

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

**February 9, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Rock Island School District was held Tuesday, February 9, 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., Mr. William L. Cleaver, Mr. David Rockwell, Mr. Earl L. Strupp, Jr. and Mr. James E. Veasey, Student Member Xavier Clark

Member Absent: Ms. Linda K. Dothard, Mr. Jerry Tutskey and Student Members Kelly Bishop and Jazmin Taylor

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

**Reports from Board Members**

- Voting Members

Mr. Strupp congratulated Nick Camlin, former student Board member, for running for a seat on the Rock Island County Board.

Mr. Cleaver referenced a report on QC Online regarding Moline's budget saving options. We aren't the only school district going through these straining times. Issue is the state not coming through with its funding.

- Student Members

Xavier Clark reported that out of 18, Rocky placed fifth in recent academic competition held in Sterling.

**Updates from the Superintendent**

Mr. Loy scheduled the next TAG meeting for March 23, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. Last week the Board and administration received a letter from AFSCME with budget cuts they would like us to consider. Cabinet has reviewed the list. We also received a letter from Sharon Wisbaum suggesting new names for the new school. Mr. Loy informed the Board of possible boundary changes. Denkmann may be shifted toward Eugene Field who has an opening of about 50 students. The Academy's projected enrollment of 450 is now at 550. Now need to change that boundary toward Frances Willard and then Earl Hanson. We will begin this study after the budget process is finalized. Career Cruising was featured in the newspaper. This program was a priority of the Board. This is now expanding to all of the Illinois Quad City schools. Now will connect with businesses. The IASB Blackhawk division dinner meeting will be held March 10<sup>th</sup> in Orion. If interested, contact Kim Colson.

**Blanket Motion**

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

- VII. B.1. That the Board of Education approve the Contract for Service for Partner in Education (Dea Conrad-Curry) for curriculum writing at Rock Island High School in the amount of \$7,800.00.
- VII. B.2. That the Board of Education approve the Contract for Services for Robert Young Center to expand school-based mental health services in District 41 in the amount of \$20,520.00.
- VII. B.3. That the Board of Education approve the Contract for Service for Transitions Mental Health Services for on-site services at Rock Island High School in the amount of \$11,032.00.
- VII. C. That the Board of Education approve the purchase of terminals with license and maintenance from CDW-G, Chicago, IL, at a cost of \$15,000.00; LG monitors from CDW-G, at a cost of \$5,950.00; HP ProLiant Server from Hewlett Packard at a cost of \$9,818.01; Academic VMware vSphere 4 from R.K. Dixon, Davenport, IA, at a cost of \$1,664.31; VMware support from R.K. Dixon at a cost of \$2,046.38; Vizioncore VRRange Pro License from R.K. Dixon at a cost of \$493.25; Windows 2008 server license from R.K. Dixon at a cost of \$200.00; and Ethernet cables from Mainstream USA, Inc., Moline, IL, at a cost of \$322.50. Total cost of purchase is \$35,492.45 through ARRA funds.
- VII. D. That the Board of Education authorize Bills for Payment dated January 29, 2010 in the amount of \$3,020,122.31.

**Business/Finance - Budget Cuts**

It was recommended that the Board of Education direct the administration to build the 2010-2011 budget incorporating the recommended additions and Tier I reductions as presented.

**A motion was made by Mr. Earl Strupp and seconded by Dr. James E. Bishop to direct the administration to build the 2010-2011 budget incorporating the recommended additions and Tier I reductions as presented.**

Mr. Rockwell stated that he was really looking forward to next year with the completion of the Building Excellence projects. The work done to date is outstanding. Now the state is literally doing nothing. This is forcing all of us to bite the bullet. The only way to do this is make cuts. He has received very thoughtful letters and emails. Tone has been positive for the most part which is part of why our community is so great. He supports the list for the most part, but addressed items that we could find other sources of revenue. He feels that funds could be sought through the Development office and Boosters.

Mr. Rockwell has always been a proponent of extracurricular activities. A lot could be made up in fund raisers. He believes we need a full time athletic secretary. Stipends could be adjusted rather than eliminated. See how we can pay for items without affecting the budget. He supports the recommendation if athletics and co-curricular items could be pulled.

