

**WOOD RIVER-HARTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT #15**  
**Board of Education**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**September 25, 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 September 25, 2012 with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in the Board Room in 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 Superintendent Pat Anderson, 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. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried by voice vote.

Guests and Visitors:

Those present were District employees Sheryl Ross, Carol Fowler-Dixon, Lisa Kaman-Ammon, Rob Mangrum, Colby Sprague, Cyndi Duncan and Duane Amistadi. Also present were Mike Staub of FGM and Ron Karns of Donohoo, McCalley and Associates.

Community/Staff Comments:

President Green greeted the visitors and asked if anyone wished to address the Board. No one wished to speak.

Annual Budget Hearing:

President Green opened the FY13 Budget Hearing at 6:31 p.m. Business Manager Carol Elliott apologized for giving two of the same sheets of information to Board members in their packets and said she had now given them the two correct pages. Mrs. Elliott began by saying we have a 7.4 million dollar budget. We now have full-time administrators at each building as well as a full-time Superintendent. Our average class size K-5 is 25 students. We have 140 special needs kids in our District co-teaching classes and 10 in classes outside the District. We still offer Fine Arts to K-8<sup>th</sup> graders. We've added a stipend for our Athletic Director as well as a stipend for a Wrestling Coach and supplies for the Wrestling program. Items on our Health/Life/Safety Survey have been completed, and we will be starting the process again for other improvements.

Property tax revenue increased by \$294,248 as a result of commercial property increase while there was a projected decrease of \$139,000 for corporate replacement tax. The General State Aid foundation level remained at \$6,119 but was prorated at 89% resulting in a loss of \$227,000. Our Early Childhood Grants were prorated at 92% for a loss of \$30,000. Overall, our revenue is derived from 56% local, 34% state, and 10% federal sources.

Some highlights of District expenses are the addition of a full-time Superintendent, a 3.1% salary increase for all staff, a health insurance benefit increase of 8.5% and seven certified lane moves along with two certified 6% retirement incentives. Without adding to a deficit, we were able to purchase social studies curriculum, wrestling mat, assessment software, and thin

clients for computer labs on our elementary campuses. Our expenses break down as 53% salary, 17% benefits, 9% purchased services, 9% dues/fees, 6% supplies, and 6% equipment.

Last year our Education Fund balance was a little over \$1,000,000. This year we're projecting deficit spending of \$126,000. Superintendent Anderson has done an excellent job. Our projections for next year do not include salary increases, insurance increases or pension reform which will give us another year of deficits.

Our Building Fund by statute can be paid out of the Education Fund. At just the bare minimum this year, there will be a deficit of over \$41,000. We'll have to add more funds.

With the Transportation Fund and the fact that we never know what population of Special Education students we are going to have at District #15, the Fund balance has a history like a roller coaster track.

A Building and Grounds Supervisor with handyman talents has been hired. NCLB Grants have been rewritten to provide District-wide services. Our laptop technology lease replaced two normal leases for towers and monitors. Principal Begando and the LCJH staff developed a workable schedule using certified teacher assistants to teach block classes. This allows for uninterrupted student instruction time and needed common teacher planning time. Stretching our dollars will require input from all sources, and "outside the box" thinking will become the standard.

The Administrative Team is committed to this District and possesses a love for kids. Their first thought is always, "What's best for the kids." The economic uncertainty of the State of Illinois will impact us for several years to come. Stretching resources will require a team effort. "More with less" is our motto.

President Green asked if there were any questions. There were no questions. President Green thanked Mrs. Elliott. The FY13 Budget Hearing closed at 6:48 p.m.

#### Business Manager's Report:

Audit Report: Ron Karns of Donohoo, McCalley and Associates presented results of our yearly audit. Mr. Karns recapped our expenses, fund balances, etc. There were no problems in the Audit. There were no questions. President Green thanked Mr. Karns.

Bill List: Mrs. Elliott said there was a bill from Datatronics for new radios for our buses. Mrs. Ferguson asked when we last updated them. Mrs. Elliott said she thought it was 2000, but wasn't absolutely sure. There was also a refund of \$145 to the Illinois State Board of Education for money we had received but had not spent as planned so we had to send it back. We still owe Morrissey Construction some money. Roxana School District billed us for our part of the money owed ConocoPhillips.

Financial Statement: Mrs. Elliott reported the State of Illinois still owes us \$93,500 from last year.

#### Principals' Reports:

Mrs. Johnson said "Respect" is the Character Word of the Month. Grandparents were invited to school for Grandparents Day. Students prepared cards for our troops, and Mr. Caldwell of the Alton VFW took care of the postage. The fire drill, lockdown and tornado drill all went well. Pre-K had a very successful Family Fun Night and had great survey results. Mrs. Johnson invited the Board Members to come to a Family Fun Night if they had the time. The next one planned will be "Eat This, Not That." Friday the students will have an opportunity to earn a

chance to fly paper airplanes. October 3<sup>rd</sup> is International Walk to School Day, and students are encouraged to walk to school if possible.

