

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

**January 26, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Rock Island School District was held Tuesday, January 26, 2010 in the library at Rock Island High School. President William L. Cleaver called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Members Present: James E. Bishop, D.D.S. (*arrived at 6:10 p.m.*), Mr. William L. Cleaver, Ms. Linda K. Dothard, Mr. David Rockwell, Mr. Earl L. Strupp, Jr. and Mr. James E. Veasey, Student Members Zavier Clark and Jazmin Taylor

Member Absent: Mr. Jerry Tutskey and Student Member Kelly Bishop

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

**Approval of Board of Education Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Earl Strupp and seconded by Mr. Dave Rockwell to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 8, 2009 and January 12, 2010 and special meeting minutes of December 15, 1009 and January 7, 2010 as presented. All members present voting "Aye," the President declared the motion carried.

**Reports from Board Members**

- Voting Members

Ms. Dothard recognized Tonya Plowman and Garry Allbritton who read essays in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Mr. Strupp visits Longfellow on a weekly basis, and feels their partnership with Augustana is working very well.

- Student Members

Dr. Bishop, on behalf of student member Kelly Bishop, stated that there has been much concern over the driver's education classes possibly being cut from the budget. Zavier Clark reported that the Rock Island High School academic team will go to Sterling to compete this weekend.

**Updates from the Superintendent**

Rick Loy stated that the TAG sessions need to be scheduled. He has received a letter from the Highland Park Historic Neighborhood regarding heavy traffic once the new school is in place. This will be discussed at the Safe Routes to School meeting at the Rock Island Public Library on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Loy stated that last week he received a letter from AFSCME with a suggested list of cuts in which the Cabinet is reviewing and considering. He congratulated Jim Klauer who has been recommended to the Air Force Academy.

**Action on Routine Matters**

- Approve Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Dave Rockwell and seconded by Ms. Linda Dothard to approve the agenda with Item VIII. C. January Fund Raisers removed. All members present voting "Aye," the President declared the motion carried.

- Blanket Motion

A motion was made by Mr. Earl Strupp, seconded by Mr. Dave Rockwell, and unanimously approve by a roll call vote that the following items be approved as a blanket motion:

- VII. B. That the Board of Education approve the addition of a subsidiary ledger account, in the Rock Island High School activity account, for the Work Class and Personal Social activity account as presented.
- VII. C. That the Board of Education award a contract to Verizon Wireless in the amount of \$18,300.12 for wireless cellular telecommunications and Internet data services. (Rock Island School District currently received 74% e-rate reimbursement; therefore the net cost of the services will be \$4,475.00 for the one-year contract.)
- VII. D. That the Board of Education approve the Investment Report for quarter ended December 31, 2009.
- VII. E. That the Board of Education approve the December Financial Statements.
- VII. F. That the Board of Education acknowledge the following List of Donations:
- Church Women United - \$25.00 to purchase layette items for Head Start  
 George & Mary Oelschlaeger - \$20.00 for the Head Start Angel Tree  
 Henry & Stephanie Olsen - \$20.00 for the Head Start Angel Tree  
 David & Dawn Koehler - \$20.00 for the Head Start Angel Tree  
 Tina Anderson - \$40.00 for the Head Start Angel Tree  
 Deborah Burk - \$20.00 for the Head Start Angel Tree  
 Jennifer Hart - \$20.00 for the Head Start Angel Tree  
 John Deere Cylinder Works - \$755.75 for the Head Start Angel Tree  
 John Deere Seeding - \$1425.00 for the Head Start Angel Tree  
 Knights of Columbus Council #116 - \$1,100.00 for classroom needs at SKIP  
 Al Nessler - \$300.00 value - Shirts for students at SKIP  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2153 - \$150.00 for Classroom Supplies at SKIP  
 Charles Dix & Mary Brodd - \$10.00 for the Student Reward program at Washington
- VII. G. That the Board of Education authorize Bills for Payment dated January 15, 2010 in the amount of \$4,082,823.63.

VIII. B. That the Board of Education approve the revised Policies 2:200, 2:250, 4:110, 4:150, 5:10, 7:10, 7:180 and 8:70 as presented.

IX. That the Board of Education approve the following Non-Certified Appointments:

**Brian Buckley** – Truck Driver-Custodian/District/Salary \$9,976.35

**Michael Cole** – Building Supervisor/RICMS-Audubon/Salary \$7,115.55 (based on 89 days with a base salary of \$14,391.00)

**Cory Dalton** – Hall Monitor/Rock Island High School/Salary \$12.30 an hour

**Lisa Kerchner** – Title I Classroom Para./Denkmann/Salary \$6,892.93 (based on 93 days with a base salary of \$13,341.24)

**Valerie Mizeur** – Title I Classroom Para./Denkmann/Salary \$6,577.43 (based on 93 days with a base salary of \$12,730.50)

**Elizabeth Otten** – Title I Classroom Para./Denkmann/Salary \$7,035.70 (based on 92 days with a base salary of \$13,765.50)

**Joan Pearson** – Title I Classroom Para./Denkmann/Salary \$6,577.43 (based on 93 days with a base salary of \$12,730.50)

#### **Education – Thurgood Marshall Center Student Project**

Linda Golden and students from the Thurgood Marshall Center presented information on a clean water project they are participating in with an elementary school in Kenya.

