The Board of Education met in regular session Tuesday, December 8, 2015, 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. Beth Savidge, Dr. Janet Richards, Dr. Linda Gray Smith, Mrs. Sherry Potter, Mr. Brent Catlett, Robert Burkey, Mrs. Jana Corrie, INEA, PTA, interested patrons and staff, and Ms. Annette Miller.

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

Dr. Herl shared a video from the Freshman Career Fair that was held recently. It was similar to a job fair for adults only this one was focused on students learning about career/work opportunities. Over 70 businesses participated and were very receptive to the students’ questions. This information will prepare students for careers and college options as they make future plans.

Jill Esry made the motion to approve the December 8, 2015 Board of Education Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Blake Roberson and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

There were no employees or District citizens that wished to address the Board of Education.

Dr. Herl explained that the List of Bills is typical for this time of year. He shared information on the following recommendations: Quote for sound systems in kindergarten and first grade classroom at four elementary schools is part of a remodeling plan that Dr. Richards and Dr. Scott have reviewed; Quote for HP Prodesk Desktop PC’s is to update the Nutrition Services Department’s technology system; Quote for the F-250 truck will replace a 1995 GMC truck used by the Nutrition Services Department; and the letting of bids for a step-up van would replace a 2000 Dodge van currently used by the Nutrition Services Department.

Ken Johnston made the motion to approve the December 8, 2015 Consent Agenda as printed.
1. Minutes – November 5, 2015 – Regular Session
2. Approval of December 8, 2015 List of Bills totaling $7,367,778.55
3. Personnel Recommendation #11
   A. Employment of Certificated Staff for the 2015-2016 or 2016-2017 School Year
   B. Request to Resign Effective End of the 2015-2016 School Year.
      1. Rachel Otto, Special Education/George Caleb Bingham Middle School
      2. Stacey Soule, First Grade/Mill Creek Elementary School

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

Dr. Herl reported that the District received an insurance refund check for $195,532.41 for the 2014-2015 Modified Cost Plus Settlement from Blue Cross. This is based on the difference between the School District’s maximum liability and the net paid claims. Dr. Herl showed a PowerPoint presentation on the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) that has been passed by the House and is before the Senate who will very likely pass it then it will go to the President for his signature. This document sets the guidelines for distribution of Federal funds and sets testing requirements. This legislation will return more autonomy and flexibility to the state and local levels for public school districts. Currently, the Independence School District (state of Missouri) is operating under a waiver for the No Child Left Behind Act as are approximately 26 other states. He discussed the key pieces: Title I; Assessment and Accountability; funding cap; Early Education component; FERPA was not referenced; and that comparability of schools will remain part of the Legislation.
Several items under New Business were presented for the Board of Education’s consideration for approval.

Dr. Stout explained that Wright Specialty Insurance has been the District’s carrier for five years. They are the most competitive carrier for public schools in this area and CBIZ (District’s insurance broker) has negotiated the renewal for the 2016 policy. It does show an 8% increase from last year. Tom McGuire from CBIZ shared that the market for public school districts is very small and recommends Wright Specialty.

Blake Roberson made the motion that the Board of Education approves Wright Specialty Insurance Company to provide property, liability, automobile, crime, umbrella, and school leadership insurance for the 2016 calendar year. The motion was seconded by Jill Esry and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Stout and Mr. McGuire provided information on the recommendation to purchase Cyber Liability Insurance coverage for the School District. This is due to the increased exposure of breaches of secured systems and technology for school districts. The recommendation is for Traveler’s Insurance Company to provide this coverage at a cost of $20,578.00. This is for a $1 million policy plus a $500,000 notification cost allowance (sending notice to media, etc.) with a $10,000 deductible.

Blake Roberson made the motion that the Board of Education approves Traveler’s Insurance Company to provide Cyber Insurance coverage for the 2016 calendar year at a cost of $20,578.00. The motion was seconded by Greg Finke and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Stout and Mr. McGuire shared information on the District’s Workers Compensation program which is in a Captive Program called INDEP. The said that it is performing very well and the great thing is that anything leftover goes back to the District. The Clinic has played a large part of this performance. The renewal rate for 2015 was $1,711,408 and for 2016 it is $1,466,126 – a significant reduction.

The motion was made by Denise Fears, second by Jill Esry, that the Board of Education approves the renewal of INDEP Captive as the School District’s work comp insurance program at a renewal rate of $1,466,126.00. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Herl stated that the partial roof replacement bids for George Caleb Bingham Middle School ($591,815), William Chrisman High School ($180,794), and the Central Warehouse ($273,386) came in better than expected.

Matt Mallinson made the motion that the Board of Education approves the base bids from Kaw Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc., Flynn Midwest LP, and Cornell Roofing & Sheet Metal for partial roof replacements at George Caleb Bingham Middle School, William Chrisman High School, and the Central Warehouse for a total cost of $1,045,995.00. The motion was seconded by Greg Finke and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Herl explained that the Administration is recommending letting bids for kindergarten and first grade classroom renovations at the following elementary schools: Christian Ott, Procter, Blackburn, and Three Trails. Dr. Janet Richards and Mr. Robert Burkey visited and evaluated each of the elementary schools prior to this recommendation.

Matt Mallinson made the motion that the Board of Education approves the letting of bids for kindergarten and first grade classroom renovations at Christian Ott, Procter, Blackburn and Three Trails Elementary Schools. The motion was seconded by Denise Fears and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Herl said the Administration recommends approval of base bids for Truman High School’s Stadium – Phase 2, Press Box and Restroom Additions. He said the bids came in close to the budgeted projections.

A motion was made by Jill Esry, second by Ken Johnston, that the Board of Education approves the bids from Contractors, as presented, for the Truman High School Stadium – Phase 2 (Press Box and Restroom) additions for a cost of $246,678.00. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Brad MacLaughlin shared a PowerPoint explaining the Course Changes and the Program of Studies for the 2016-2017 school year. Teachers, counselors, administrators, parents, and NGL Career Academies representatives have reviewed and are recommending approval of the changes. Dr. MacLaughlin reviewed the five Career Academies: Industrial Technology; Public Service; STEM; Arts and Education; and Business. He then explained the
course changes and how they relate to their specific Academy. He shared that some courses qualify for dual credit and which courses are required as compared to the elective courses. The plan is that in a student’s freshman year they can explore the five Academies and decide what their focus will be for the next three years in high school. This will prepare them for a career or for college. A student can earn an Associate’s Degree at the same time they earn their high school diploma by following the outlined courses for each of the Academies.

Jill Esry made the motion that the Board of Education approves the District’s 2016-2017 Program of Studies document, which outlines the course changes for the 2016-2017 school year. The motion was seconded by Ken Johnston and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, Blake Roberson made the motion, second by Ken Johnston, to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session for real estate, legal, and personnel issues at 7:33 p.m. The motion was approved as follows:

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

Nays:

Secretary

President