

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

December 8, 2008

The Bunker Hill Community Unit District #8 School Board of Education met in Regular Session at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, December 8, 2008, in the Library of the Wolf Ridge Education Center. President Rodney Gvillo called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

### *ROLL CALL*

Members Physically Present: Burnet, Gvillo, Owen, Payne, Spickerman, Strohmeier, Vivian, S. Strohmeier

Members Physically Absent: A. Paul

Members Electronically Present: None

Also present: M. Rogers, B. Skertich, D. Daugherty, G. Lievers, D. Allen, C. Mohr, Rebecca Tuchalski, Susan Pollard, Courtney Wood, Lisa Stowell, Jerad Burch, Joan Wood, Paula Enke, Vicky Lievers, Cozette Carlisle, Claraine Dobos, Tracey Willhoit, Wendy Krummelbein, Teresa Belderback, Marissa Wood, Kate Mellenthin

### *PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE*

President Rodney Gvillo asked those present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

### *REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 10, 2008, the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of November 10, 2008, and the minutes of the Building/Transportation Committee Meeting of November 24, 2008 were reviewed. Motion by Strohmeier, seconded by Vivian to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 10, 2008, the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of November 10, 2008, and the minutes of the Building/Transportation Committee Meeting of November 24, 2008. Roll call vote—Vivian, yes; Spickerman, yes; Payne, yes; Strohmeier, yes; Burnet, yes; Owen, yes; Gvillo, yes. Motion carried.

### *BOARD SALUTE*

Mrs. Suzanne Spickerman saluted Mrs. Cheryl Best for her accomplishment of being designated a Library of Congress Ambassador and also saluted Mrs. Clare Adams (Sullivan) for all the wonderful work with the Secret Santa Project for Bunker Hill families and the surrounding area.

President Rodney Gvillo commented Mrs. Jan Cloud's and Mrs. Joan Wood's 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes, as well as Mrs. Rebecca Tuchalski for the Halloween trick or treating safety tips that were aired over the WSMI Radio station.

### *REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE BILLS*

The bills were reviewed. Mrs. Rogers reported there is talk that school districts will not receive the full amount of State funding this year. Discussion followed. Motion by Strohmeier, seconded by Spickerman to accept the bills. Roll call vote—Strohmeier, yes; Payne, yes; Owen, yes; Burnet, yes; Vivian, yes; Spickerman, yes; Gvillo, yes. Motion carried.

### *REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT*

The financial report was reviewed. Discussion followed. Motion by Vivian, seconded by Strohmeier to accept the financial report. Roll call vote—Owen, yes; Burnet, yes; Spickerman, yes; Vivian, yes; Payne, yes; Strohmeier, yes. Gvillo, yes Motion carried.

### *COMMENTS FROM VISITORS*

Mrs. Michelle Mueller, WinSchool/PowerSchool Presentation: Mrs. Michelle Mueller was not present.

Mrs. Cozette Carlisle: Mrs. Carlisle shared reasons why she felt the referendum did not pass. She would like to see more information be given to the community as to how dire the situation is, what the outcome of the situation will be if the referendum doesn't pass again, and how long the students would be in portable classrooms. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Suzanne Spickerman reported PODS are like normal classrooms.

She reported this has nothing to do with the School Board but rather about the community at large. If the voters don't vote for the referendum again, then the majority wins, and PODS would be rented to own or purchase for student classrooms until such time as the State would award us a school construction grant or until a future referendum passes. It is too costly to keep Meissner open as good money is being filtered into a very bad situation. Discussion followed regarding health life safety issues and budget issues. Mrs. Rogers reported school finance consists of 10 accounts of which each account is surrounded by firewalls preventing the transfer of funds between accounts. If there is a surplus in one account, one cannot transfer money to another account in need. Rarely does the State allow a District to transfer money within accounts, but the few times the State has allowed us to transfer funds, the District has taken full advantage of the opportunity. She reported the District is also under PTELL, Property Tax Extension Limitation Law, known as "Tax Caps," that has also hurt school finances. Districts not under PTELL are more able to keep up. Our District is also General State Aid Dependent and last year alone the District lost \$200,000.00 from student absenteeism. Discussion continued.

