

BOARD OF EDUCATION
The School District of Independence

The Board of Education met in regular session Tuesday, February 12, 2013, 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. Linda Gray Smith, 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. Mrs. Franklin welcomed and recognized Michelle Roach from MCC-Blue River Campus and students from Angie Zarillo's Leadership Class from Truman High School.

Greg Finke made the motion to approve the February 12, 2013 Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ken Johnston and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Hinson stated the Consent Agenda consisted of the list of Bills for February totaling \$9,546,849.73 and four approvals to let bids for work at the Bridger Aquatic Center; District trash, fire extinguisher, and elevator service for the 2013-2014 year; boys P.E. locker replacement at Van Horn High School; and preliminary budgeting/ordering of supplies for 2013-2014.

Denise Fears made the motion to approve the February 12, 2013 Consent Agenda as printed.

1. Minutes of January 8, 2013
2. Approval of February 12, 2012 List of Bills totaling \$9,546,894.73
3. Personnel Recommendation #14
 - A. Request to Assume Retirement Status Effective End of 3012-2013 School Year
 1. Larry Ewald, English/William Chrisman High School
 2. Cindy Jones, Second Grade/Glendale Elementary School
 3. David Ralston, Music Appreciation/William Chrisman High School
 4. Karen Stegmann, Special Services/Jim Bridger Middle School
 5. Suzanne Crews, Math/Truman High School
 - B. Resignation of Certificated Staff Effective End of 2012-2013 School Year
 1. Kenneth Guillotte, Science/William Chrisman High School
 2. Teresa Dwyer, Second Grade/Thomas Hart Benton Elementary School
 - C. Employment of Certificated Staff for the 2013-2014 School Year
 1. Erin Beck, Physical Education Teacher
 2. Cindy Beck, Middle School Math Teacher
 3. Kelli Webb, Teacher
 4. Avanti McDowell, Special Education Teacher
4. Approval to Let Bids to Remove and Replace Portland Cement Plaster, Metal Stud Framing, Insulation and Windows at South and East Elevations and Replace with New Metal panel Wall System at Bridger Aquatic Center.
5. Approval to Let Bids for District Trash Service, Fire Extinguisher Service and Elevator Service for the 2013-2014 School Year.
6. Approval to Let Bids for Locker Replacement in the Boys' PE Locker Room and the Boys' Varsity Locker Room at Van Horn High School.
7. Approval of Preliminary Budget for Ordering of 2013-2014 School Year Supplies.

The motion was seconded by Jana Waits and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

The CharacterPlus video for this month featured Mrs. Mary Lippe. She collects Box Top coupons for Christian Ott Elementary School. This is her fourth year and her goal is to reach \$3,000 this year. The school currently uses

their funds for technology items/equipment. Mrs. Lippe believes that every school should be involved in collecting these Box Top coupons as the program benefits kids. Mrs. Lippe is the Community Member of Character for February. Dr. Hinson presented her with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of her work to help students.

Mrs. Lewis announced that Christian Ott Elementary School and William Chrisman High School have been selected as State Schools of Character. -This is the first time that schools on the western side of the state have been recognized. They receive this recognition for three years and are now being considered for the National School of Character recognition. Mrs. Lewis accredited Christian Ott and William Chrisman's designation to the leadership at each of the schools.

Dr. Hinson reported that the District is reviewing how the School District disseminates/communicates District information and decisions. He is looking at how the District communicates with community members and how the District can better listen to patrons comments. A group will be formed to review the communication aspect and volunteers will be needed.

Dr. Hinson reminded the Board of Education of The School District of Independence Foundation, Inc.'s Chocolate Bliss Breakfast scheduled for 7:00 a.m. tomorrow, February 13, at the Arrowhead Club.

Dr. Hinson asked Dr. Dred Scott to share news concerning a District tragedy that occurred on Monday. Dr. Scott said that he regrets having to inform the Board of Education of Mrs. Tilia Thomas' death. She was at work at Three Trails Elementary School Monday morning when she began to feel ill and had to be taken by ambulance to the hospital. Dr. Scott said that the District has had mental health teams on site at Three Trails to provide support for the students and staff. He said that Mr. Streich, principal, is doing a wonderful job with the staff also. Parent/Teacher Conferences for Monday and Tuesday were cancelled and will resume on Wednesday. Dr. Scott shared a picture of Mrs. Thomas and said she was a mother of two children. The District will continue to support the family and school through this brevity of life situation.

Several new Business Items were presented for the Board of Education's consideration.

Dr. Hinson asked Dr. Herl to review the Bond Refinancing proposal. Dr. Herl then introduced Dick Bartow with George K Baum and Associates. Mr. Bartow said it was a pleasure to bring some really great news to the Board of Education and School District. He reviewed information on the process for refinancing the remaining 2003 Bonds and said that it will save District tax payers approximately \$1.7 million. He said that 10 years ago the District had sold \$41 million in General Obligation Bonds and through the previous Bond refinancing, the District has saved tax payers about \$3.8 million. He reviewed pages 1-7 of the Bond Refinancing Proposal (\$6,905,000 at 1.69% rate) with the Board of Education. Mr. Bartow said they will continue to monitor other Bond Issues for refinancing possibilities to continue saving the District and taxpayers money.

