

BOARD OF EDUCATION
The School District of Independence

10563

The Board of Education met for a Tax Rate Levy Hearing on Tuesday, August 14, 2012, at 5:45 p.m. in the Board Room at the Board of Education Office, 201 North Forest Avenue, Independence, Missouri.

Members Present: Mrs. Ann Franklin, President
Dr. Matt Mallinson, Vice President
Mrs. Jill Esry Treasurer
Mrs. Jana Waits, Director
Mr. Ken Johnston, Director
Mrs. Denise Fears, Director
Mr. Greg Finke, Director

Also Present: Dr. Jim Hinson, Superintendent
Dr. Dred Scott, Dr. Dale Herl, Dr. Jason Dial, Dr. Beth Savidge, Dr. Linda Gray Smith, Mrs. Cindy Grant, Dr. Gloria Stephenson, Ms. Cindy Konomos, Mrs. Sherry Potter, Mr. Bob Robinson, Mrs. Nancy Lewis, Ms. Kelly Evenson of *The Examiner*, INEA, PTA, interested patrons and staff, and Mrs. Annette Miller.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Ann Franklin, and minutes of the meeting were recorded by the secretary, Mrs. Annette Miller.

Dr. Hinson asked Dr. Herl to review the proposed Tax Rate Levy for the 2012-2013 school year.

Dr. Herl explained that the Debt Service Fund increased nine cents this year – from \$1.15 to \$1.24. This was due to the Assessed Valuation decreasing over the last year from \$931,212,531 to \$926,241,650 which is nearly \$5,000,000 difference. The tax rate is based on preliminary Assessed Valuation information that is provided by the Jackson County Clerk's office. In the last several years, the Assessed Valuation has decreased even more when the District receives the actual 2012 Assessed Valuation totals in August.

Dr. Herl said the proposed Tax Rate Levy amounts: Operating Fund is \$4.43 per \$100 Assessed Valuation and Debt Service is \$1.24 per \$100 Assessed Valuation. The total Tax Rate Levy for the 2012-2013 school year is \$5.67 per \$100 Assessed Valuation. The District has submitted the Tax Rate Summary to the State Auditor's office, using their State forms, and they have approved the proposed Tax Rate Levy.

The Board of Education agreed that the District continues to do a great job educating students while receiving less revenue – "doing more with less."

There being no further information, the hearing was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
The School District of Independence

The Board of Education met in regular session Tuesday, August 14, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Board of Education Office, 201 North Forest Avenue, Independence, Missouri.

Members Present: Mrs. Ann Franklin, President
Dr. Matt Mallinson, Vice President
Mrs. Jill Esry, Treasurer
Mrs. Jana Waits, Director
Mr. Ken Johnston, Director
Mrs. Denise Fears, Director
Mr. Greg Finke, Director

Also Present: Dr. Jim Hinson, Superintendent
Dr. Dred Scott, Dr. Dale Herl, Dr. Jason Dial, Dr. Beth Savidge, Dr. Linda Gray Smith, Mrs. Cindy Grant, Dr. Gloria Stephenson, Ms. Cindy Konomos, Mrs. Sherry Potter, Mr. Bob Robinson, Mrs. Nancy Lewis, Ms. Kelly Evenson of *The Examiner*, INEA, PTA, interested patrons and staff, and Mrs. Annette Miller.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Ann Franklin, and minutes of the meeting were recorded by the secretary, Mrs. Annette Miller.

Jana Waits made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2012 meeting as printed. The motion was seconded by Ken Johnston and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Denise Fears made the motion to approve the August 14, 2012 Consent Agenda as printed.

1. Minutes of July 10, 2012
2. Approval of July 10, 2012 List of Bills totaling \$5,841,718.94
3. Personnel Recommendation #3
 - A. Employment of Certificated Staff for the 2012-2013 School Year
 1. Michael Kelly, In-School Suspension Teacher
 2. Angela Sorenson, Part Time Counselor
 3. Matthew Tracy, Social Studies Teacher
 4. Debbie Frobase, Business Teacher
 5. Patricia Grasiniski, Title 1 Early Childhood Teacher

The motion was seconded by Jill Esry and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Hinson reported that the School District has received preliminary information indicating the District has again received a perfect score on the Annual Performance Report (14 out of 14 standards met) from DESE. Missouri has received approval of the waiver for NCLB requirement. School starts tomorrow, Wednesday, August 15, and the enrollment appears to be significantly higher – possibly by 200-250 students. The District is seeing a very positive trend in enrollment.

Amendment 2 passed was passed in the August election. Some litigation is already happening due to this legislation and portions of it will be tied up in Court so we will have to wait and see how it impacts our School District. The consensus was that the moment of silence at the beginning of the Board of Education meetings be replaced with highlights showcasing individuals, organizations, or programs that are making a difference in the lives of our kids.

A video on "Grandpa Bill," CharacterPlus person for the month was shared. Mr. Bill Newton decided he wanted to do something significant to impact lives of children after his wife passed away. He volunteers at Fairmount Elementary and Nowlin Middle Schools. The first grade teachers at Fairmount enjoy his visits as he works and plays with first, third, and fifth graders. He also serves as a mentor for a student at Nowlin. Students need a positive person in their life and "Grandpa Bill" is that person for CharacterPlus this quarter.

