grant. We will be receiving the final tax payment probably by the end of February. There will be a budget meeting with the Principals sometime in March. Our enrollment is down about 35-40 kids. Ann has worked on the State Aid figures.

There were no questions.

Principals' Reports:

Ms. Lee said Representative Beiser visited Lewis and Clark Elementary on February 3rd in the morning and was Principal for a day as well as visiting Ginger Cramsey's class. We also had a Patriot Star Breakfast that same morning. He promised to come back and visit the Junior High and Hartford. Ms. Lee and five teachers attended the NCLB Conference in Chicago where they learned a great deal of current information. LCE is holding their first annual Elementary Dance. Everyone is getting ready for the upcoming ISATs the week of March 6th through 9th. Kindergarten Registration will be held on March 21st in the Board Room from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. President Green asked if there were any big surprises at the NCLB Conference. Teachers in attendance answered they received information on strategies and math common core.

Mrs. Johnson said Hartford Elementary will have a snowball fight indoors. It's a secret as far as what will take the place of actual snowballs. PBIS team members have everything planned. Hartford Elementary also participated in the nationwide Shakeout. President Green asked if that required getting under their desks. Mrs. Johnson said they dropped, covered and held on. President Green added that he participated at work and had to get under his desk. A larger man got under one of the tables. Mrs. Johnson said their Book Fair was a huge, huge, huge success thanks to great support by the staff and parents alike. A significant amount of money was earned. Pre-K Family Night is planned for the 16th. The most recent problem-solving meetings went very well. We are implementing new interventions with students which are being taken down to the Pre-K level and it's going very well.

Mr. Begando said Blake Stone, Dante Willeford and Emily Wilder were the February Students of the Month while Sammi Johnson, Allison Shook and Nick Hayes were the February Kids of Character. He said he couldn't say too much other than most of these kids are very good. There's a very good feeling in the building right now. Mr. Begando thinks the students are getting it. The sixth graders are getting it even though it's taken some time. ISAT warm up is on Friday. Our wrestlers finished their season. Sixth grade boys basketball won first place in a tournament. Seventh grade girls volleyball tied for first place while the eighth grade girls won first place by themselves. Student Council raised money for the Autism Society.

President Green thanked the Principals.

Superintendent's Report – Items for Discussion:

FOIA Requests: There were no FOIA requests this month.

H/L/S Update: Significant progress was made last summer toward completion of many of the projects on the current survey. FGM representatives Art Hayhurst and Mike Staub were present to discuss the projects already completed and what would be done during the summer as well as suggesting the possibility of additional H/L/S projects for the coming summer. They hope to return next month with additional information.

Cafeteria Report: Mrs. Patty Redman, the Food Service Manager, presented a report on the current status of cafeteria operations for the District as had been request last month by the Board. Mrs. Redman named the cafeteria employees at Hartford and at

the Lewis and Clark campus. She explained the current guidelines of 2 ounces of meat, ½ cup of fruit, ½ cup of vegetables, milk and bread. Next year vegetables go to ¾ cup, and we will start counting calories. They try to use fresh fruit in place of canned fruit whenever possible. Three to four times a year we receive apples, pears, and oranges. Mrs. Redman tries to give the kids what they like, but has to stay within the guidelines. If a child's account reaches a negative of \$5, they are not allowed to charge and receive a peanut butter or cheese sandwich and milk or water instead of a full meal. They are not charged for this. Superintendent Whiteside said our handbook says a sack lunch. Mrs. Redman said every Tuesday accounts are checked, and notices of negative accounts are sent home to elementary students while junior high students are told. Parents are usually quick to send in money. Mrs. Harding suggested that Mrs. Redman write up something to better communicate with the parents. President Green asked that the information be added on line. It was suggested that when there is a \$5 negative, Mrs. Redman call the parents and suggest they fill out a free and reduced lunch form. President Green asked if she thought the new guidelines for next year addressing less sodium and fewer calories would help the students make better choices. Mrs. Redman said she thought they would and was happy about that. Mrs. Sabolo asked if the parents couldn't go on Skyward and check their balances. Mr. Edwards said training could be offered on family access to the parents so they could keep track of the accounts. He also said when the accounts reach a \$1 or \$2 negative balance, an e-mail could be sent home. Mrs. Harding said she thought that was a great idea. Mr. Whiteside said that unless the Board is willing to provide a sack lunch, the handbook needs to be corrected. Mrs. Redman said this doesn't happen very often. President Green asked if the Board was okay with that. Mrs. Harding said she was not, but that was okay. Mrs. Redman said she and other food service directors plan to get together to work on implementing the new guidelines. President Green would like to have a follow-up report from Mrs. Redman after she has her meeting and comes up with the 550-650 calorie lunches for K-5th grade and the 600-700 calorie lunches for 6th-8th grade lunches.

