

RIVERTON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #14
Board of Education
Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2010
Special Meeting

A Special Meeting of the Riverton Community Unit School District #14 Board of Education was held on Monday, March 1, 2010, at the district office. President Nonneman called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

Board members present: Kim Baskett, Pam Cuffle, Mike Klebe, Scott McClure, Debbie Moore, Paul Nonneman, Larry Patterson. Others present: Tom Mulligan, Nancy Galligan, Stacey Binegar, Kelly Fraase, Fred Lamkey, Chris Koerwitz, Bill Geiger, Bill Lamkey, Mike Gum, Rose Ryan. Guests: Crystal Wilson, Kathy Clyne, Beth Held, Lisa Pulliam, Katie Little, Nicole Distlehorst, Katie Yale, Lynsey Bonner.

Communications:

Crystal Wilson: Ms. Wilson said that she wanted to address the Board with regard to the Pre-K Program. She asked the Board to consider allowing the current students to finish the program by offering a program for 4 year olds.

Kathy Clyne: Ms. Clyne asked to address the Board with regard to the Pre-K Program as well. She said it would be difficult for a student to re-enter school after a break in routine if the program is cut for 4 year olds. Ms. Clyne asked that consideration be given to continuing at least a partial program by offering a 4 year old program rather than a program for both 3 and 4 year olds.

Discussion of Financial Projections:

Dr. Mulligan presented the Board with an overview of plans for discussion. Rose Ryan, Special Education Coordinator for the district, was in attendance to discuss the SASSED bill and where we stand with regard to 2010-2011 special ed enrollment, etc. Dr. Mulligan told the Board that he would present numbers showing the savings if a 2% salary increase were to be approved as opposed to a 3% increase. He said that he would be talking about specific staff cuts as discussed at the last Board meeting as there have been some changes made since that meeting. Dr. Mulligan told the Board that he would be talking about revenues versus expenditures. He added that he would also be talking about Quinn's budget based on the current financial situation in the state of Illinois.

Dr. Mulligan introduced Rose Ryan. Ms. Ryan told the Board that she is projecting an enrollment of special education students (less Early Childhood students) as follows: elementary school – 60 students, middle school – 82 students, high school 76 students. She added that there are currently 6 teachers at the elementary school (8 with Early Childhood) and 4 aides; she is proposing to cut 1.5 teachers at the elementary school. She said that numbers would remain steady at the middle school. She told the Board that there are 5 teachers currently at the high school, and she proposes taking that to 4.5 teachers; there are 4 aides, and she plans to reduce that to 2 aides. She added that she is looking to restructure at each building and plans to add a resource room at all three buildings. Ms. Ryan said that she will retain 3 full-time speech therapists.

Dr. Mulligan told the Board that he has been working with the Village, and they are working to find grants to pay for a liaison officer for the district.

Dr. Mulligan reported to the Board that the Governor has proposed reducing the foundation level by \$700 per student; he has also proposed a 50% cut in categoricals. If that were implemented, it would result in an additional reduction of \$755,000 on top of what has already been proposed in the budget. Dr. Mulligan said that he had planned on a \$150 per student reduction in the foundation level. He added that if we do realize Quinn's budget, it would be a \$1.2 million reduction for next school year. He said that he is hearing that the legislature might pass a 6-month budget to get through the election, with further decisions to be made after the election.

Business:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. MCCLURE TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES, AS WELL AS NEGOTIATIONS; MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. PATTERSON, AND ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: BASKETT, YES; CUFFLE, YES; KLEBE, YES; MCCLURE, YES; MOORE, YES; NONNEMAN, YES; PATTERSON, YES. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES, AND THE MEETING MOVED INTO CLOSED SESSION AT 6:44PM.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR MCCLURE TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION; MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MRS. CUFFFLE, AND ON A VOICE VOTE, THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES, AND THE MEETING MOVED BACK INTO OPEN SESSION AT 8:26PM.

Dr. Mulligan reviewed with the group potential cuts in the district. Dr. Mulligan explained that he had put together a budget based on what had been projected by the state. However, the state has come back with new projections, and those projections are much worse than had been anticipated. He told the group that we are attempting to make equitable cuts; he added that it is important to make cuts cautiously. He said that there are some reserves in place for a “rainy day” such as now. Dr. Mulligan said that he will be looking at potential revenue increases as well, i.e., textbook fees, lunch prices, participation fees, admission fees, etc. He added that he will be looking at a substantial reduction in professional development opportunities for one to two years. Dr. Mulligan said that consideration would be given to reducing the number of Board members who attend the annual conference in Chicago each year as well.

Adjournment:

A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MR. MCCLURE; ON A VOICE VOTE, THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES, AND THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:35PM.

Board President

Board Secretary