President Rodney Gvillo reported the Board has been working very hard for three years to inform the community of the need to close the Meissner building. Several community forum meetings were set to inform the public and show the shape of the building. The meetings were not well attended. Articles were placed in the Gazette, the Telegraph, and the South County News. Board Members and Administration went to various civic and city meetings with information. Informational pamphlets were handed out during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, the Fall Festival, and during a canvassing of the town asking for their vote. The bottom line is Meissner is too costly to keep open. Portable classrooms were discussed and will be used when students return in the fall. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Deanna Vivian learned at the School Board Convention that there are districts awarded a State Construction Grant from 2002 that are still waiting for funding.

Our District is on a list for a State Construction Grant but given the present state of affairs, who knows when funding will be made available.

Mrs. Rogers reported the District has fallen into a 40 % severe need status for free and reduced lunches in two of the three schools. Discussion followed regarding the use of styrofoam and plastic utensils versus reusable trays and stainless utensils.

Miss Sydney Strohmeier left at 7:40 P.M.

*ACTION ITEMS*

Adopt Resolution 2009-5—The 2008 Tax Levy Payable in 2009: Motion by Vivian, seconded by Spickerman to Adopt Resolution 2009-5 – The 2008 Tax Levy Payable in 2009 as presented. Roll call vote—Payne, yes; Vivian, yes; Strohmeier, yes; Spickerman, yes; Owen, yes; Burnet, yes; Gvillo, yes. Motion carried.

Authorize WinSchool/PowerSchool Upgrade: Since Mrs. Mueller was unable to attend the meeting, Mr. Skertich reported WinSchool is the District’s current student management database program that runs all student records, demographics, attendance, grades, scheduling, and detailed reporting. WinSchool was bought out by Pearson and will not offer technical support after August of 2010. The company has offered a loyalty incentive to current customers to upgrade to PowerSchool. Mr. Skertich, Mr. Daugherty, Mrs. Mueller, Mrs. Zipprich, and the secretaries viewed the upgrade and were very pleased with the program. The total commitment cost is \$13,270.00 of which \$5,000.00 would be spent as a down payment and the balance due July 1, 2009. Discussion followed. Mr. Skertich feels the new program is phenomenal and is a must. Discussion followed. Motion by Spickerman, seconded by Vivian to Authorize the WinSchool/PowerSchool Upgrade for a cost of \$13,270.00 as presented. Roll call vote—Spickerman, yes; Owen, yes; Burnet, yes; Payne, yes; Strohmeier, yes; Vivian, yes; Gvillo, yes. Motion carried.

Approve the Transportation Agreement: A Transportation Agreement for transportation of students safely to day care centers for the 2009-2010 school year is ready for approval. Discussion followed. Mr. Jon Payne reported day cares would have to reapply each year. Motion by Strohmeier, seconded by Owen to Approve the Transportation Agreement for Transporting Students to Day Care Centers for the 2009-2010 school year as presented. Roll call vote—Burnet, yes; Strohmeier, yes; Vivian, yes; Owen, yes; Spickerman, yes; Payne, yes; Gvillo, yes. Motion carried.

Certify the Votes from the Referendum Question of the November 4, 2008 General Election: President Rodney Gvillo reported the results of the Referendum Question from the General Election of November 4, 2008 is as follows:

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>PASSED/FAILED</u>
Macoupin	1024	1038	
Madison	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1028</b>	<b>1043</b>	<b>FAILED</b>

Mrs. Rogers reported a recount on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, showed the referendum question to have failed with a count of 1035 No Votes to 1022 Yes Votes. Mrs. Michelle Zippay, Macoupin County Clerk, told Mrs. Rogers to certify the election vote tally above not the recount vote tally. Mrs. Rogers thanked Mrs. Zippay for working with the District during the recount process and for being very cordial.

Referendum Question for the April 7, 2009 Election: Discussion followed regarding placing the same referendum question before the people for the April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 General Election.