Curriculum Report: Based on a Board request for this meeting, Ms. Lee will give a report on the current and future curriculum initiatives for our District, including recommendations for future adoptions. Ms. Lee said she has met with the Curriculum Director from East Alton. East Alton is looking at Language Arts and Math. We have received three levels of samples from Singapore Math and East Alton is getting the other levels. Currently Math is ready; Science is probably 1 1/2 years out along with Social Studies.

Board Meeting Technology: Superintendent Whiteside said he had placed some information at each Board member's place. We had heard a report from a neighboring district and want to further review information on purchases necessary to move toward "paperless" Board Meetings. He recommends the issue be discussed and decided upon at this meeting. The Superintendent pointed out the first page was put together by Mrs. Chandler and the next by Mr. Edwards. The last page contains middle-of-the-road hardware. The costs will always vary from meeting to meeting depending on the length of the agenda and type of business. The information has been reviewed and continues to be revised. BoardDocs and necessary hardware would probably cost \$8,400 the first year. This would not necessarily result in saving money, but there may be some other benefits utilizing the hardware. The high school

is going this way, and John Pearson said information is available 24/7. It is easier to go through and find out where topics were addressed. Minutes could be posted right away. President Green's company has made a \$1,000 commitment for the next few years. President Green said Mrs. Chandler currently has to deliver the packets, and he would hate to see her fall when delivering them. Mr. Edwards said one of the reasons you go with a company like BoardDocs is because of the security threats. If our internet goes down here at our location, other internet connections will work. Each Board member can take their own notes. We can't promise it will save money, but we are trying to be proactive.

Facility Use Approval – The JFL Oilers have requested to use the Lewis and Clark Jr. High gymnasium for a cheerleading warm-up for the JFL on Saturday, March 24th, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. They will be charging \$5.00 for admission and plan to have up to 100 people attending. They have completed the necessary paperwork and have provided a certificate of liability insurance. Approval of this request is recommended.

Regular Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Harding, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2012 as presented. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried by voice vote.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Redden, second by Sabolo, to approve the Bill List, the Treasurer's Report, and the Activity Fund Report. Aye: Redden, Sabolo, Green, Harding. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Repayment of Working Cash Loan to Bond Fund:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Harding, to approve repayment of a Working Cash loan in the amount of \$55,000 to the Bond Fund. Aye: Sabolo, Harding, Redden, Green. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Purchase of Software and Hardware for Paperless Board Meetings:

Motion by Redden, second by Green, to approve the purchase of necessary software and hardware to initiate paperless Board Meetings. Aye: Green. Nay: Redden, Harding, Sabolo. Abstain: None. Motion failed.

Facility Use Request:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Harding, to approve the Facility use request by the JFL Oilers for the LCJH gymnasium on Saturday, March 24, 2012 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried by voice vote.

Enter into Closed Session:

Motion by Redden, second by Sabolo, to enter into Closed Session to discuss (A) the

appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1); (B) Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); (C) minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21); and (D) litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) at 7:49 p.m. Aye: Redden, Sabolo, Green, Harding. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Return from Closed Session:

Motion by Redden, second by Sabolo, to return from Closed Session at: 8:55 p.m. on February 21, 2012. Aye: Redden, Sabolo, Harding, Green. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Action Resulting from Closed Session:

Approval of Executive Session Minutes, destruction of verbatim tape recordings and personnel items were subsequently voted upon.

Executive Session Minutes of Regular Meeting:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Green, to approve Executive Session Minutes of January 24, 2012 Meeting. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried by voice vote.

Destruction of Verbatim Tape Recordings:

Motion by Redden, second by Sabolo, to approve the destruction of verbatim tape recordings of Executive Session(s) of February 2010. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried by voice vote.

Personnel – Resignation:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Redden, to accept the resignation of Bus Driver Christine Croxton effective February 1, 2012. Aye: Sabolo, Redden, Green, Harding. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Personnel – Employment:

Motion by Redden, second by Sabolo, to approve the employment of Ms. Danielle Elliott in the position of Hartford Pre-K Teacher Assistant for 3.5 hours per day effective February 22, 2012. Aye: Redden, Sabolo, Harding, Green. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Personnel – Employment:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Redden, to approve the employment of Ms. Allyson Niggli as Girls Track Coach effective for the 2011-2012 school year. Aye: Sabolo, Redden, Green, Harding. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Conference Items:

Recommendations from the Board of Education Relative to Agenda Topics for Future Consideration: None.

Administrative Review of Topics for Future Consideration: None.

Adjournment:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Redden, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote at 8:58 p.m. on February 21, 2012.

Rodney Green, President

ATTEST:

Amy Harding, Board Member