

The Board of Education met in regular session Tuesday, August 10, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. in the Large Classroom at George Caleb Bingham Middle School, 1716 South Speck Road, Independence, Missouri.

Members Present: 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

Member Absent: Mr. Ken Johnston, President

Also Present: Dr. Jim Hinson, Superintendent
Mr. Dred Scott, Mr. Dale Herl, Mr. Jason Dial, Dr. Gary Hogue, Ms. Cindy Konomos, Dr. Gloria Stephenson, Mrs. Nancy Lewis, Mr. Bob Robinson, Ms. Kelly Evenson of *The Examiner*, 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 Vice President, Mrs. Ann Franklin, and minutes of the meeting were recorded by the secretary, Mrs. Annette Miller.

Blake Roberson made the motion to approve the August 10, 2010 Agenda and all items as presented. The motion was seconded by Jill Esry and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

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

Mr. Edward Humphries, 19005 E. 12th St. South addressed the Board of Education regarding concerns about the Power of I Program at William Chrisman High School. He said the District has failed miserably on providing education to children attending William Chrisman. He said he tried to teach their boys to do homework first then play. His son was on the honor roll and National Honor Society. His son was told that he could turn homework in at the end of the course and not when it's due. Spoke to his oldest son's principal and counselor and said the school fights parents at every turn. His son is in college now and wishes he had done his work when it was due so that he could have gotten a free ride to college as he scored 33 on the ACT. His youngest son went through the same issues with the Power of I Program. He graduated with an A+ but did not do his homework. He said the school counselor knew that the Power of I was not working but they would not tell the Board. The Assistant Superintendent defended the Power of I and would not listen to him about the fact that this was not good for students. He said all of the Board have failed to educate the children of this District and that they employ the teachers who are not teaching our kids. As a parent I can only do so much and when the school fights you it is hard to get students to respond to their parents. He said that School Board meetings should be held at 8 p.m. so parents could attend and open the meetings up for discussion about what is working and not working. The new school board members should question what is going on in the schools and the district.

Mrs. Franklin thanked Mr. Humphries for expressing his concerns.

Dr. Hinson discussed several items listed on the Consent Agenda that have to be approved annually: Item 4. is Title IIA funds that will provide employment of seven teachers at four elementary schools; Items 5. and 6. are for the Transportation Department's bus lease and routes for the 2010-2011 school year (District has a three tiered system with 304 routes for this coming year); and Items 7., 8., and 9. are Continuation Grant and Expansion Grants for the Early Head Start and Head Start Programs.

Blake Roberson made the motion to approve the August 10 2010 Consent Agenda as printed.

Minutes – July 13, 2010.

Approval of August 10, 2010 List of Bills totaling \$11,899,815.23

Personnel Recommendation #3

A. Resignation of Certificated Staff Effective Start of the 2010-2011 School Year.

1. David Bain, ROTC/Van Horn High school

The motion was seconded by Matt Mallinson and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Under the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Hinson asked Nancy Lewis to report on a recent event. Ms. Lewis stated that the "Cargo for Kids" event was held Saturday, August 7, at Noon. The heat did not deter volunteers gathered at Cargo Largo. Their job was to assemble 700 "success packs" for homeless students in the Independence School District, including school supplies and other items. The lines were long as volunteers waited for their chance to stuff the backpacks that will make a difference for our homeless students throughout the coming year. Volunteers came from Independence, Liberty, Grain Valley, Olathe, Lee's Summit, etc. to be part of this very worthwhile event. The District expressed its appreciation to Cargo Largo and all of those who took their time to stuff a backpack and make a difference.

