

The Board of Education met in regular session Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 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
Mrs. Jill Esry, Vice President
Mrs. Denise Fears, Treasurer
Mr. Ken Johnston, Director
Dr. Matt Mallinson, Director
Mr. Greg Finke, Director
Mr. Blake Roberson, Director

Also Present: Dr. Dale Herl, Superintendent
Dr. Dred Scott, Dr. Lance Stout, Dr. Brad MacLaughlin, Dr. Linda Gray
Smith, Mrs. Sherry Potter, Mr. Robert Burke, Mrs. Nancy Lewis, The
Examiner, INEA, PTA, interested patrons and staff, and Mrs. Annette
Miller.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Ann Franklin. She welcomed guests in attendance including Truman High School students from Angie Zarillo's Leadership Class and several university/college students. The minutes of the meeting were recorded by the secretary, Mrs. Annette Miller.

A video featuring the Wellness Center was shared. Employees throughout the District use the Wellness Center at no cost. The Center not only is a place to exercise, the staff also assists employees in scheduling free health screenings, health risk assessments, annual physical examinations, etc. The Wellness Center staff (Levi Hinson and Jessie Stout) will meet with employees on an individual basis to develop their exercise/wellness program. Dr. Herl encouraged everyone to take time and visit the Wellness Center and learn first-hand the benefits that are provided.

Blake Roberson made the motion to approve the October 14, 2014 Board of Education Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Greg Finke and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Mrs. Franklin asked if there were patrons or staff that wished to address the Board of Education in open session.

Dr. Herl said that the list of Bills this month included ordering of supplies for the 2015-2016 school year. Dr. Stout shared that the District uses the Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City Coop for purchasing large volumes of supplies which allows the District to buy at a reduced rate.

Ken Johnston made the motion to approve the October 14, 2014 Consent Agenda as printed.

1. Minutes – September 9, 2014 – Regular Session
2. Approval of October 14, 2014 List of Bills totaling \$12,454,090.30
3. Personnel Recommendation #6
 - A. Employment of Certificated Staff for the 2014-2015 School Year.
 1. Gretchen Sheely, Special Reading/Fairmount Elementary School
 2. Maria Lutes, Special Reading/Korte Elementary School
 3. Hannah Leutzinger, Science-Technology-Engineering-Math/Jim Bridger Middle School
 - B. Employment of Part-Time Certificated Staff for the 2014-2015 School Year.
 1. Daphyne Douglas, Teacher/Three Trails Elementary School
 2. Sara Ruhlman, Teacher/Three Trails Elementary School
 3. Catherine Lee, Teacher/Thomas Hart Benton Elementary School
4. Approval to Purchase Copy Paper and Janitorial Supplies from the Kansas City Suburban Purchasing Co-Operative for the 2015-1016 School Year.

The motion was seconded by Denise Fears and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Herl shared information on the District's Assessed Valuation report. He said the final A.V. report showed a drop from \$926 million to \$914 million for the 2014-2015 year. The School District has lost more than \$100 million in the last six years. Dr. Herl reported that a District group traveled to Nashville, Tennessee to view Ford Next Generation Learning Academies in their schools. Several of the Board members expressed their impressions of the Academies: the expectation for students is set high; visiting with actual NGL Academy students was very beneficial; and this program provides incredible 'feet on the ground' experiences. The team was very impressed with how this program prepares students so they will be ready for the career or college field on graduation. The Nashville staff was very honest in that this is a big change but no one wanted to go back to what they had previously been doing

Dr. Herl gave credit to Dr. MacLaughlin for his work in moving the District forward and starting the Freshmen Academies this year. The District is excited to move forward with the Ford NGL Academies program based on what it can provide students.

Dr. Herl shared the following information. The District has been discussing a late start program and information will go out to staff and parents in the next several weeks. The two hour late start program will be used with the wind chill factor when the temperature drops as this will also assist the transportation department running bus routes and students waiting in the cold. One of the District's focuses is that in four years students could graduate with a high school diploma and also an associate degree. Last year, the District had six sections of dual credit courses and this year there are 54 sections of dual credit. Currently, 192 seniors are taking dual credit course, which is up about ten-fold from last year. Attendance is another focus for the District. Attendance has improved over the last year by nearly 2.5 %. Attendance is a major factor in improving academic growth as students have to be in school in order to learn. Dr. Herl reported that the new gymnasium at Nowlin Middle School is almost complete. The floor is in, bleachers are being installed, and it should be completed by November 13th. The new Scoreboard at the All-School Stadium was dedicated on October 10th. He expressed appreciation to Nancy Lewis and the Technology Department for making this event happen on time. The scoreboard can also show videos and it will be used again on Friday for Van Horn High School's football game. The scoreboard was paid for through community/business donations.

