

BOARD OF EDUCATION
The School District of Independence

The Board of Education met in regular session Tuesday, October 9, 2012, 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
Dr. Matt Mallinson, Vice President
Mrs. Jill Esry, Treasurer
Mrs. Jana Waits, Director
Mr. Ken Johnston, Director
Mrs. Denise Fears, Director
Mr. Greg Finke, Director

Also Present: Dr. Jim Hinson, Superintendent
Dr. Dred Scott, Dr. Dale Herl, Dr. Jason Dial, Dr. Linda Gray Smith, Dr. Gloria Stephenson, Mrs. Sherry Potter, Mr. Bob Robinson, Mrs. Nancy Lewis, Ms. Kelly Evenson of *The Examiner*, INEA, PTA, interested patrons and staff, and Mrs. Annette Miller.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Ann Franklin, and minutes of the meeting were recorded by the secretary, Mrs. Annette Miller. Mrs. Franklin welcomed and recognized Kyle Lower, student from Avila College; several students from Blue River Community College; and students from Angie Zarillo's "Becoming a Teacher" class at Truman High School.

Jana Waits made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2012 meeting as printed. The motion was seconded by Ken Johnston and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Hinson stated that the Consent Agenda was very short but normal for this time of year and that the bills totaled \$9,033,339.89.

Denise Fears made the motion to approve the October 9, 2012 Consent Agenda as printed.

1. Minutes of September 11, 2012
2. Approval of October 9, 2012 List of Bills totaling \$9,033,339.89
3. Personnel Recommendation #6
 - A. Employment of Certificated Staff for the 2012-2013 School Year
 1. Sara Cridlebaugh, Kindergarten Teacher
 2. Alesia Robinson, Counselor

The motion was seconded by Ken Johnston and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Hinson announced that Tabitha's Closet, sponsored by the First Christian Church of Independence, is the District's Community Partner for October. The Family School Liaisons refer parents to Tabitha Closet for clothing needs. This allows students to have suitable clothing, shoes, etc., and lends to their success in school. Many of our parents work two jobs to provide for their families and still need help occasionally. Through financial donations, new socks, shoes, and underwear are purchased for the children. The First Christian Church is very supportive of this program and their volunteers look forward to helping the students and their families. Nine years ago the clothes closet program was started by staff at Procter, Bryant, and Randall Elementary Schools. Last year, nearly 2,000 students were served through Tabitha's Closet. For all the help they provide to our students, families and community, the District thanks them and recognizes them as the Community Partner of Character for October. If anyone would like to make donations to Tabitha's Closet they can contact The School District of Independence Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Herl shared information about the grand opening of the new Health Clinic. He said employees are already making appointments. The Clinic is free to employees and spouses that are on the District's health insurance program. Employees may use this as their primary care physician or just when health issues arise. Health Stat Program operates the Clinic. A number of neighboring school districts are inquiring about starting such a program in their districts.

Dr. Hinson announced that at the Truman High School/William Chrisman High School football game on Friday, October 12, the District will be collecting blankets for the Project Warmth Program. Last year over 300 blankets

were collected and through monetary donations, The School District of Independence Foundation, Inc. paid out over \$9,000 in utility bills to provide heat for our families.

Dr. Hinson said that one of the November 2012 Election Ballot issues is Proposition B which is also referred to as the Tobacco Tax issue. MSBA has endorsed passage of this tax increase - \$.73 per cigarette package. Currently, Missouri has the lowest tobacco tax in the United States. The tax increase would provide funding for tobacco prevention and cessation programs and also provide millions of dollars in new revenue for Missouri's public schools. Dr. Herl said based on the financial information that he has received, this could equate to a \$2.3 million revenue increase which is very significant. Dr. Hinson explained that it is an initiative petition - which means the State Legislature can alter what is approved by the voters with the Governor's approval. Individuals can go to ShowMeaBrighterFuture.com for a list of groups/individuals that have endorsed Proposition B.

Matt Mallinson made the motion that the Board of Education approves the attached Resolution on Proposition B in support of a tax increase on tobacco in the State of Missouri on the November 2012 Ballot. The motion was seconded by Greg Finke and unanimously approved by the Board of Education. (Page 10572)

Dr. Hinson reviewed proposed Board of Education Policy changes that have been approved by the Board Policy review committee. This is the first reading for the Policy changes and the final approval would be made at the November 13, 2012 meeting. The changes/additions are based on Court precedent or State statute requirements. New Information is printed in blue and red print indicates deletions.