Dr. Hinson said the first day of school is next week, August 18; teachers start back tomorrow, August 11; and the Opening Day ceremony for employees is Monday, August 16. Due to the heat outdoors, modifications have been made for the first full week of high school practices - early and late times will be utilized. The trainers (part of the contract through Centerpoint) are checking the weather by using heat index monitors. When the heat index is at 105, students go inside the buildings. The coaches, etc. are doing a great job keeping students out of the heat. Dr. Hinson discussed the upcoming elections in November. He said that a number of organizations (MSBA, Greater Kansas City School Administrators Association, MASA, etc.) are working on legislative platforms, to share with legislators. The Board needs to stay involved and communicate these issues to State and Federal legislators. He will be sharing reports about upcoming issues. The November election will have an influence on the school district. He reminded the Board members of the MSBA Region 4 meeting on September 22 in Lee's Summit. Mrs. Franklin reminded everyone that they have a choice in November on Election Day. She recommended that everyone check out the candidates to see if they are supportive of public education. She mentioned that MASA, MNEA, and MSTA endorse candidates. She said there will be four new legislators representing our school district after the election. Dr. Hinson shared some good news - the District has received notification of the approval of two 21CCLC grants (before/after school program) totaling \$318,000 and the District may receive a couple more this week.

Following information on the District's curriculum guides for the 2010-2011 school year, Matt Mallinson made the motion that the Board of Education approves the curriculum guides for grades K-12 in the areas of communication arts and literacy, math, science, social studies, health, physical education, music, art, and elective classes. Jana Waits seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

The Comprehensive School Improvement Plan is a five year plan, 2008-2013. The Plan focuses on improvement efforts in three major areas: increasing student achievement and performance, aligning district programs and services, and maximizing resources to facilitate learning. The Board of Education is required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to approve this Plan annually.

The motion was made by Denise Fears, seconded by Jana Waits, to approve the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Hinson and Mr. Herl presented information on the Proposed Tax Levy Rate for the 2010-2011 School Year. Dr. Hinson stated that the District is required by statute to approve the Tax Rate Levy each year. A public hearing was held at 5:45 p.m. and Mr. Herl shared that the Operating Levy (Incidental Fund) will be set at \$4.43 and the Debt Service Fund will be \$1.00 for a total Levy of \$5.43. Dr. Hinson share that a year ago, the District's Assessed Valuation dropped dramatically and the State Sales Tax (Prop C) was down creating a loss of approximately \$73 million in revenue. He said the District is hoping that these decreases do not occur again.

Following this information, Jana Waits made the motion that the Board of Education approves authorizing the Superintendent, or his designee, to set the 2010-2011 School Year Tax Rate Levy at \$5.43; with the Operating Levy at \$4.43 and the Debt Service at \$1.00. The motion was seconded by Jill Esry and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

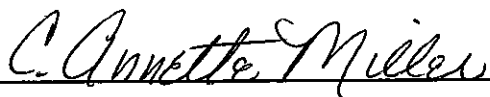
Bob Robinson updated the Board on District renovation/construction projects. He stated that the front entry at Van Horn High School is scheduled for August 14 and this will get the students in the building and the HVAC should be up and working in about 90% of the building. The recommended rebate is \$30,000 for energy savings at Van Horn. Fairmount staff is in their front office now and the entrance should be completed around August 11. The HVAC system is still a challenge and on Saturday, the power will be off for about 8 hours to accomplish some of the electrical work. Sugar Creek's HVAC system is in and will be turned on this week. Three Trails' HVAC system and electrical work should be completed around August 13. WCHS and Jim Bridger tracks are completed; Truman's track should be completed by August 20; Van Horn's field should be completed by August 23 and their track by September 15; and the Middle School field will hopefully be finished this week. The contract workers may go to night shifts due to the heat on some of these projects. Blackburn and Luff entrance areas should be

completed by the time school starts and the remainder of the work area will be fenced off and completion is scheduled the end of December. Architects had to submit a new plat for the east elementary school site to the City of Independence; the construction plans are completed; and grading should start next month. The District is still evaluating sites for the new west elementary school. Thomas Hart Benton's front office is 95% complete but the addition is behind schedule. Truman High School's foundation and underground plumbing are in and construction is on schedule with a deadline completion in December. Christian Ott's interior work is 95% completed and their kitchen and equipment should be finished by August 13. Most of the exterior work at Windsor is done, installation of new windows, painting of upper floor walls, and flooring installation with a project completion date of August 30.

Dr. Hinson and the Board of Education commended Mr. Robinson and his staff for their outstanding work as they juggle all of these construction issues as well as the opening of school at this time.

There being no further information to come before the Board, Denise Fears made the motion, second by Jana Waits, to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. The motion was approved as follows:

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



Secretary



Vice President