

The Board of Education held a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 8, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Board of Education Office, 201 North Forest Avenue, 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  
Dr. Dale Herl, Mr. Dred Scott, Dr. Jason Dial, Dr. Beth Savidge, Dr. Gary Hogue, Dr. Linda Gray-Smith, Ms. Nancy Lewis, Mr. Bob Robinson, Ms. Kelly Evenson of *The Examiner*, INEA, PTA, interested patrons and staff, and Mrs. Annette Miller.

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.

Mrs. Franklin stated the purpose of the Public Hearing was for discussion on the agreement with the National Maintenance Agreement Policy, Inc. regarding construction of the new West Elementary School and the District letting bids for that project. The agreement would allow contractors (union and non-union) that are awarded contracts on these projects to meet together prior to work beginning to decide each contractors specific responsibilities. It would also eliminate any walk-outs or strikes by the contractors during the construction time.

Mrs. Franklin asked if anyone in attendance wanted to speak against the National Maintenance Agreement.

Mr. Jim Kistler, President and CEO of Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. Heart of America Chapter, presented and reviewed a letter to the Board of Education in opposition to the NMA. He said the four major factors were: 1) cost – comparing union to non-union bids; 2) legality – that the NMA agreement was not for new construction but it was for existing building construction; 3) discrimination – construction workers that are non-union are prohibited from bidding on the work and the agreements are discriminatory to minority contractors; and 4) unfair to workers – forces local workers to pay into pension/health programs that may not be financially sound and they will never qualify for any worker benefits. Mr. Kistler stated that it is not good due diligence to use tax payer dollars this way.

Mr. John Sheehy, Summit Masonry, Inc., stated he had been building schools since 1985 and that limiting quality contractors is not smart. He said that bonded qualified contractors pay prevailing wage to their employees and that the money does not go back east but that it stays in the local economy.

Mrs. Franklin asked if anyone in attendance would like to speak in favor of the National Maintenance Agreement.

Cindy Engleman, co-owner of Cornell Roofing Co., expressed appreciation that the District is seeking quality contractors for this project. She said that 30% of her employees are District residents and appreciate the opportunity to work and support the local economy. Again, Ms. Engleman said "thank you" for what the District is doing with the construction projects.

Michael Kelsey, Economics Professor with UMKC, cited statistics from a study conducted in 2004 regarding construction costs including prevailing and non-prevailing wages. He also stated that project labor agreements increase the productivity quality and decreases the incentive to cheat on labor quality.

Mr. Paul Post, union roofer and Independence resident, stated that the Project Agreements were beneficial and he hopes the District will continue using them.

There being no further information to come before the Board of Education, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.