

RIVERTON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #14
Board of Education
Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2010
Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Riverton Community Unit School District #14 Board of Education was held on Monday, April 12, 2010, at the district office. President Nonneman called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Board members present: Kim Baskett, Pam Cuffle, Mike Klebe, Scott McClure, Debbie Moore, Paul Nonneman, Larry Patterson. Others present: Tom Mulligan, Nancy Galligan, Kelly Fraase, Fred Lamkey, Chris Koerwitz, Bill Geiger, Bill Lamkey, Mike Gum, Rick Wagahoff. Guests: Lisa Seymour, Merle Weaver, Connie Holliday, Glenda Neighbors, Jeff Jesberg, Beth Livingston, Julie Klebe.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. MCCLURE TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES; TO APPROVE THE TREASURER'S REPORT, THE REVENUE REPORT, AND THE EXPENDITURE REPORT; TO APPROVE IESA/IHSA MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR; MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MRS. CUFFLE, 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.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. PATTERSON TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR APRIL; MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MRS. CUFFLE, 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.

Communications:

Merle Weaver: Mrs. Weaver addressed the Board with regard to the wrestling program for students in grades 4-8. She said that there were approximately 20-25 participants; she added that the athletes did very well. She said that parents were appreciative that practices were held in Riverton. Mrs. Weaver also said that there has been a good response for participation next year.

Glenda Neighbors: Ms. Neighbors presented a "State of the Library" report to the Board with regard to the middle school library. She told the Board that it has been a good year in the library. Overall circulation to date is 15,262, which surpasses last school year. She added that 3,436 books have been checked out so far this year. She said that a group of 33 students (who had achieved specific goals) went to Barnes & Noble to purchase new books for the library; each student will be recognized as having selected the book by a name plate that will be placed inside each of the books that were purchased. Ms. Neighbors told the Board that she sees 28 classes per week; she added that study halls are very busy. Ms. Neighbors invited Board members to visit the library, take a look at the books, and see what the students are doing.

Connie Holliday: Mrs. Holliday told the Board that she has been in the high school library for 33 years. She added that she is once again presenting them with a “State of the Library” report as is required by the grant received each year from the Secretary of State. That grant provides \$.72 per pupil district wide; the funds are split between buildings accordingly. Mrs. Holliday said that during the first semester, she had 10,836 students in the library; there were also 412 classes held in the library during first semester. She added that the library has been a busy place ... even with the new portable labs. Mrs. Holliday said that overall usage has been good; she is trying to work with the English department to have books available that are being used by their classes. Mrs. Holliday also invited Board members to visit the high school library.

Administrative Team Reports:

Mrs. Binegar: No report submitted. Mrs. Binegar is on maternity leave.

Mrs. Fraase: Report submitted. Mrs. Fraase told the Board that the Elementary School Open House is scheduled for April 15.

Mr. Lamkey: Report submitted. Mr. Lamkey reported to the Board that Maggie Adkins will be moving into an open 5th grade position; she is currently teaching 7th grade. Jenny Mendenhall will be moving into the vacant 7th grade position; Mrs. Mendenhall is currently teaching at the 4th grade level.

Mr. Koerwitz: Report submitted.

Mr. Lamkey: Report submitted. Discussion took place regarding converting the current IT classroom to an area for wrestling practice. As it would be major renovation, more thought needs to be put into this. Dr. Mulligan said that further areas will be looked into to see if there may be a better option. Mrs. Baskett expressed concern about a feeling of no support for the wrestling program and a feeling that it is not a priority. After much conversation, there was a general consensus that at the very least, the IT classroom should be cleaned out to see what the facility has to offer. Mrs. Moore commended Mr. Lamkey for the decision to put dinner and the dance together at the same location for Prom.

Mr. Gum: Report submitted. Mr. Klebe asked Mr. Gum about the “Why Try” program; Mr. Gum said that it is a behavioral support program for all classes. Regarding the upcoming high school musical, Mr. Gum told the Board that the pyrotechnics and flying are being done by professionals. Mr. Klebe said that both the pyrotechnics and flying will be done in a safe manner.

Mr. Wagahoff: Report submitted. Mr. Wagahoff reported that he has been working on scheduling wrestling matches for the 2010-2011 school year. He also said that he is working on filling the 6th and 7th grade girls’ basketball position.

Mr. Geiger: Report submitted. Mrs. Cuffle complimented Mr. Geiger on the middle school office updates. Mr. Geiger told Board members that he will be going out for bid this week on the Mag Lock system at the middle school and cameras at all three buildings.