#### **Education – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy Update**

Kristin Allen provided an update on the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy. *A copy of the presentation is kept on file with the official minutes at the Administration Center.*

#### **Business/Finance – 2010-2011 Budget Cuts**

Mr. Loy stated that this is a revenue problem. The amount of revenue coming into Rock Island, the state and the nation has made drastic dips. This problem is not unique to District 41. Illinois is \$1 billion behind in payment to school districts. Public schools should expect to take a hit next year. This is not just a challenge facing our school district but to all schools.

Dr. Oberhaus reviewed the budget presentation that was presented at the January 12, 2010 meeting. *The presentation is kept on file with the official minutes at the Administration Center.*

Mr. Cleaver stated that the budget will be approved by the Board in February. The Board has not made a decision at this time. At this point, we have been in the information gathering stage. They have heard from the administration, also received information from the community through emails, standard mail; they have been approached just as the process should be conducted. We need to hear from you. This meeting belongs to the board and you. We will listen to you and take notes. It is not a case of them and us. This is “Team Rock Island.” This is not fun.

- Citizens Addressing the Board

Michelle Lillis, 2600 - 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island, teaches math and is the girls' track coach. It is through athletics that she is here. The cuts are not fair across the board. She asked the Board to please review these cuts before a decision is made.

Sue Pienta, 2116 - 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island, is a proud parent of three students who have gone through our system. She understands that we have nothing to trim in this budget. After reviewing the data, she has four areas of concern: 1) Administrative stipends for high enrollment. We should look at changing boundaries if principals are overloaded. School secretaries, teachers and students are affected by high enrollment, more so than the principal. 2) Administrative stipend for families with low income, this affects the cafeteria personnel. 3) Administrative stipends for education, administrators received a bonus for continuing education. 4) Consultant contracts - utilize the people we have.

Lupe Beserra, 4330 - 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rock Island, spoke about the harsh reality of the proposed cuts. All employees work hard to support the students. Cutting three secretaries will create a trickle-down effect and work loads will be affected. This affects their families and community. The impact on a daily basis will be felt on a daily basis.

Carl Durham, 1725 - 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rock Island, one constant is the loss of union positions. Secretaries being cut once again in a district that strives for excellence every day. The surplus should be used during rough financial times.

Nick Eli, 819 - 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Bettendorf, IA, addressed the Board regarding cutting German at Rock Island High School. The plan is to phase it out with online courses/ There is a miscommunication with students who will not take the course next year. Moving to online classes would lose our exchange program. We would also lose our active German club. The only advantage to replacing this class is to save money. Some disadvantages are we cannot motivate students to learn; we cannot provide encouragement; we cannot foster a community. Online class cannot inspire students to make a career like he did with teaching German.

Amy Barnett, address unavailable, under Tier I the 10% reduction in co-curricular stipend, please consider current curriculum, not linked to any curriculum, could be jeopardizing. It's hard to keep them involved in at-risk behavior. If we make them nonexistent. Both her husband and she was raised in a different school district, because of her sports and all-inclusive type curriculum. Gave Rock Island has been very pleased, crawled out of stereotyping.

Mr. Cleaver wants to be able to make decisions that are most right for our students. We have a good thing going, "Team Rock Island."

Members of the Cabinet presented the second quarter score card update. *A copy of the score card is kept on file with the official minutes at the Administration Center.*

### **Operations – Freedom of Information Act Requests**

The district has received one FOIA request: Carl Durham, Jr., AFSCME Local 822 President, requesting all grant funded positions and salary. The request has been responded to within the five-day requirement.

### **Executive Session**

**A motion was made by Mr. Earl Strupp and seconded by Dr. James E. Bishop to move to executive session to discuss personnel. A roll call vote was called showing all members present voting "Aye." No "Nay" votes being cast, the President declared the meeting in Executive Session at 8:19 p.m.**

### **Open Session**

A motion was made by Mr. Dave Rockwell and seconded by Dr. James E. Bishop to return to open session. All members voting "Aye," the President declared the meeting in open session at 8:35 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Dr. James E. Bishop and seconded by Mr. Earl Strupp to adjourn the meeting. All members voting "Aye," the President declared the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

---

Mr. William L. Cleaver, President

---

Dr. Michael Oberhaus, Clerk