Jana Waits made the motion that the Board of Education approves the General Obligation Refunding Bonds of \$6,905,000 as presented. The motion was seconded by Greg Finke and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Herl presented information on the proposed adjustment of elementary school boundaries due to the new Abraham Mallinson Elementary School that will open for the 2013-2014 school year. Dr. Herl explained that grades 2-5 will attend Abraham Mallinson Elementary School and grades PreK-1st grades will attend Sugar Creek Elementary School. He showed a video and explained that the boundary adjustments will allow for smaller class sizes by eliminating crowding in the current schools in Western Independence. This adjustment will also allow for future growth at the schools. The school populations will follow the same procedure used when Little Blue Elementary School opened this year by allowing students to remain at their current school (grandfathered) but that parents will need to provide their own transportation.

Following this discussion, Ken Johnston made the motion that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent, or his designee, to set changes for elementary school attendance boundaries for the 2013-2014 school year. The motion was seconded by Denise Fears and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Several other New Business issues were presented for the Board of Education's approval.

Jill Esry made the motion that the Board of Education approves the bid from K.C. Master Company for pier work and mud jacking at Blackburn Elementary, Christian Ott Elementary, William Southern Elementary and Santa Fe

Trail Annex Schools for a cost of \$143,341.00. The motion was seconded by Jana Waits and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Matt Mallinson made the motion that the Board of Education accepts the bid from Lankford Enterprises, Inc. for the installation of a wood gym floor at Abraham Mallinson Elementary School for a cost of \$60,401.00. The motion was seconded by Ken Johnston and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Herl reviewed the FY13 Budget Amendment and explained that it is necessary to adjust the Budget due to changes in revenues and expenditures that affect District grants and programs.

Denise Fears made the motion that the Board of Education approves the Budget Adjustments as presented for the FY 2013 Budget. Jana Waits seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board of Education. (Page 10626)

Dr. Hinson stated that a request to add a name to the Sugar Creek Elementary School sign has been received. This was only an informational item and no action will be taken at this time

Dr. Herl explained that the Middle School Alignment committee, composed of Board of Education members, elementary, middle and high parents, teachers, A.D.s and community people, is looking at how the structure of the middle schools operate. They are investigating better ways to align elementary schools to middle schools and to high schools. The District will be conducting a survey on this issue. Mr. Todd Reinhardt, committee member, shared information from meetings held in December and January and a site visit of a middle school alignment program. The committee's mission is to give students the best program. He explained the pros/cons of a Sixth Grade Center and said the decision will be based on what is best for kids. The information is being shared with the public as committee members talk with people and a survey is being conducted throughout the community. The alignment change would be for all 6th grade students to attend Jim Bridger Middle School. George Caleb Bingham would be a 7th-8th grade center whose students would then attend William Chrisman High School and Pioneer Ridge would be a 7th-8th grade center whose students would then attend Truman High School. This pattern is similar to how Nowlin students attend Van Horn High School. Nowlin Middle School would have a separate 6th grade center by housing all sixth graders on the third floor which would then allow them to also have a 7th-8th grade center. Everyone knows that change can be hard but the community is very supportive of this alignment change. More information will be shared as the community survey is completed.

Dr. Hinson reported that he attended the House Education legislative meeting last week in Jefferson City. One of the topics of discussion concerned assigning a letter grade to each school in the state. Several of the Board members will attend the MSBA Legislative Day on Tuesday, February 19th. Senate Bill 7 was passed by the Senate which allows the state to take over a failing school district immediately and eliminates the 2 year improvement time frame. He reported receiving a flurry of Fiscal Note requests in the last few days. The Independence Chamber of Commerce has scheduled a Legislative update for Friday, February 15, at 8 a.m. Currently, more than 100 Bills have already been filed that would pertain to education. He stated that his visit with our local elected officials last week was good and they all seemed very supportive of public education.

Bob Robinson updated the Board of Education on remaining Bond Issue projects. He stated that the contracts for roof replacements have been signed and he is working with the contractors on scheduling the work at the different schools. Bids for mud jacking and pier work at four school sites were presented for the Board's approval at this meeting. Work at the Abraham Mallinson Elementary School is progressing as follows: the roof work is complete and the building is now dried in so interior work can be done; permanent power has been connected to the transformer and power should be in the building the middle of February; masonry should be completed by the end of February depending on the weather; natural gas is being connected to the roof top unites and they should start up the middle of February when this will allow interior spaces to be conditioned for finish work to begin; water will be turned on when the building is conditioned to prevent freezing; fire sprinkler mains and branches are being installed in the gym; and completion of the building is still on schedule for July 2013.

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 6:58 p.m. The motion was approved as follows:

Budget Amendments 13.Xls - BOE - February

Fund	Revenue	Expenditures	Change
10 Incidental	(1,082,275.00)	588,282.36	(1,670,557.36)
13 Textbook	-	15,260.42	(15,260.42)
15 Scholarship	-	-	-
16 Food Service	-	-	-
17 Activity	-	-	-
18 Dental Reimbursement	-	-	-
19 21st Century	-	-	-
General - total	(1,082,275.00)	603,542.78	(1,685,817.78)
20 Special Revenue	349,091.09	123,676.91	225,414.18
30 Debt Service	-	-	-
40 Capital Projects	1,163,615.00	1,128,190.46	35,424.54
41 QSCB Series 2010B	-	-	-
42 GO Series 2010A	-	-	-
43 GO Series 2011A	-	-	-
44 GO Series 2010C	-	2,400,000.00	(2,400,000.00)
	430,431.09	4,255,410.15	(3,824,979.06)

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

Absent:

C. Annette Miller

Secretary

Ann J. Franklin

President