

**ROCK ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 41
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING**

January 27, 2009

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Rock Island School District was held Tuesday, January 27, 2009 in the Library at Rock Island High School. President Earl Strupp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members Present: Mr. Bill Cleaver, Ms. Linda Dothard, Mr. Dave Rockwell, Mr. Earl Strupp, Mr. Jerry Tutskey and Mr. Jim Veasey

Members Absent: Mr. Russ Kennel, Student members Spencer Brooks, Ashley Dean and Christopher Giles

Staff Present: Mr. Jim Andrews, Mr. Ken Jaeke, Mr. Rick Loy, Dr. Mike Oberhaus and Mr. Bill Osborne

Approval of Board of Education Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Dave Rockwell and seconded by Mr. Jim Veasey to approve the minutes of the regular meetings of December 9, 2008 and January 13, 2009 and special meetings of December 22, 2008 and January 6, 2009 (*including executive session minutes to be kept on file as confidential*). All members voting "Aye," the President declared the motion carried.

Reports from Board Members

- Voting Members

Ms. Dothard reported on her attendance at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration on Monday, January 19, 2009.

Mr. Rockwell shared that Neighborhood Partners has been selected to give a presentation at Joliet High School on February 27, 2009. They were selected as a district with sustainable schools to try and save older schools in older neighborhoods.

Mr. Strupp reported that the chess program is moving along with five additional schools beginning this semester.

Report from the Superintendent

Mr. Loy announced that we have five candidates running for four seats on the Board: Bill Cleaver, Dave Rockwell and Jim Veasey, and Jim Bishop and Clark Ramser. Mr. Loy shared a letter he received from the Rock Island Preservation Society thanking us for our donation of the arch from the Villa site. The Rock Island Intermediate Academy Peace Choir performed today at Rotary along with a moving speech from Principal Mike Russell.

Report from RIEA Representative

Mr. Bob Smith stated that the union understands the difficulty of potential budget cuts, and is confident that the administration will proceed with caution. Employees were presented with three options for the 2009-10 calendar and have decided on option one.

Action on Routine Matters

- Approve Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Dave Rockwell and seconded by Ms. Linda Dothard to approve the agenda as presented. A voice vote was called showing all members present voting "Aye." No "Nay" votes being cast, the President declared the motion carried.

- Blanket Motion

It was moved by Mr. Dave Rockwell, seconded by Mr. Jerry Tutskey and unanimously carried by a roll call vote that the following items be approved as a blanket motion:

VII. B. That the Board of Education approve Student Expulsion No's. 05/10/20, 05/20/23 and 05/16/23.

VII. C. That the Board of Education approve the January Fund Raisers.

VIII. C. That the Board of Education enter into a 60-month contract with Mediacom to provide high speed fiber connections between our buildings and from the high school to the Illinois Century Network. The cost to install the network will be \$12,800 and the ongoing monthly cost will be \$12,150.

VIII. D. That the Board of Education acknowledge the following donations:

Community Foundation of the Great River Bend - \$3,000.00 for new playground equipment (handicapped accessible) at Eugene Field

Eugene Field PTA - \$20,000.00 for new playground equipment (handicapped accessible) at Eugene Field

Potter Family Foundation - \$2,000.00 for new playground equipment (handicapped accessible) at Eugene Field

Ted & Cosette Thoms - \$1,000.00 for new playground equipment (handicapped accessible) at Eugene Field

Fred & Evelyn Meersman - \$50.00 for classroom needs at SKIP

VIII. E. That the Board of Education approve the Investment Report for quarter ended December 31, 2008.

VIII. F. That the Board of Education approve the December Financial Statements.

- VIII. G. That the Board of Education authorize Bills for Payment dated January 15, 2009 in the amount of \$3,227,815.74.
- IX. A. That the Board of Education approve the following Non-Certified Appointments:
- Steve Cravens** - Grade 3 & 4 Classroom Para./Frances Willard/Salary \$6,119.65 (based on 84 days with a base salary of \$13,113.54)
Pendalyn Dawson - Special Ed. Para. (1 on 1)/Edison/Salary \$7,998.90 (based on 105 days with a base salary of \$13,712.40)
Madelyn (Kris) Golden - LPN/Frances Willard/Salary \$6,476.52 (based on 93 days with a base salary of \$12,535.20)
Stacy Green - Baker/Rock Island High School/Salary \$6,470.10 (based on 90 days with a base salary of \$12,508.86)
Matthew Hoepfner - Hall Monitor/Rock Island High School/Salary \$11.72 an hour
Victoria Vallejo - Special Ed. Para./Washington/Salary \$7,629.72 (based on 93 days with a base salary of \$14,767.20)
- IX. B. That the Board of Education accept the following Non-Certified Resignations:
- Carrol Diaz** - Special Ed. Para./Washington/Effective November 26, 2008
Kari Gibbs - Special Ed. Para./Ridgewood/Effective December 19, 2008
- IX. C. That the Board of Education approve the Non-Certified Retirement of Stella Zumwalt, effective December 19, 2008, as presented.