The second video shared was on Health and Wellness. In the video, Dr. Herl states that for a one time occurrence, employees will not have to make a health insurance payment for September 2012 which will make a difference in your paycheck. The Central Office on-site Health Clinic is scheduled to open in October 2012. This will allow employees and family members on the District's insurance plan to get in-and get out quickly when needing medical attention. The video also show employees using the Wellness Center. Two employees talked about how they had

lost a total of 145 pounds between them using the exercise equipment and changing their eating habits. Employees were reminded that Aug 6-31, 2012 is Open Enrollment where employees can select options for health care and other benefits.

Several items were presented for the Board of Education's consideration under New Business.

Dr. Hinson asked Mr. Keith Henry, Director of Transportation, to share information with the Board of Education. Mr. Henry introduced members of the fleet maintenance team that were in attendance. Mr. Henry said he was very pleased to say that the annual bus inspection by the State Highway Patrol was conducted and the District received a 95% score. The State average is 88%. He displayed a plaque showing this as the 15th year in a row that the District has received the "Exemplary School Bus Maintenance Award." Part of refurbishing the buses this year consisted of buffing off the oxidation as buses are recognized by their bright yellow color and the reflective tape was replaced. Removing the oxidation may extend the life of the buses by 7-8 years. To replace a bus, it costs the District approximately \$110,000. The Board expressed their appreciation to the Transportation employees for making their department a shining star in our District.

Dr. Hinson reviewed information that was shared at the 2012-2013 Tax Rate Public Hearing prior to this meeting regarding the assessed valuation information received from the Jackson County Assessment Department and the Missouri State Auditor's Office. Based on this information, the Administration is recommending the following:

\$4.43 Incidental Fund

\$1.24 Debt Service Fund

\$5.67 Total for 2012-2013 Tax Rate Levy

Jana Waits made the motion that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent, of his designee, to set the Tax Rate Levy at \$5.67 with the Operating Tax Levy of \$4.43 and Debt Service of \$1.24 for the 2012-2013 school year and to authorize the Superintendent, or his designee, to submit the Estimate of Required Local Taxes to the Jackson County Clerk's office. The motion was seconded by Greg Finke and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Matt Mallinson made the motion that the Board of Education approves the low bid for gym equipment at the new West Elementary School site from Sportscom at a cost of \$28,162.00. Denise Fears seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Herl stated that the District participated in a voluntary national certification program through The HealthierUS School Challenge. The judging is based on participation in the national lunch program which includes both eating and physical activity. Seventeen of the District's elementary schools qualified this year for the HealthierUS Challenge Award (Thomas Hart Benton, Blackburn, Bryant, Fairmount, Glendale, Korte, John W. Luff, Mill Creek, Christian Ott, Procter, Randall, Santa Fe Trail, Spring Branch, Sugar Creek, Sycamore Hills, Three Trails, and William Southern). Jennifer Walker shared information on a project with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation in which the District has participated for the last two years. The project considers student health and wellness factors. This year 15 of the District's schools will be recognized and receive the Bronze Award. It is significant that our School District has this many schools receiving national recognition. The Board of Education appreciated hearing this good news about achievements the District continues to receive.

Dr. Hinson discussed the conservation of natural resources and how the District can conserve on utility costs (water, electricity, gas, etc.). By minimizing utility costs, the District will be conserving our natural resources which are very important. The Administration is recommending approval of a Resolution to Support Energy Conservation. This focus will get the staff and students involved with conserving energy. This is the second phase that will work with what the District has done mechanically. The Administration is looking at costs that are controllable. This plan will work with rewarding school building budgets, how employees can help, and how the employees can also be rewarded through a positive financial reward. Recycling is another major effort in the District and the community plays a great part in this program. This is another way to save the District money while conserving natural resources.

The motion was made by Ken Johnston, second by Jill Esry, that the Board of Education approves the attached Energy Conservation Resolution to conserve energy and natural resources through sound financial management in the Independence School District. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education. (Page 10566)

ENERGY CONSERVATION RESOLUTION

The Independence School District Board of Education believes it is our responsibility to ensure that all reasonable efforts are made to conserve energy and natural resources through sound financial management.

Whereas, the Board of Education recognizes the importance of an energy conservation program in the Independence School District; and

Whereas, the Board of Education entrusts that the Independence School District become an institutional leader in energy conservation; and

Whereas, the Board of Education encourages each school campus to designate an Administrator to assist in providing feedback on facility energy conservation audits; and

Whereas, the Board of Education supports the concept that each school campus will make a positive contribution to maximize energy conservation in their building; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent, or his designee, to develop and implement short and long range strategies to maximize energy conservation in the Independence School District.

*Ann Franklin, President
Independence School District
Board of Education*

Mr. Robinson's status report on Bond Issue projects included: Little Blue Elementary School opens tomorrow for the first time; the ADA lift work at Jim Bridger Middle School should be completed this week; the Ennovation Center Health Clinic' interior work is done, drywall installation will begin this week and it is scheduled for completion on October 1st; John W. Luff's kitchen remodeling project should be completed this week also; a lot of infrastructure work is going on at the new West Elementary site - piers are in, underground utilities are in, having to put moisture into the ground before foundation slabs are poured due to the drought, the date for completion and opening in July 2013 is still on target.

There being no further information to come before the Board; Greg Finke made the motion, second by Jana Waits, to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session for legal, real estate, and personnel issues at 6:40 p.m. The motion was approved as follows:

Ayes: Ann Franklin
Matt Mallinson
Jill Esry
Jana Waits
Ken Johnston
Denise Fears
Greg Finke

Absent:

Secretary

President