

WOOD RIVER-HARTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT #15
Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 27, 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 March 27, 2012 with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in the Board Room at the Lewis and Clark Complex. Karen Ferguson, Amy Harding, Lena Hartsock, Darin Redden, Susan Sabolo, Sheila Sorgea and Rodney Green answered the roll call to establish a quorum. Absent: None. 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 Sabolo, second by Sorgea, 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, Chris Edwards, Cyndi Duncan, Jill Christeson, Pam Tyler, Tiffany Falk, Julie Twichell, Terri Totzell, Lisa Kaman-Ammon, Ginger Cramsey, Colby Sprague, Erin Plumb, Karry Thompson, and Michelle Meyers. Students and parents in attendance were Rebecca Cornwell; Victoria Kallal; Zach, Elizabeth, and Nate Kincade; Cassy Young; Lisa and Emilee Sabatino; Cindi and Heather Martin; Paula and Lacey Tretter and Steve Robinson. FGM representatives Mike Staub was also present.

Community/Staff Comments:

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

Student Recognition:

The guests and visitors were welcomed to the Board Meeting.

Zach Kincade was congratulated for finishing in the top ten of his weight class as a Wrestling State Finalist. He showed a lot of dedication and hard work. He is also the Sixth Grade runner-up for Young Authors.

The Seventh Grade and Eighth Grade Girls Volleyball teams were also congratulated for finishing in first place. Mrs. Falk is the Eighth Grade Coach while Mrs. Totzell and Mrs. Twichell are Co-Coaches for the Seventh Grade. The Eighth Grade Team members are Heather Martin, Lexi Johnson, Emme Flanigan, Natalie Mundel, Brittany Grayson, Christin Faulstich, Kelsey Hauser, Kelsie Wells, Katie Hall with Lori

Hickerson as the Manager. Seventh Grade Team members are KaLynn Thompson, Kaleigh Young, Lora Ruyle, Peyton Young, Danielle Stockton, Sabrina Hart, Emily Bumgarner, Carly Campbell, Aurora Plake, Emily Smith, Anna Stangle, Katelyn Lindquist, Allison Mitchell, Lauren Robinson and Emilee Sabatino.

Mrs. Rhonda Goldman, Sponsor of Young Authors, could not be present so Ms. Lee announced the first place and runner-up for each grade. The first place students were Kindergarten – Nicholas Oseland II, First Grade – Mya Evers, Second Grade – Elizabeth Gernon, Third Grade – Emma Seibert, Fourth Grade – Lacey Tretter, Fifth Grade – Blaine Epps, Sixth Grade – Morgan Wiegand, Seventh Grade – Victoria Kallal, and Eighth Grade – Zach Malley. The runners-up were Kindergarten – Ruby Cornwell, First Grade – Lauren Vossenkemper, Second Grade – Samara Oseland, Third Grade – Kaden Johnson, Fourth Grade – Julia Christian, Fifth Grade – Hunter Goodman, Sixth Grade – Zach Kincade, Seventh Grade – Emilee Sabatino, and Eighth Grade – Kelsie Wells. The District's Young Authors' Reception was held on Thursday, March 22nd, in the Hartford Elementary Cafeteria. Zach Malley will represent us at State.

Superintendent Whiteside said he and the Board congratulated the students on their educational and athletic accomplishments. The visitors were given the opportunity to leave if they did not wish to attend the remainder of the meeting.

Business Manager's Report:

Mrs. Sorgea asked who the Notary is for District #15. Mrs. Elliott said she is the Notary. The payment to Region III is our third payment and other districts flow payments through us. The Study Island payment was budgeted.

There are no surprises in the Financial Statement. We are running pretty much as anticipated. The State has stepped up payments on Pre-K and Birth-to-Three grants. We currently have 35% of both grants where last year we only had 16% of the Pre-K and 10% of the Birth-to-Three.

In June of 2009, ISDA and WCSIT offered to lock in our insurance rates for fiscal years 2010 through 2012. We chose to remain in these insurance pools and took advantage of this offer. This year they have offered to extend the guaranteed rate for fiscal year 2013. Board members were asked to approve the resolution.

On the Olin PTAB decision for 2003-2004, the second of two January tax distributions was received in our bank on January 27, 2012. By that time, 96% of property taxes had already been collected and distributed to the taxing bodies. We still had \$93,800 of uncollected taxes which allowed Olin to receive them. There is still a balance due of \$7,357.50, and interest continues to compound until the debt is paid in full.

