

The Board of Education met in regular session Tuesday, March 8, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. in the Large Classroom at George Caleb Bingham Middle School, 1716 South Speck Road, Independence, Missouri.

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

Also Present: Dr. Jim Hinson, Superintendent
Mr. Dred Scott, Mr. Dale Herl, Dr. Gary Hogue, Mr. Jason Dial, Dr. Beth Savidge, Mrs. Cindy Konomos, Dr. Gloria Stephenson, Mrs. Nancy Lewis, Mr. Keith Henry, Mr. Bob Robinson, INEA, PTA, interested patrons and staff, and Mrs. Annette Miller.

A moment of silence was observed for children that have been victims of child abuse or neglect.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Ken Johnston, and minutes of the meeting were recorded by the secretary, Mrs. Annette Miller. Mr. Johnston welcomed students from Metropolitan Community College and Blue River College that were in attendance. He also welcomed students from Pam Diecidue's Becoming a Teacher class at William Chrisman High School.

Ann Franklin made the motion to approve the March 8, 2011 Agenda and all items as presented. The motion was seconded by Blake Roberson and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Denise Fears made the motion to approve the March 8, 2011 Consent Agenda as printed.

Minutes – February 8, 2010.

Approval of March 8, 2011 List of Bills totaling \$12,916,361.99

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

Dr. Hinson stated that District offices have been moved to the new Central Office location, our permanent home, from the Noland Road address. Contractors are still working on several areas in the building and there is a lot of clean up that needs to be done. The Facility Department has been phenomenal. Bob Robinson's staff has been very accommodating in responding to employees' requests regarding location of items in their offices. An Open House will be scheduled in a few weeks for the community.

Dr. Hinson also mentioned that Debby Lewis, secretary for The School District of Independence Foundation, passed away due to a heart condition. Mrs. Lewis had worked in the Foundation office since 1996. The District truly appreciated everything that Debby did for students and the District during her tenure.

Dr. Hinson introduced Keith Henry, Director of Transportation. Mr. Henry complimented his staff and how they had made his transition into the District a success. He introduced the staff members in attendance. The maintenance staff is responsible for 154 buses, 104 regular ones and 50 smaller ones. On an average, 9,100 students are transported approximately 9,000 miles daily which equals 1.9 million miles a year. The Transportation Department has 195 employees and two administrators. The Missouri State Highway Patrol just completed the annual inspection, bumper to bumper, of each District bus. The District received a 98% rating for the inspection this year and the Fleet Excellence award will be posted on each bus next year. The buses use approximately 1,200 gallons of diesel fuel per day and 300,000 gallons per year. In 1999 it was 52 cents per gallon for diesel fuel and now it costs \$3.38 per gallon. Mr. Henry said their motto is "Go green - ride yellow" and that students are 13% safer riding in buses to and from school. The Board of Education complimented Mr. Henry and the Transportation staff for the outstanding job they do safely transporting students throughout the year.

Dr. Hinson stated that the District is not adjusting the calendar tonight due to the possibility of more inclement weather. The District's Calendar Committee sets the school calendar each year and missed days are made up at the end of the school year. The District does not anticipate the Legislature doing anything this year to forgive missed school days for districts throughout the State. The District currently has missed nine days and hope that no more inclement weather days occur. A recommendation that the school calendar be adjusted will be presented at the April 12 Board of Education meeting.

Dr. Hinson shared that ITEA and IESP had the opportunity prior to February 1st to submit proposals for the 2011 Negotiation process as stated in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The District did not receive proposals from ITEA and IESP until February 7th. Dr. Hinson did say that out of respect to the District employees, he is recommending meeting with ITEA and IESP representatives relative to their proposals.

Ann Franklin made the motion, second by Jana Waits, that the Board of Education approves the 2011 Negotiation Team meeting with ITEA and IESP regarding the proposals they submitted. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Bob Robinson reported that the list of Bond projects is getting smaller as many of improvements/renovations are or will soon be completed. Thomas Hart Benton: still having some problems with the contractor but it should be completed soon although the asphalt and hand rails are behind schedule. Mill Creek: an addition of two classrooms will happen this summer. Nowlin Middle School: the office renovation, new drop ceilings, and restroom renovations are finished. Truman High School: the gymnasium should be completed by March 24 and the new Band Room is finished and being used; and plans will come to the Board of Education in April for the parking area between Truman High School and the Gaslight Shopping Center. East elementary school: the grading work was going great until about eight weeks ago when the weather started changing. Independence Regional Ennovation Center: all Central Office staff have been moved into B1, 1st, and 2nd floor offices; the Board Room still needs to be finished as well as some open areas. Hopefully, the Board Room will be finished and available for the May meeting. Dr. Hinson and the Board of Education commended Mr. Robinson and his crews for all of their hard work involved with the recent relocation of Central Office.

Dr. Hinson stated that Spring Break starts Friday for the State Legislature. He said there is a lot going on right now with the Legislature. He discussed: what it costs if a bill becomes law; still receiving numerous fiscal notes and sending responses as to the effect on the School District; and the myriad of bills involving which ones made it out of committee meeting and to the floor of the House and then on to the Senate and what the Governor will do with some of the bills. A teacher tenure bill was introduced which the district opposes. There were three proposals on the Foundation Formula and all three would have different financial impact on the District. He said it is hard to gauge what the Senate is going to do on some of these bills. Currently, the House and Senate are controlled by the same political party. Dr. Hinson and several of the Board members are watching the new bills to see if any would create additional revenue for school districts but most of the new bills are taking away or reducing revenue. Dr. Hinson said the he does not see anything really happening with the proposed cigarette tax increase or internet sales tax. He cautioned the Board members to watch omnibus bills carefully as this is when things get thrown together. Dr. Hinson explained how the Assessed Valuation calculation affects the School District to the students in the Becoming a Teacher Class. He said that the County Assessor determines the amount of tax that will be placed on homes and businesses. Dr. Hinson said it should be based on property selling amount but the process is now a blanket reduction throughout the District. The Assessed Valuation says that property is worth less which is not good for the property owners as the property value can be less than what people actually owe on their homes or businesses. The County Assessor has a tremendous amount of power. The school districts are requesting that the County follow the state law and statute in regards to assessing property.

There being no further information to come before the Board, Jill Esry made the motion, second by Jana Waits to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session for legal, real estate, and personnel issues at 6:38 p.m. The motion was approved as follows:

Ayes: Ken Johnston
Ann Franklin
Jana Waits
Blake Roberson
Matt Mallinson
Jill Esry
Denise Fears

Absent:


Secretary


President