Dr. Mulligan: Report submitted. Dr. Mulligan handed out a document comparing various fees for area schools. He told the Board that he would come back with a recommendation on student fee increases at the May meeting. Dr. Mulligan told the Board that there is a group of Pre-K parents/supporters who are working on soliciting donations from local businesses, researching grants, reviewing possible student fees; and working on the upcoming Legislative Day. He added that he will keep the Board posted on their progress; they group will meet again on May 3. Dr. Mulligan provided the Board with information on what state and federal revenues have been received to date. The state has currently vouchered \$632,000 to the district, but that money has not actually been paid thus far. Dr. Mulligan said that there is no way we will receive all of that this fiscal year. Additionally, he said that we have only been paid 28% of what is owed to us on grants. There was discussion about the financial outcomes of hosting various athletic tournaments.

Business:

Mr. Klebe reported to the Board that the Sangamon County Sales Tax Resolution full committee will meet on April 13 at District 186. He said there will be a recommendation to put the resolution on the November ballot because of the participation level throughout the county. Mr. Klebe added that the money can only be used for school district facilities and for land acquisition; it cannot be used for educational purposes. Mr. Klebe said that the committee will go for a full 1% tax.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. MOORE TO APPROVE THE INCLUSION OF A 1% SALES TAX RESOLUTION FOR SANGAMON COUNTY ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT; MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. KLEBE, AND ON A VOICE VOTE, THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.

Dr. Mulligan told the Board that the Policy Committee went over the handbook changes that are being presented. Mr. Lamkey said that one major change is to allow students to chew gum at the middle school; another change will be aligning the grading scale to parallel the high school grading scale. Mr. Lamkey added that consideration should also be given to aligning the middle school and high school promotion/graduation ceremonies. Mr. Nonneman expressed concern about revising the grading scale as that appears to be taking Riverton in the opposite direction of our intent. He said holding students to a higher standard is not necessarily a bad thing. Mr. Gum reviewed proposed high school handbook changes. He said that one change would be in bringing the high school and middle school tardy practices in line. After a brief discussion, a recommendation was made to keep the current honor roll system as is.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. MCCLURE TO APPROVE HANDBOOK CHANGES FOR THE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOKS FOR THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR AS PRESENTED AND REVISED; MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MRS. CUFFLE, 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.

Dr. Mulligan explained that with regard to the contract extension with Watts Copy Systems, Carol Watts, Owner, came in with a new contract and extension which would lower the cost of the current contract as a result of the financial hardships being faced by schools throughout

Illinois. Mrs. Watts said it was their intent to reduce their costs in an effort to help schools in dealing with budget deficits.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. MOORE TO APPROVE A CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH WATTS COPY SYSTEMS AT A MONTHLY RATE OF \$2,795; 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.

Mr. Klebe told the Board that as a result of the RFP for a performance contractor, the Board received three proposals: (1) Johnson Controls, (2) Trane, (3) Ameresco. The Building Committee reviewed the proposals and the outcome was based on the scope of the proposal and the actual dollar amounts associated with the bid. The Building Committee felt that the bid received from Johnson Controls was the best bid that was submitted.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. BASKETT TO APPROVE JOHNSON CONTROLS AS THE DISTRICT'S PERFORMANCE CONTRACTOR AND TO APPROVE THE USE OF DOUG SITTON AS THE DISTRICT'S CONSULTANT TO NEGOTIATE THE PERFORMANCE CONTRACT; MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MRS. BASEKTT, 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.

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; MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. KLEBE, 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 8:04PM.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. PATTERSON TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION; MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MCCLURE, AND ON A VOICE VOTE, THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES, AND THE MEETING MOVED BACK INTO OPEN SESSION AT 9:58PM.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. PATTERSON TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION DISMISSING SPECIFIC NON-CERTIFIED STAFF AND REDUCING THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S CONTRACT BY 50%; MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MRS. CUFFLE, AND ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: BASKETT, NO; CUFFLE, YES; KLEBE, NO; MCCLURE, NO; MOORE, NO; NONNEMAN, YES; PATTERSON, YES. MOTION FAILED WITH 3 AYES AND 4 NOS.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. MOORE TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION DISMISSING SPECIFIC NON-CERTIFIED STAFF AND ELIMINATING THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S POSITION; MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. KLEBE, AND ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: BASKETT, YES; CUFFLE, NO; KLEBE, YES; MCCLURE, YES; MOORE, YES; NONNEMAN, NO; PATTERSON, NO. MOTION CARRIED WITH 4 AYES AND 3 NOS.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. CUFFLE TO APPROVE CHRIS MILLER AS THE DISTRICT'S NEGOTIATOR FOR UPCOMING TEACHER CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS (TO BE PAID ON AN HOURLY RATE); 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.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. BASKETT TO APPROVE THE SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION AS PRESENTED; MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MCCLURE, 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.

Announcements and Discussion:

Mr. Klebe told the Board that a Sales Tax Steering Committee meeting will be held on April 13 at the district office for Springfield District 186, at 6:00pm. Dr. Mulligan and the Board agreed to hold the Spring Board Workshop on April 21, at 5:30pm.

Adjournment:

A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MR. PATTERSON; ON A VOICE VOTE, THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES, AND THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:07PM.

Board President

Board Secretary