Mrs. Elliott will be presenting information on the Community Eligibility Option which is the Free Lunch for All for the 2012-2013 school year. The application is due in June, and she will have statistics to explain the cost of this program.

President Green thanked Mrs. Elliott.

Principals' Reports:

Ms. Lee said McTeacher Night at East Alton McDonald's, which was held jointly with Hartford Elementary School on March 6th, went well with \$640 raised. ISAT testing is complete and the tests should be picked up soon. Lorena Avenue PTA had a successful fundraiser selling butter braids and cookie dough. One student alone sold over \$1,000 worth. Several teachers attended a Reading Conference in Springfield. The kids did a great job at the Fine Arts Fair held at East Alton Middle School.

Mrs. Johnson said Pre-K involvement is just great. Mrs. Slayden is doing a great job. The PBIS Team is working really hard. One area of concern is disrespect shown by students. Verbal reminders are being given. They would like to increase the number of students who walk to school and will be working on a survey about that subject.

Mr. Begando said Alexis Watts, Ethan Dona and Hunter Hall are the March Students of the Month while Caleb Bentley, Haley Karlas and Lora Ruyle are the March Kids of Character. Everyone is really focused on the kids' grades, and we are in constant communication with the parents whose kids are on our alert list. We have decided to have a homework group to give kids an extra hour of help during the week. We have a lunch club to try to pull in kids who need some extra help to pass. We're keeping our fingers crossed. Mrs. Ferguson asked when the homework group meets. Mr. Begando answered it is during the school day during PBIS or Channel One.

President Green thanked the Principals.

Superintendent's Report – Items for Discussion:

FOIA Requests: There were no FOIA requests this month.

H/L/S Update: FGM representative Mr. Mike Staub was present to discuss some additional recommended H/L/S projects for the coming summer since we will have money after the original projects are completed. Mr. Whiteside recommended the Board approve the Resolution for the additional work.

Some of the projects mentioned by Mr. Staub were handrails and wall-mounted urinals with dividers. Mrs. Sorgea asked if the urinals would be child sized. Mr. Staub answered affirmatively. Mr. Staub left the meeting after his presentation.

Technology Lease: Technology Director Chris Edwards said the District will continue to upgrade its equipment. We have been doing this since 2005. This year teachers will receive new computers for their classrooms, and one of our two servers will be upgraded. Mrs. Sabolo asked about the Junior High. All teachers in our three buildings will get new computers which should last another four years. Mrs. Ferguson asked about plans for our old computers. Mr. Edwards said he hasn't really decided, but we have donated them in the past. Mr. Whiteside asked if there was any use in keeping four or five of the best ones as spares. Mr. Edwards said these have become outdated, but he usually purchases a few extra. President Green thanked Mr. Edwards.

Facility Use Request: Wood River Fire Department Chief Alexander contacted us to

make sure it was okay to use Lewis and Clark Jr. High School gymnasium in case of a community disaster. We will also need to provide a couple of contacts. Mr. Whiteside recommended approval of the request.

School Calendar: A draft proposal for the 2012-2013 school year calendar was discussed. The calendar was also distributed to school personnel. The calendar contains an August 20 start date with the usual breaks and holidays. Our SIP days coincide with those of East Alton Elementary and partly with East Alton-Wood River High. The parent/teacher conferences scheduled for fall and spring have meetings scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday evenings after full days of attendance on those days. The following Friday would be a compensated day as approved by the ROE and the State. There would be six emergency days built-in. If no emergency days are used, our last day would be May 30. We will have discussion this meeting with approval in April. Mrs. Sorgea said a lot of the parents are upset with the half-days. They think the teachers are getting the day off. She also questioned the length of Spring Break. Mr. Whiteside asked that he be allowed to continue before any questions were asked. He said in the past some parents have had difficulty coming in on Friday for conferences and other districts have been successful with their two evenings. If we do this, then neither students nor teachers would come on Friday. Mrs. Sorgea expressed concern about having no day appointments because some parents have night jobs. Principal Lee remarked they have found there are not enough evening slots for parents. The Principals said they would do their best to make special accommodations for any parents needing to make an appointment during the day. Mrs. Harding asked about the half days discussed at the beginning of the year. Mr. Whiteside said we may have to have student attendance for a full day after Teachers' Institute this year. As far as the SIP days go, the teachers need those days to learn about Common Core as well as other changes. Mrs. Harding said she was pleased Common Core was being studied on those half days. President Green asked if there are enough SIP days scheduled. Last year we canceled four of the half days, and students attended class all day due to extra snow days being taken. President Green asked that a message be put on the District website saying what the teachers are working on during the half days. Vice President Redden suggested we include the information in our phone messages that go out. Superintendent Whiteside asked if the Board wanted to cut the SIP days back. Ms. Lee said we have so much coming at us, and the teachers need the time to plan and collaborate. President Green again asked if there are enough SIP days included in next year's calendar. There was a general consensus that there are enough. When President Green asked if there were any other questions about the calendar, no one replied.