Mrs. Suzanne Spickerman reported the Board members and the Administration has worked long hours to get to this point. If anyone had a question to address, her doors are always open for discussion. Motion by Spickerman, seconded by Strohmeier to Place the Referendum Question on the April 7, 2009 Election Ballot as presented. Roll call vote—Strohmeier, yes; Payne, yes; Owen, yes; Burnet, yes; Vivian, yes; Spickerman, yes; Gvillo, yes. Motion carried.

Approve Closing of the Meissner Building for the 2009-2010 School Year: Mrs. Rogers handed out information regarding costs of Meissner, comparison statistics of total students, cost per student, cost per day, cost per day/per student, and other District statistics. Discussion followed regarding closing the Meissner building due to continually deteriorating conditions and declining student enrollment. Discussion followed.

Mr. Jon Payne reported portable classrooms are more cost effective and a temporary solution for possibly one year, two years, or beyond depending on whether the referendum passes or the District waits for another State Construction Grant. They would be needed for a while even if the referendum would pass a second time.

Mrs. Suzanne Spickerman reported portable buildings were on display at the School Board Convention. Once you are inside the building, portable classrooms look exactly like regular classrooms and are an extension of the building. They are well lighted, have a dropped ceiling, and a restroom inside. You do not know the difference.

Mr. Tim Burnet reported having attended 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in a portable building. The room was cozy and much quieter than a regular classroom. He has no doubt that the principals will monitor the students and keep the students safe while moving from one building to the other. Discussion showed the Meissner name will be preserved as well as various items brought over to the Wolf Ridge campus to preserve Meissner's history. Motion by Strohmeier, seconded by Vivian to Close the Meissner Building for the 2009-2010 School Year and move those students to the Wolf Ridge Education Center. Roll call vote—Owen, yes; Burnet, yes; Spickerman, yes; Vivian, yes; Payne, yes; Strohmeier, yes; Gvillo, yes. Motion carried.

Set Date/Time for a Board Retreat: A Board Retreat is set for 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in the Library of the Wolf Ridge Education Center.

Set Hearing Date/Time for a Tuition Student Issue: Mrs. Rogers reported the District is getting paperwork together for a waiver for a Tuition Student Issue. Discussion followed.

A Public Hearing is set for 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 for open discussion of a Tuition Student Waiver followed by a Special Board Meeting set for 5:10 pm. to adopt the Tuition Student Waiver.

Approve the District's Health Insurance Plan for the 2008-2009 School Year Effective January 1, 2009: The Health Insurance Plan was voted upon and is ready for approval. Motion by Vivian, seconded by Strohmeier to approve the District's Health Insurance Plan for the 2008-2009 School Year Effective January 1, 2009. Roll call vote—Spickerman, yes; Owen, yes; Burnet, yes; Payne, yes; Strohmeier, yes; Vivian, yes; Gvillo, yes. Motion carried.

At this time "Information Items" would be discussed.

#### *INFORMATION ITEMS*

Mrs. Marg Rogers: Mrs. Rogers reported Mr. Ron Ryan wanted to thank everyone for allowing him to teach math at the high school during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. She thanked him and wished him much success in his retirement.

Mrs. Rogers reported Representative Roger Eddy, a Representative from Hutsonville, feels the State is only going to fund schools at 80 % of what was promised. The State is over \$3 billion in debt and he cautioned schools to be very conservative in spending.

Mr. Brad Skertich: Mr. Skertich reported in January the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade physical education classes would learn about a sex education program sponsored by the Regional Office of Education. He commended the 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys for winning the Consolation Championship in the Staunton Tournament. He reported the K-8 RtI team is working on the RtI Plan due to the ISBE by January 1<sup>st</sup>. He reported the teachers have done a great job making sure students are busy and focused resulting in fewer discipline problems and thanked Mrs. Lori Schmidt and the Junior High Student Council for distributing complete Thanksgiving Dinners to 6 needy families. He also thanked Clare Sullivan and the High School Student Council for making sure children in need within the Bunker Hill area has a wonderful Christmas. Their hard work is greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Suzanne Spickerman also reported Clare Sullivan was approached by Macoupin County as other children are in need in the surrounding area. Clare brought a list of children to Spickerman Hardware in hopes that other community members would help sponsor a child in need to have a good Christmas.