Dr. Stout introduced Dave Lamken, Director of Public Safety. Mr. Lamken talked about a program called "Drive by Example." He introduced Mr. Darren Moon who explained that this is a public service organization dedicated to teen drivers and their safety. Mr. Moon presented information on the program and asked the Board of Education's approval to post signs for *Drive by Example* on School District campuses. The signs will be placed at campus exits so students, staff, and parents see them as a reminder to drive safely. A total of 16 signs would be posted and would not be a cost to the School District. Mr. Moon stated that everything would be supplied to the Facilities Department for installation. He said that the organization will provide speakers to attend meetings and share safety messages. Hopefully, this safety awareness program will raise and improve the driving program. Dr. Herl stated that the District loses two to three students every year due to various reasons and hopefully this will help adults and students think twice about safety measures while driving.

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

Dr. Herl discussed a list of legislative issues that the Board of Education had developed regarding items important to the School District. The District has a duty, as a public education institution, to establish a legislative platform in order to inform elected officials regarding legislative issues that affect public education. The School District and Board of Education have selected six legislative priority positions. Dr. Herl read the list.

Blake Roberson made the motion that the Board of Education approves the Legislative Priority Position Platform for the 2014-2015 legislative session. The motion was seconded by Jill Esry and unanimously approved by the Board of Education. (Page 10858)

Dr. Herl shared information about Amendment 3 that is on the November 4th election ballot. If Amendment 3 is approved it would become law as part of our Constitution. Dr. Herl read the official ballot language which includes: teachers would be evaluated by a standards based evaluation system; teachers could be dismissed, retained, promoted, and paid using quantifiable student data; require teachers to enter into contracts of three years or fewer; and prohibit organizing or collectively bargaining the design of a teacher evaluation system. All of this goes against local control of school districts. Dr. Herl stated that his daughter, a senior, would have taken 27 state assessments in 12 years compared to approximately 290 assessments that Amendment 3 would mandate. The cost for these additional assessments will be over one billion for the state. The Administration is recommending a resolution in opposition to Amendment 3.

Matt Mallinson made the motion that the Board of Education approves the Resolution in Opposition to Amendment 3 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ken Johnston and unanimously approved by the Board of Education. (Page 10859)

Dr. Scott shared information on the Focus Schools and their Accountability Plans. Focus Schools are identified by ranking Title 1 schools according to the average of their three-year English language arts and mathematics proficiency rates and are placed on a three year improvement plan. The District had three Focus Schools identified beginning with the 2012-2013 school year: Korte, Three Trails, and Fairmount. Each of the three schools have

Independence Board of Education Legislative Priority Positions

In the interest of public education in the Independence School District, we ask members of the Missouri General Assembly to:

1. Support the full funding of state mandates in accordance with the Missouri Constitution.
2. Support providing appropriations for fully funding the Foundation Formula.
3. Support maintaining the integrity of the current Foundation Formula and avoid adjustments to the Foundation Formula that would significantly alter the manner in which the Formula is distributed.
4. Support legislation that would provide revenue to public schools and not divert that revenue to non-public educational entities.
5. Support not transferring students out of unaccredited school districts as it is not in the best interest of all students and will not lead to improvement of unaccredited districts.
6. Support local school district authority to make the decisions about matters such as: open enrollment; employee compensation and working conditions; class sizes; curriculum and instruction materials; professional development; program and employee evaluations; and school calendar.



Ann Franklin, President
Board of Education

10-14-14

Date

**The School District of the City of Independence, Missouri
Board of Education**

Resolution on Amendment 3

WHEREAS, Amendment 3 on the November ballot is a state mandate that shifts local control for educational decisions away from parents, teachers, administrators, and school boards; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 3 is a poorly drafted and deeply flawed proposal that has many unintended consequences for teachers, administrators, and school boards; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 3 would prevent school boards from hiring, promoting, compensating, or dismissing teachers in accordance with board policy; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 3 would force taxpayers to pay for additional standardized tests at a time when our public schools remain significantly underfunded by the state; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 3 significantly changes teacher evaluations away from a tool to improve teacher performance;

Therefore be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education for The School District of the City of Independence, Missouri on this 14th day of October, 2014 hereby opposes Amendment 3 on the November ballot.

The School District of the City of Independence, Missouri



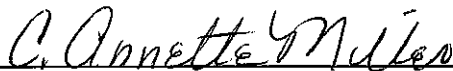
PRESIDENT, Board of Education

created accountability plans with four goals: focus on Professional Development to improve leadership skills; use assessment data to inform teachers of instructional learning; improve attendance; and monitor behavior. Each school submits their plan to Dr. Scott and the State. The State has been very good in working with the schools and District Administration to improve the schools proficiency over the last 2 1/2 years. Dr. Scott said that the schools have made significant improvements but there is still work to be done. Dr. Herl commended Dr. Scott and the staff at each of the Focus Schools for their continuing work to improve their proficiency, attendance, and instructional skills.

There being no further information to come before the Board, Blake Roberson made the motion, second by Greg Finke, to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session for legal, real estate, and personnel issues at 6:43 p.m. The motion was approved as follows:

Ayes: Ann Franklin
Jill Esry
Denise Fears
Ken Johnston
Matt Mallinson
Greg Finke
Blake Roberson

Absent:



Secretary



President