Regular Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Harding, second by Sabolo, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2012 as presented. Nay: None. Abstain: Ferguson, Hartsock, Sorgea. Motion carried by voice vote.

Special Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Redden, second by Ferguson, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2012 as presented. Nay: None. Abstain: Sorgea. Motion carried by voice vote.

Special Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Harding, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2012 as presented. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried by voice vote.

Special Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Ferguson, second by Redden, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2012 as presented. Nay: None. Abstain: Sorgea. Motion carried by voice vote.

Consent Agenda:

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

Extension of ISDA's Multiyear Rate Guarantee Resolution:

Motion by Redden, second by Sabolo, to approve extension of ISDA's Multiyear Rate Guarantee Resolution to June 30, 2013. Aye: Redden, Sabolo, Ferguson, Hartsock, Harding, Green, Sorgea. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Extension of IASB WCSIT Multiyear Rate Guarantee Resolution:

Motion by Ferguson, second by Sorgea, to approve the extension of IASB WCSIT Multiyear Rate Guarantee Resolution to June 30, 2013. Aye: Ferguson, Sorgea, Green, Harding, Hartsock, Sabolo, Redden. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Technology Lease:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Redden, to approve proceeding with the Technology Lease for replacement of teacher computers. Aye: Sabolo, Redden, Ferguson, Hartsock, Harding, Green, Sorgea. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Facility Use Request:

Motion by Redden, second by Ferguson, to approve the request from the Wood River Fire Department to use our facility as one of their evacuation centers to be utilized in the event of a city-wide disaster. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried by voice vote.

FGM Resolution:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Sorgea, to approve FGM Resolution 11-12-11 to utilize H/L/S funds for additional work this summer. Aye: Sabolo, Sorgea, Redden, Ferguson, Hartsock, Harding, Green. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Enter into Closed Session:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Harding, 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); and (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) at 7:49 p.m. Aye: Sabolo, Harding, Sorgea, Green, Hartsock, Ferguson, Redden. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Return from Closed Session:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Ferguson, to return from Closed Session at: 8:57 p.m. on February 21, 2012. Aye: Sabolo, Ferguson, Redden, Hartsock, Sorgea, Harding, Green. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Action Resulting from Closed Session:

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

Executive Session Minutes of Regular Meeting:

Motion by Redden, second by Harding, to approve Executive Session Minutes of February 21, 2012 Regular Meeting. Nay: None. Abstain: Ferguson, Hartsock, Sorgea. Motion carried by voice vote.

Executive Session Minutes of Special Meeting:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Harding, to approve Executive Session Minutes of February 28, 2012 Special Meeting. Nay: None. Abstain: Sorgea. Motion carried by voice vote.

Executive Session Minutes of Special Meeting:

Motion by Ferguson, second by Redden, to approve Executive Session Minutes of March 16, 2012 Special Meeting. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried by voice vote.

Executive Session Minutes of Special Meeting:

Motion by Redden, second by Sabolo, to approve Executive Session Minutes of March 20, 2012 Special Meeting. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried by voice vote.

Destruction of Verbatim Tape Recordings:

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

Personnel – Cafeteria Intern Volunteer:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Green, to approve Ms. Christina Servedio as an intern in the Lorena Complex Cafeteria. Aye: Sabolo, Green, Redden, Harding, Hartsock, Sorgea, Ferguson. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Personnel – Volunteer:

Motion by Harding, second by Sabolo, to approve Ms. Kara Reed as a classroom volunteer. Aye: Harding, Sabolo, Ferguson, Sorgea, Hartsock, Redden, Green. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Resolution to Intervene:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Redden, to approve the Resolution to Intervene for the Valero Assessment Appeal. Aye: Sabolo, Redden, Green, Harding, Sorgea, Hartsock, Ferguson. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Resolution to Intervene:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Green, to approve the Resolution to Intervene in PTAB for WRB Refining. Aye: Sabolo, Green, Ferguson, Hartsock, Sorgea, Harding, Redden. 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 Harding, second by Hartsock, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote at 9:05 p.m. on March 27, 2012.

Rodney Green, President

ATTEST:

Sheila Sorgea, Secretary/Treasurer