Jill Esry made the motion that the Board of Education approves this as the first reading of changes and additions to Board of Education Policies 2710, 2760, 2930 (new), 3102 (new), 3180 (new), 6145 (new), and 6320 as presented. Ken Johnston seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board of Education. (Pages 10573-10583)

Dr. Hinson introduced Ira Anders, former District teacher, technology staff member, Board of Education Director, and now State Representative. Mr. Anders told the Board that the best way to relay suggested legislative issues to Representatives and Senators is to use the personal contact method and talk about what your district needs or what you oppose. He said it is important for School Boards and educational groups to put their agenda together and present it. He cautioned not to always approach Legislators with things that you oppose but also come with things you want or need for public education. He said that it may take more than one time to get an issue passed. He suggested the Board travel together to Jefferson City and visit with their legislators as a unified group which has a positive impact. He said that phone calls have an impact also and don't be afraid to approach your legislator(s) but be positive with your comments/suggestions. He said that the Independence and surrounding districts are turning out good products and Board members and Administrators should not be afraid to say their District is doing a good job. Good educational systems drive economic development because people want to raise their children where they know they will receive a quality education.

When asked about the money generated from Proposition B, if it passes, and how those funds would be used, Mr. Anders stated that Proposition B is not a Constitutional Amendment and that Missouri Supreme Court officials could alter how the money would be distributed. He said a number of other agencies such as mental health facilities, parents caring for older parents because there is no facility for them, prisons/corrections centers, etc. are all short on funding due to reductions in the State budget. He said he is supportive of public education and understands the need for additional funding.

Dr. Hinson, on behalf of the Board of Education, District staff, children, and families, expressed appreciation to Mr. Anders for his service to this community and for serving as a public official for the State of Missouri.

The Leadership Task Force groups are scheduled to give an updated report at the November 15 meeting. Some of the discussions are around Foreign Language - which language(s) and at what grade level(s) should it/they be taught; school start times - what will work in our community; balanced calendar - start date, scheduled breaks, parents' work schedules, etc. - a lot of discussion will need to occur regarding this issue. It is always good to question what we as educators are doing to provide quality programs for students and families.

Mr. Robinson reported that the Health Clinic is 99% finished; and the new West Elementary is well underway - water line is complete; sanitary sewer is complete; storm sewer is complete; floor slabs are approximately 75% complete; gymnasium walls are complete, and roof steel and deck are being installed; mason work in cafeteria, kitchen, and northwest classroom is nearing completion; final grading is being done on the north parking lot and the asphalt base should be done this month; with building completion still on target for July 2013.

**Independence School District
Board of Education
Resolution on Proposition B**

WHEREAS, Missouri has the 11th highest smoking rate in the country and does not fund programs to help smokers quit, and

WHEREAS, tobacco use costs each Missouri household \$565 a year in public expenditures, and

WHEREAS, 19.5% of high school students smoke and 8,600 Missouri kids become daily smokers each year, and

WHEREAS, Missouri has the lowest tobacco tax in the United States, and

WHEREAS, Proposition B would generate \$283 million annually in new revenue for the state through a \$.73 cent tax increase per pack on cigarettes and an increased tax on other tobacco products, and

WHEREAS, revenue from Proposition B not only would provide new funding for tobacco prevention and cessation programs but also would provide millions of dollars in new revenue for Missouri's public schools, colleges and universities, and

WHEREAS, the new funding for public education would help prevent staff reductions and increased classroom sizes in school districts throughout the state,

THEREFORE, the Independence School District Board of Education does hereby support Proposition B that will appear on the November 2012 ballot in Missouri.



President,
Independence School District Board of Education
October 9, 2012

STUDENTS**Policy 2710
(Regulation 2710)****Student Welfare****Reporting Student Abuse**

The Board of Education believes that school staff members are in a unique position to assist children, families, and the community in dealing with the issue of child abuse and neglect. Child abuse is defined as any physical injury, sexual abuse or emotional abuse inflicted on a child other than by accidental means. Neglect is defined as the failure to provide the proper or necessary support, education, nutrition or medical, surgical or other care necessary for the child's well being.

If a student reports alleged sexual misconduct on the part of a teacher, or school employee, to a school employee, such employee and the Superintendent shall forward the information within twenty-four hours of receiving the information to the Children's Division. The District will investigate the allegation for the purpose of making decisions about the accused person's employment.

However, if the report of alleged sexual abuse is received from someone other than a student, a report will be made to the Children's Division if a District administrator has reason to believe that a child has been or is likely to be abused or neglected.

If the District receives a report of child abuse against a school employee involving a spanking or the use of reasonable force to protect persons or property, the Superintendent or the School Board President must send a notice to county law enforcement officials. Such notice will be given in addition to Children's Division. The investigation into such child abuse allegation will be conducted by a law enforcement official in the county.

Any school district employee, acting in good faith, who reports alleged sexual misconduct on the part of a school employee will not be disciplined or discriminated against because of such reporting.