Education - Career Development Update

Mr. Ed Veasey presented an update on the Career Development/Career Cruising program in District 41. Rick Baker and Paul Rumler, President and Vice President of the Quad City Chamber of Commerce, spoke about the Career Clusters program. *A copy of the presentation is kept on file with the official minutes at the Administration Center.*

Education - 9th Grade Academy Update

Ms. Kristin Allen presented an update on the 9th Grade Academy at Rock Island High School. *A copy of the presentation is kept on file with the official minutes at the Administration Center.*

Education - New Course Offerings

Ken Jaeke, Georgia Kouris and Andy Campbell presented information on the new course offerings being proposed at Rock Island High School. It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the following new course offerings at Rock Island High School: Anatomy and Physiology, Classic Literature and Contemporary Literature as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Dave Rockwell and seconded by Mr. Jim Veasey to approve the following new course offerings at Rock Island High School: Anatomy and Physiology, Classic Literature and Contemporary Literature. A roll call vote was called showing all members present voting "Aye." No "Nay" votes being cast, the President declared the motion carried.

Operations – Selection of Board Members for Policy Committees

Russ Kennel and Dave Rockwell will serve on the building use committee and Linda Dothard and Jerry Tutskey will serve on the purchasing policy committee.

Business/Finance – 2009 Bond Sale

Mr. Dave Phillips, Speer Financial, updated the Board of Education on the second sale of General Obligation Bonds to complete the call of outstanding bonds and acquire the remaining \$12 million for the Building Excellence plan. *Further information is provided with the official minutes at the Administration Center.*

Business/Finance – Budget Cuts

It was recommended that the Board of Education direct the administration to build the 2009-10 budget incorporating the recommended additions and Tier I reductions as presented at the January 13, 2009 Board meeting.

- Citizens Addressing the Board

Kathy Lawhorn, 1722 – 65th Avenue W., Rock Island, spoke on behalf of the membership of the RIESPA. She asked the Board to reconsider cutting paraprofessionals, and use money from the accumulated surplus. She also suggest not spending additional money on projects that can be put on hold. She asked the Board to consider other options before making a final decision.

Lisa Pittard, 231 Ninth Street W., Andalusia, is a library paraprofessional in the district. She is following up to an email she sent the Board earlier in the day. She asked Board members to take a moment to think about the proposed cuts in the libraries.

Barb Wignall, 2815 – 28th Avenue, Rock Island, has been a paraprofessional in our district since 1991, has sent her children through this district and now has grandchildren attending our schools. She asked the Board to make sure these cuts do not have a negative impact on the children's education. She expressed concern over the furniture budget being cut since the high school students currently have to borrow desks from other classrooms. She believes cutting one paraprofessional from each elementary school is detrimental to student learning.

Kevin Traylor, 2640 – 27th Street, Rock Island, emailed the Board regarding cuts and staffing for next year. The proposed cuts will provide less library service to all students. A high school library staff of only two people is not adequate. Any hours not staffed means materials will disappear. Our students are already underserved at the library level. He respectfully asked the Board not to dismiss staff at any library.

Dr. Oberhaus stated that revenue streams will diminish. If things get better, we will not act on all the cuts being proposed.

Ms. Dothard is concerned over our library staff and would like us to reconsider these actions.

Mr. Rockwell stated that the more adults we have in our buildings, the better off our children are. Reinstating the paras and librarians are high on his list.

Mr. Loy stated that if the state or federal government comes through, we would not cut the proposed 19 full time equivalent positions. It is not our intention to make any of these cuts permanent. Hopefully the economy will turn around and we will bring back these positions.

A motion was made by Mr. Dave Rockwell and seconded by Ms. Linda Dothard to direct the administration to build the 2009-10 budget incorporating the recommended additions and Tier 1 reductions as presented at the January 13, 2009 Board meeting. A roll call vote was called showing all members present voting "Aye." No "Nay" votes being cast, the President declared the motion carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Linda Dothard and seconded by Mr. Jim Veasey to adjourn the meeting. All members voting "Aye," the President declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Earl L. Strupp, Jr., President

Dr. Michael Oberhaus, Clerk