Mr. Strupp stated that this is personal as he was on the other end of this for many years and he knows what it is like. This involves people who will be losing jobs. We have been very diligent in the past several years in not cutting personnel; it's been very minimal. He could go along with Mr. Rockwell's suggestions with outside funding. He will get involved.

Mr. Veasey concurred with what Mr. Rockwell said. It would be good to have a committee set up to raise funds. Raise the money to take care of these items. We need to do something other than cut these programs. He will help in any way he can.

Mr. Loy spoke on behalf of Ms. Linda Dothard who is out of town on business. One area she asked to discuss is the dean's position at Rock Island High School. We need to remember that the administrators have agreed to a pay freeze but this still affects them. She asked that the Board consider moving this to Tier II.

Mr. Cleaver is infuriated by the position that the school board is in on account of the lack of funding from Springfield. We are reducing 10.5 teaching positions. It's not an extravagance. Nothing is. These programs were not stupid ideas when they were implemented. He cannot express enough how infuriated he is when the Board has to consider these types of things. What is recommended to give up is not extravagances. He wishes someone would do something about it. We do have to adopt a budget and he is no more happy about it than he was two weeks ago. He believes in the concept of *Team Rock Island*. Voices need to be made and heard. Funding for public schools should not only be taken up on Tuesday nights during board meetings. This business has just got to stop.

Mr. Loy stated that the administration brought the board an initial budget that included a \$4.3 million deficit. The Board agreed to meet in the middle with a \$2.5 million deficit and will use part of our surplus. We are now looking at 15 cuts in positions which is unacceptable. Massive number of cuts are happening throughout this country. They are not in the financial position that we are. He met with other superintendents from the state. Every other year legislators have said educational funding will be fine. That has all changed. This is not the case any more. We don't expect all of our payments this year and expects a decrease of 10% next school year. We need to focus on the people in Springfield who determines the amount of money we receive. Our energy needs to go in that direction. Everyone needs to commit to contacting our legislators. Contact his office and we will get contact information. He can also get a copy of his letter that was sent to legislators. Next year it will be even more challenging. We need to have action in Springfield.

Mr. Rockwell asked for Athletic and nonathletic stipends to be removed from the Tier I cuts. He is serious enough to give up his travel stipend to apply toward these cuts.

A motion was made by Mr. Dave Rockwell and seconded by Mr. Jim Veasey to move the athletics and non-athletic stipends from Tier I to Tier II. Funding sources will be sought from outside means to cover the \$35,000. A roll call vote was called showing the following members present voting "Aye:" Dr. James E. Bishop, Mr. Dave Rockwell and Mr. Jim Veasey. Mr. Earl Strupp and Mr. William L. Cleaver voted "Nay." The President declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Jim Veasey and seconded by Mr. Dave Rockwell to direct the administration to build the 2010-2011 budget incorporating the recommended additions and Tier I reductions with the removal of the Rock Island High School Dean. A roll call vote was called showing the following member present voting "Aye:" Mr. Jim Veasey. Dr. James E. Bishop, Mr. Dave Rockwell, Mr. Earl Strupp and Mr. William L. Cleaver voted "Nay." The President declared the motion failed.

A motion was made by Mr. Dave Rockwell and seconded by Mr. Jim Veasey to direct the administration to build the 2010-2011 budget incorporating the recommended additions and Tier I reductions as amended. A roll call vote was called showing all members present voting "Aye." No "Nay" votes being cast, the President declared the motion carried.

#### First Reading of Board Policy Revisions

Cabinet members reviewed the revisions to Board Policies 4:160, 6:60, 6:185 and 7:20.

#### Building Excellence Update

Dr. Oberhaus provided an update on the Building Excellence projects. *A copy of the presentation is kept on file with the official minutes at the Administration Center.*

#### Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by and seconded by to adjourn the meeting. All members voting "Aye," the President declared the meeting adjourned at p.m.

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Mr. William L. Cleaver, President

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Dr. Michael Oberhaus, Clerk