

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
The School District of Independence

The Board of Education met in a Work Session Tuesday, June 2, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. in the Large Classroom at George Caleb Bingham Middle School, 1716 South Speck Road, Independence, Missouri.

Members Present: Mr. Blake Roberson, President  
Mr. Ken Johnston, Vice President  
Mrs. Ann Franklin, Treasurer  
Mrs. Susan Jones, Director  
Mrs. Jana Waits, Director  
Mr. Ira Anders, Director

Member Absent: Dr. Matt Mallinson, Director

Also Present: Dr. Jim Hinson, Superintendent  
Dr. Henry Russell, Dr. Brian Mitchell, Ms. Sandi Kiehne, Mr. Dred Scott, Dr. Ed Streich, Ms. Cindy Konomos, Dr. Beth Savidge, Dr. Gloria Stephenson, Mr. Jason Dial, Mrs. Elizabeth Streich, interested patrons and staff, and Mrs. Annette Miller.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Blake Roberson, who stated the purpose of the work session was to hear presentations on District programs.

Dr. Hinson introduced Mr. Dick Bartow, George K. Baum & Company, and asked him to explain a new piece of legislation that had been passed by the State Legislature. Mr. Bartow said it was a pleasure to attend the meeting and apprise the Board of an opportunity available through President Obama's stimulus plan. He said there are new types of bonds to provide for construction projects called QSCB (Qualified School Construction Bond). The bonds are 0% interest so only the principal is paid back. Each investor receives a tax credit, so with an investment of in the \$100,000 bonds, the individual would receive \$7,900 in tax credits. This could be very popular with investors. San Diego has already used this process. They are currently working with the state of Missouri on this opportunity. These funds can only be used for General Obligation bonds: construction of school facilities, acquiring facilities, purchasing land, etc. They must comply with the David Bacon Act which is the prevailing wage requirement and construction workers have to be paid weekly. It also stipulates that we must buy American steel and aluminum. \$22 billion has been allotted to be issued in 2009 and 2010. He does not think that they will be renewed if the economy pickups. \$280 million has been allocated and \$140 million has already been used. June 12 is application deadline for this year for \$140 million leaving \$140 million for 2010. This year, due to special legislation, a November election for G.O. bonds only requires a 4/7th percentage passage. Schools can pass G.O. bonds with 4/7 passage every April, and in August and November in even numbered years. November 2009 and April 2010 may be the split times for these bonds. This means the district could run an \$85 million bond issue in November. By using \$30 million of the QBCs, then the District could save between \$16 and \$24 million in interest. Bonds are due 2024. Dr. Hinson said that the Board and Administration would have about 10 weeks to make a decision about the possibility of putting an issue on the ballot. There is a Sales Tax issue on the August ballot for the Independence Police Department. This issue will be placed on the agenda for next Tuesday night for further discussion. We will need to get feedback from the community by having a lot of different meetings throughout the City.

Dr. Streich facilitated a presentation on the Small Learning Communities program at the high schools. Jana Waits and Ken Johnston were part of the team that worked on this issue. He said that Dr. Henry Russell had provided the true momentum for the high school restructuring program and that teamwork has been great. The history of how the SLC has evolved along with a journey map was shared. Bill Brooks presented a history addressing the 24 recommendations under the three categories: collaboration; personalization; curriculum, instruction and assessment. Laura Legg - reviewed the Internal Technical Review visit. Bill Adams, Nedra Jeffries, and Christine Adams presented information on the

positive impact the high school redesign program has had on the students and staff. Laura summarized about putting knowledge into action next year. Bill and Laura said they will continue to pursue federal funding and if not then they will seek grants. Dr. Streich said the District has the right people steering the boat.

Mr. Ron Bruch presented the draft Facility Use Report. Also in attendance from the task force were Dan Ogle, Eric Holm, Jason Dial, and Dr. Brian Mitchell. He discussed background information including policies & procedures. He discussed the District's intent in making the facilities available to outside groups. A framework was developed

providing a comprehensive education program includes organizations where they should share in the additional costs of the maintenance of the facilities, etc. It was determined that most of the facilities should be available at reasonable times and reasonable rates for organizations' use. Under no circumstances should an organization use a facility contrary to the District's purposes or goals. The committee researched other metropolitan school districts and looked at their policies, practices and procedures and proposed updates. The recommendation is that the District adopt a clearly defined policy regarding facility usage. This would include a reasonable balance between the District's needs and responsibilities as well as the communities' needs and wants. Another recommendation is to develop a consistent fee schedule for facility use. It was suggested that the billing/invoicing be handled by the Business Office. He reviewed each of the recommendations on the Executive Summary. The Board of Education thanked Mr. Bruch and the committee for their hard work.

There being no further information to bring before the Board of Education, a motion was made by Susan Jones, second by Jana Waits, to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. The motion was approved as follows:

Ayes: Blake Roberson  
Ken Johnston  
Ann Franklin  
Susan Jones  
Jana Waits  
Ira Anders

Absent: Matt Mallinson

---

Secretary

---

President