The District will annually provide employee training, which will include but not be limited to current information concerning identification of the signs of sexual abuse in children as well as the identification of the danger signals of potentially abusive relationships between children and adults. This training will emphasize the importance of mandatory child abuse reporting, including the obligation to report suspected abuse by other mandated reporters. Employees will receive training on the need for and methods to create an atmosphere of trust so that students believe their school and school employees are available to discuss matters concerning abusive behavior.

STUDENTS**Policy 2760**
(Regulation 2760)**Student Welfare****Foster Care Bill of Rights**

The District is committed to ensuring and facilitating the proper educational placement, enrollment in school and checkout from school for foster children.

In order to facilitate this process and to serve as the educational liaison for District foster children, the District will designate the Director of Neighborhood Family Services to oversee and assess the District's foster care program.

A foster care child whose home placement is changed may remain enrolled and attend their school of origin, or return to a previously attended school in an adjacent district. The District will accept for credit full or partial course work satisfactorily completed by a foster child while attending a public school, nonpublic school or non-sectarian school in compliance with District policies, regulations and practices.

If a child in foster care is absent from school due to a decision to change the placement of a pupil made by a court or child placing agency, or due to a verified court appearance or related court-ordered activity, the grades and credits of the pupil will be calculated as of the day the pupil left school and no reduction in grades will occur as a result of the pupil's absence under these circumstances.

If a foster care student transfers into the District prior to or during a school year, the District will initially honor the placement of the student in educational courses and programs based on the student's prior enrollment or educational assessments; will provide comparable services to transferring foster care students with disabilities based on the student's current IEP; and will make reasonable accommodations and modifications to address the needs of a student with disabilities, subject to an existing 504 or Title II Plan in order to provide equal access to education. The District will conduct evaluations, where necessary, to ensure proper placement and services.

The District will waive specific courses required for graduation if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed at another school. Similarly, the District may waive prerequisites for placement in a District course or program based upon courses taken at a prior school. If a waiver is denied for reasonable justifications, the District will provide an alternative means of acquiring the required course work so that graduation may occur on time. If foster care students who transfer at the beginning of their senior year or during their senior year are deemed ineligible to graduate after all alternatives have been considered, the sending District and this District will ensure that a qualified student who satisfied graduation requirements of the sending school, will receive a diploma from the sending school.

Students in foster care who have completed the graduation requirements of the District while under juvenile court jurisdiction will receive a diploma in the same manner as other District students.

STUDENTS**Activities and Athletics****Concussions – Brain Injury**

Policy 2930
(Form 2930)
(Form 2930.1)
(Form 2930.2)

Any District athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion or brain injury must be removed from practice and competition immediately and may not participate in contact athletic practice or competition for at least twenty-four (24) hours. Athletes suspected of sustaining concussion or brain injury will not be permitted to return to contact practice or competition until being evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and receiving a written clearance from the provider to return to competition. (See Form 2930 - MSHSAA Concussion Return to Play Form). Information about concussions obtained from MSHSAA (Form 2930.2) or similar materials will be made available to all student athletes and to their parents/guardians.

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**Policy 3102****Financial Operations****Debt Management Policy**

The debt management policy of the District is to remain in full compliance with statutes of the State of Missouri by borrowing within the allowable limits of no more than fifteen percent (15.00%) of the District's assessed valuation, which can include state assessed railroad and utility properties located within its boundaries. It is also important that the District exercise caution and prudence concerning its full compliance with the rules and regulations of the United States Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to avoid any risk of loss of the tax exempt status of any proposed financings, as well as those currently in existence. Generally the improper spending of the bond proceeds is what triggers a violation of IRS regulations and not complying with the ballot language for the projects can create problems with the Missouri State Auditor and local patrons.

In terms of philosophy toward the monitoring of a long term debt management policy, the Board of Education and Administrators recognize that to achieve the necessary 4/7 or 2/3 majority for approval by the voters of general obligation bond issues it is likely to be much easier if no increase in the debt service fund levy occurs. As a result, it is the District's practice to issue general obligation bonds with optional redemption (call) provisions that facilitate prepayments when excessive debt service fund balances accumulate with the goal of maintaining a constant debt service fund levy. This policy has enabled the District to achieve significant interest savings by issuing refunding bonds to capture lower interest when municipal bond markets change.

On occasion the District may consider capital facilities or equipment lease financing programs. It is the intent to only enter into those types of transactions when it is clear based upon reports from the District's Municipal Bond Underwriter that such a program is affordable and that its implementation does not harm the overall operating budget. If the project and lease financing are deemed essential, but beyond the range of reasonable affordability, the Board of Education and Administration will approach the voters for a temporary or permanent increase in the operating levy to produce the additional revenue.