Mr. Anderson said he was involved in getting a grant at Central for \$300,000 to repair sidewalks. Mrs. Johnson is working on the preliminaries for a grant to repair sidewalks in Hartford. Mrs. Johnson said she and Ms. Deanna Barnes at Hartford Village Hall are working on the grant together and will submit it together. However, it is a very long process.

Mr. Begando said the Students of the Month for September are Joel Biesk-8<sup>th</sup> grade, D.J. Redden-7<sup>th</sup> grade, and Makayla Dolbee-6<sup>th</sup> grade. The Kids of Character for September are Emily Bumgarner-8<sup>th</sup> grade, Gracelin Rushing-7<sup>th</sup> grade, and Will Malone-6<sup>th</sup> grade. Mr. Begando is very proud of these students. They all do a really good job. Mr. Begando also wanted to recognize Mrs. Kim Hood, who is a tremendous substitute teacher. When we had tornado sirens go off last week, our teachers reacted quickly. One little Elementary girl was in the Junior High and was really upset. Mrs. Hood stayed with that little girl the entire time. She was fantastic. Our girls have a basketball game at Edwardsville tonight. Our Band played at the football game. There is a lot of engaged learning going on right now. Mr. Begando complimented the teachers on their work. October 15<sup>th</sup> is McTeacher night at the East Alton McDonalds from 4:00-8:00 p.m. During our recent Intruder Drill in the Jr. High, the teacher and kids in the Band Room could not hear us and kept playing. We're working on solving that problem.

Superintendent Anderson said Mr. Begando has been instrumental in getting out the new Evaluation Instruments. He's done a great job. It's a four-part instrument mandated by the State. Principals are evaluated differently than teachers.

Superintendent Anderson said Mr. Bohnenstiehl was with his family due to family illness. LCE teacher and WREA Co-President Ms. Ross said Mr. Bohnenstiehl has been putting out a lot of fires and not letting them smolder. He's been doing a good job.

#### Superintendent's Report – Items for Discussion:

Superintendent Anderson introduced our new Building and Grounds Supervisor Mr. Duane Amistadi. Mr. Amistadi thanked Mr. Anderson and the Board for giving him the opportunity to work for the District. He said Colby Sprague has been a help to him and Chris Milford has been his right hand man. Mr. Amistadi went on to say that he has high expectations and will work really hard for the District. Mr. Amistadi comes to us with 13 years experience as a Facilities Manager.

Superintendent Anderson recounted how Ann had told him she smelled natural gas in the cafeteria before school started. Mr. Anderson investigated but thought it was just because there was no air movement. Before Mr. Amistadi started working for the District and Superintendent Anderson was showing him around the facility, Mr. Amistadi immediately noticed the smell and lit the pilot light. He was on the job before he was on the job.

Mobility Rate: Our mobility rate is close to 25%. President Green had asked about it at the August Board Meeting.

FOIA Requests: There were no FOIA requests this month.

Technology Update: We probably won't be ready for all assessments as we'd planned, but will hopefully have everything working in about eight days in the Jr. High Lab. We're definitely making progress.

Applications for Recognition of Schools: This is an action item. They're pretty straightforward.

IASB Southwestern Division Fall Dinner Meeting Reminder: Superintendent Anderson asked if any other Board Members wished to attend the IASB Southwestern Division Fall Dinner Meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at Collinsville Middle School. Right now, Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. Harding and the Superintendent plan to attend. If anyone else wishes to attend, they were asked to please let Ann Chandler know as soon as possible.

Risk Management Program FY13: This is an action item. This is very, very common and will help free up some money. The Board was asked to let Superintendent Anderson know if they had any questions. Mrs. Sorgea asked the projected amount. Mrs. Elliott said \$123,825 for all three funds, which is very conservative.

Stage Partition Cost for Materials and Installation: Mr. Mike Staub of FGM explained the action item. The stage partition cost for materials and installation by Hufcor will be \$15,447.00. We would have some choices in the color of the partition covering.. They would be similar to bi-fold doors in a home. Mrs. Sorgea asked about the room left in front of the partition, which Mr. Staub said would be about one foot. Mrs. Ferguson asked about their sturdiness. Mr. Staub explained they are sturdy with a steel frame, insulation core, with the outside wrapped in a carpet-like material. Vice-President Redden asked if there was a weight-bearing issue. Mr. Staub said an engineer came out and said we are okay. Superintendent Anderson said we plan to utilize the area. It will not become a dumping ground. The basketball goal will have to be modified or a new one purchased, and the curtain will have to be taken down. Installation will probably be a two-day process. Hufcor would like to do the welding on a day when kids aren't here. Mrs. Elliott interjected that we will try to do this through Health/Life/Safety. Vice-President Redden asked about the color, and Mr. Begando said he would like to be a part of that.