President Rodney Gvillo thanked Mr. Skertich and the teachers of our District, as the ISAT test scores are the highest in Macoupin County for two of the past three years. The teachers should be patted on the back for their efforts and accomplishments.

Mr. Doug Daugherty: Mr. Daugherty reported the Student Council has done a wonderful job again this year gathering money for the Secret Santa Project. The students will go shopping to purchase toys and clothing. He received many compliments from the community and complimented the custodians on how clean the high school looked for the South Central Conference.

He reported the Administration is looking into going back to a traditional schedule versus a modified block schedule for next year. Teacher and student input will be considered and information will be brought forth next month for a recommendation.

Miss Sydney Strohmeier: Miss Sydney Strohmeier was not present. President Rodney Gvillo read her report.

Miss Abigail Paul: Miss Abigail Paul was not present as she was playing basketball.

Mrs. Shelle Wuellner: Mrs. Wuellner reported on breakfast and lunch total figures compared to last year at this time.

Mr. Greg Lievers: Mr. Lievers reported having repaired three steam pipe leaks at Meissner and thermostat controls for heaters. Fuel costs should be lower due to lowered prices at the pump.

#### Committees

Policy – A Policy Committee Meeting will be set in January.

Curriculum – Nothing at this time.

Building/Transportation – Nothing at this time.

Athletic – Nothing at this time.

Special Education – Nothing at this time.

Education Foundation – Mr. Keith Strohmeier reported the Education Foundation is planning a Brass Door Pork Chop Dinner for February 22, 2009.

#### Personnel

Personnel – May Require Executive Session per Section 2 of the Open Meetings Act as Amended by P.A. 88-621: Motion by Vivian, seconded by Strohmeier to go into Executive Session at 8:33 P.M. to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body: 1.) Personnel – a. Approve Maternity Leave Requests; b. Dismiss Volunteer Coach; and c. Dismiss Staffing Needs. Roll call vote—Burnet, yes; Strohmeier, yes; Vivian, yes; Owen, yes; Spickerman, yes; Payne, yes; Gvillo, yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Tim Burnet left at 9:18 p.m

Motion by Vivian, seconded by Strohmeier to return to Regular Session at 9:35 p.m. Roll call vote—Vivian, yes; Spickerman, yes; Payne, yes; Strohmeier, yes; Owen, yes; Gvillo, yes. Motion carried.

Approve Maternity Leave Requests: Motion by Spickerman, seconded by Strohmeier to approve the Maternity Leave Request for Monica McGill for the 2008-2009 School Year. Roll call vote—Strohmeier, yes; Payne, yes; Owen, yes; Vivian, yes; Spickerman, yes; Gvillo, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Vivian, seconded by Owen to approve the Maternity Leave Request for Jessica Green for the 2008-2009 School Year. Roll call vote—Owen, yes; Spickerman, yes; Vivian, yes; Payne, yes; Strohmeier, yes; Gvillo, yes. Motion carried.

Dismiss Volunteer Coach: Motion by Vivian, seconded by Strohmeier to Dismiss Katie Mellenthin as Volunteer Coach for Dance for the 2008-2009 School Year. Roll call vote—Payne, yes; Vivian, yes; Strohmeier, yes; Spickerman, yes; Owen, yes; Gvillo, yes. Motion carried.

Discuss Staffing Needs: No action.

*GENERAL DIALOGUE*

Mr. Jon Payne reported presently 57 debit cards were issued with the Minuteman Logo.

President Rodney Gvillo read a thank you note from Kayellen Brooks and family for the lovely plant sent in remembrance of her mother.

*ADJOURN*

Motion by Vivian, seconded by Strohmeier to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 P.M. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Rodney Gvillo  
President

Carole Mohr  
Secretary