Since general obligation bond issues and capital facilities or equipment lease financings happen intermittently, it presents challenges for administrators and board members to keep fully informed about the conditions of the municipal bond market, changing rules and regulations issued by the U.S. Treasury Department, etc. For these reasons the Board of Education engages the service of a municipal bond underwriter on a continuing basis to assist the administrators and board members to keep up to date and understand what refunding opportunities exist and what actions are necessary to preserve the existing debt service fund levy to remain on track with the long range facilities plans.

Policy 3102
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The Superintendent of Schools and other staff providing assistance with those special duties are responsible to the Board of Education for carrying out this policy.

FINANCIAL OPERATION**Policy 3180****Financial Operations****Procurement of Professional Services**

The Board of Education and the Administrators recognize that some professional services are necessary on certain occasions to assist in the governance of the District. These services include attorneys to provide legal counsel with specific expertise regarding education policy matters, architects, and certified public accountants to annually audit the financial statements of the District and to provide answers to questions that arise during the course of the fiscal year. Similarly, it may be necessary to obtain financial advisory services to monitor the long range debt objectives of the District, as well as, bond counsel to address questions that arise with existing debt and various reports occasionally sought by the Missouri State Auditor and the United States Treasury branch of Internal Revenue Service and others.

While in some instances it may be possible to seek bids for the financial services and bond counsel each time a need arises, there are also numerous benefits to maintaining longer term relationships with specific professionals. Having a satisfactory relationship with a professional service provider includes fair pricing, timely delivery, dependable and sound advice concerning areas of expertise, a personality match with administrators and board members and numerous other factors. As long as the board members and administrators are comfortable with the quality of services provided, it is not essential that annual bidding occur merely to drive prices to their lowest level. By losing historical memory of any professional service provider, the District may in the long run incur more expense for the new firm to educate their representatives. On other occasions if the administrator expresses belief that service quality is slipping, expenses and fees are escalating at unacceptable levels, or any other non favorable working situation is developing, nothing in this policy is intended to preclude seeking proposals from other vendors offering similar services. The Board of Education and Administration believes that the collective expertise within the District is sufficient to judge if and when seeking alternative providers is prudent.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES**Policy 6145**
(Regulation 6145)**Curriculum Services****Service Animals in Schools**

The District recognizes that service animals may be used to provide assistance to qualified individuals with disabilities. This policy governs the presence of service animals in the District's buildings, on school property (including school buses), and at school activities. The Board of Education adopts this policy to ensure that individuals with disabilities are permitted to participate in and benefit from District programs, activities and services, and to ensure that the District does not discriminate on the basis of disability.

Qualified students and/or adults with disabilities may be accompanied by a "service animal" on school property, in school buildings, and at school functions when required by law and subject to the conditions of this Policy.

Service Animals

Under federal law, a "service animal" means "any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability." Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition (See, however, provisions on miniature horses below). The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler's disability. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

Under Missouri law, the term "service dog" is defined as "any dog specifically trained to assist a person with a physical disability by performing necessary physical tasks which the person cannot perform. Such tasks shall include, but not be limited to, pulling a wheelchair, retrieving items, and carrying supplies.

The District will permit the use of a miniature horse as a service animal if: (1) the miniature horse has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.

In determining whether to permit the use of a miniature horse as a service animal, the District will consider: (1) the type, size and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these features; (2) whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse; (3) whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and (4) whether the miniature horse's presence compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for the safe operation of the facility. All additional requirements outlined in this Policy which apply to service animals, shall apply to miniature horses.

If an individual with a disability requests to use a service animal in a District building, on District property, in a District vehicle or at a District function, the District will not ask about the nature or extent of the person's disability. However, the District may make the following inquiries to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal: (1) whether the animal is required because of a disability; and (2) what work or task the animal has been trained to perform. The District may not make these inquiries when it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability.

The District will not require documentation, such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES**Policy 6320
(Regulation 6320)****Libraries, Media and Technology Services****Internet Safety Policy****A. Introduction**

It is the policy of the District to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

B. Access to Inappropriate Material

To the extent practical, technology protection measures shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

C. Internet Safety Training

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, each year, all District students will receive internet safety training which will educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response.

D. Inappropriate Network Usage

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the District's online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

E. Supervision and Monitoring

It shall be the responsibility of all District employees to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and the Children's Internet protection Act. Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Executive Director of Technology or designated representatives.

There being no further information to come before the Board; Greg Finke made the motion, second by Jana Waits, to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session for legal, real estate, and personnel issues at 6:40 p.m. The motion was approved as follows:

Ayes: Ann Franklin
Matt Mallinson
Jill Esry
Jana Waits
Ken Johnston
Denise Fears
Greg Finke

Absent:

C. Annette Miller

Secretary

Ann Franklin

President