School Board Election April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012: Superintendent Anderson handed out candidate packages to those Board Members interested in running again.

Secretary of the Board of Education Designated Representatives for April 9<sup>th</sup> Election: This is an action item and the Superintendent and Mrs. Chandler will be the representatives.

Regular Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Ferguson, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2012 as amended. Aye: Sabolo, Ferguson, Green, Harding, Redden, Hartsock. Nay: None. Abstain: Sorgea. Motion passed.

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, Hartsock, Green, Harding, Ferguson, Sabolo. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

FY13 Budget Resolution:

Motion by Ferguson, second by Sabolo, to approve the FY13 Budget Resolution 12-13-02. Aye: Ferguson, Sabolo, Harding, Redden, Green, Sorgea, Hartsock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

FY12 Audit:

Motion by Sorgea, second by Sabolo, to approve the FY12 Audit. Aye: Sorgea, Sabolo, Hartsock, Green, Ferguson, Redden, Harding. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Applications for Recognition of Schools:

Motion by Ferguson, second by Sabolo, to approve the Applications for Recognition of Schools for Hartford Elementary, Lewis and Clark Elementary and Lewis and Clark Junior High. Aye: Ferguson, Sabolo, Harding, Redden, Green, Sorgea, Hartsock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

FY13 Risk Management Program:

Motion by Harding, second by Hartsock, to approve the FY13 Risk Management Program. Aye: Harding, Hartsock, Sorgea, Sabolo, Green, Ferguson, Redden. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Stage Partition:

Motion by Ferguson, second by Sabolo, to approve the stage partition cost for materials and installation by Hufcor in the amount of \$15,447.00. Aye: Ferguson, Sabolo, Redden, Green, Sorgea, Hartsock, Harding. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Designated Representatives for April 9<sup>th</sup> Election:

Motion by Sorgea, second by Ferguson, to approve Patrick Anderson and Ann Chandler as Secretary of the Board of Education designated representatives for the April 9, 2013 Election. Aye: Sorgea, Ferguson, Harding, Green, Sabolo, Hartsock, Redden. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Enter into Closed Session:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Ferguson, to enter into Closed Session to discuss (1) 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 (2) 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) at 7:41 p.m. Aye: Sabolo, Ferguson, Redden, Green, Harding, Sorgea, Hartsock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Return from Closed Session:

Motion by Ferguson, second by Redden, to return from Closed Session at 8:13 p.m. on September 25, 2012. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried by voice vote.

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 Redden, to approve Executive Session Minutes of August 28, 2012 Regular Meeting. Aye: Ferguson, Redden, Sabolo, Hartsock, Green. Nay: None. Abstain: Harding, Sorgea. Motion passed.

#### Destruction of Verbatim Tape Recordings:

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

#### Personnel – Resignation:

Motion by Harding, second by Green, to approve the resignation of Ms. Katie Jones from her position as Gardening Club Sponsor at Hartford Elementary effective immediately. Aye: Harding, Green, Hartsock, Redden, Sorgea, Sabolo, Ferguson. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

#### Personnel – Employment:

Motion by Ferguson, second by Redden, to approve the employment of Mr. Dale Emerick as the Sixth Grade Girls' Basketball Coach for the 2012-2013 school year. Aye: Ferguson, Redden, Harding, Sabolo, Sorgea, Hartsock, Green. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

#### Personnel – Substitute List:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Sorgea, to approve the Substitute List pursuant to receipt of acceptable FBI and State Police reports. Aye: Sabolo, Sorgea, Redden, Green, Harding, Ferguson, Hartsock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

#### Personnel – Volunteer List:

Motion by Hartsock, second by Harding, to approve the Volunteer List. Aye: Hartsock, Harding, Sabolo, Green, Redden, Ferguson, Sorgea. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

#### Personnel – Substitute Secretary Compensation:

Motion by Sorgea, second by Sabolo, to approve the rate of substitute compensation at \$80.00 per day for substitute secretaries. Aye: Sorgea, Sabolo, Green, Harding, Ferguson, Hartsock, Redden. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

#### Conference Items:

Recommendations from the Board of Education Relative to Agenda Topics for Future Consideration: Dashboard discussion was suggested by President Green.

Administrative Review of Topics for Future Consideration: None.

#### Adjournment:

Motion by Sabolo, second by Green, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote at 8:29 p.m. on September 25, 2012.

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Rodney Green, President

ATTEST:

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Sheila Sorgea, Secretary/Treasurer