

RILEY COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL
District 18
9406 Riley Road
Marengo, IL 60152

Wednesday, December 15, 2010
6:00 PM

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

School Board Members, Aubry, Behnke, Mitchell, Northcutt and Schnable answered roll call at 6:00 PM. Members of the public in attendance were Mr. & Mrs. Millard, Monica and Emily Chen, Rebecca & Andrew Millard, Mr. & Mrs. Burns and Megan & Abbey Burns. Also in attendance were Mrs. Schnable, Mrs. Conkling, Mrs. Rooney and Mr. Trickett.

There was one Freedom of Information request from Mr. Bruce Peleschak. Member Northcutt asked what Mr. Peleschak was looking for. Superintendent Trickett responded that he requests all expenditures for the month and occasionally a job description of a particular employee. There were no questions on the November Financial Report or the Treasurer's Report: Bills Payable December 2010. There were no changes to the November 17, 2010, minutes or Executive Session Minutes of November 17, 2010. Policy adoptions or revisions were approved as presented for Board Policy, Policies Number: 2:150, 2:220, 2:230, 2:260, 4:10, 4:150, 4:170, 5:10, 5:30, 5:90, 5:120, 5:185, 5:220, 5:260, 6:110, 6:210, 6:300, 7:50, 7:60, 7:100, 7:270, 7:290, 7:310 (October Issue 74). We would like to thank the Marengo Knights of Columbus for their very generous donation of \$757.64 for our Special Education Department. Principal Conkling will report on the Illinois Youth Survey 2010 Follow Up report.

Member Schnable made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Member Aubry seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

COMMUNICATIONS

The Alliance Legislative Report continues to keep us up to date in the latest happenings down State. Superintendent Trickett talked with a School District that has received all their federal and state money, which is encouraging for Riley. To date, Mrs. Schnable reported that we have received all monies with the exception of one grant in the approximate amount of \$5,000. President Behnke reported that he was glad to see the Federal Appellate Court upheld the Illinois' Moment of Silence Law as reported in the 'Extra Mile' by Hodge, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn LLP. The Department of Planning and Development scheduled another hearing for the Liberty Arbour subdivision. Mrs. Schnable commented that Liberty Arbour appeared in front of Planning and Development in December. As a result of the letter that the school district wrote, the developer agreed to remove the center medians from all cul de sacs. Superintendent reported that due to our efforts over the past three years we have seen a decrease of \$5,000 on our school workmen's compensation

insurance due to a decline in claims. Also provided by Mr. Trickett is the Annual Financial History Report for 2004-10 based upon District audits.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Behnke was amazed, once again, at the choir and band performance last evening. Mr. Behnke would like to thank Ms. Burns for her dedication and hard work, teaching our students to become such outstanding musicians. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Board Members in Florida having to endure such a frightening experience at a board meeting. President Behnke would also like to announce that he will run for school board in the April 4, 2011, election.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Conkling reported on the wonderful holiday concerts. The elementary concert on December 7, 2010, was very light hearted, and the junior high concert was December 14, 2010. Mrs. Conkling agreed with Mr. Behnke that the band sounded like a high school band. Mrs. Conkling also commented that the junior high band is 50% 6th grade students. We have had two successful field trips in December. The seventh grade students went on a ski trip to Grand Geneva in Wisconsin. There were no injuries to students, just one injury to a chaperone, not on the slopes but in the lodge. The sixth grade class went bowling in Belvidere. One of our students, Jake Barton, actually beat Ms. Marsh. December 17, 2010, is the end of the second quarter. Grades will be due the first week back and will be mailed early the next week. The first day back, January 3, 2011, will be an in-service for teachers. The in-service will concentrate on teen suicide. Our all school spelling bee is January 14, 2011. The Regional Spelling Bee will be in February. Mrs. Conkling would like to take this opportunity to thank the Riley staff for their cooperation and all the coordinating that is involved in making our school run so smoothly. Merry Christmas to all of you.

Mrs. Conkling supplied the Board with the Illinois Youth Survey follow-up report which includes an overview of recent use rate comparisons and risk/protective factors. Even though usage levels have gone down, overall usage is still a concern in three areas (alcohol, inhalants and marijuana). The risk factors for alcohol and marijuana use are significant at the sixth grade level. This is due to student perception of parental acceptance of the use of these substances. The eighth grade risk factors are lower because of their perception that parents would not be as accepting of these behaviors. We will not test again until 2012.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Trickett congratulated the staff members on their efficiency in making the day to day activities of Riley School run smoothly. Mr. Trickett fixed a leak in the gym due to frozen drains. A number of buses are having their brakes checked and replaced as needed. Bus 2 is having a problem with the drive shaft and we are hoping this will be taken care of under the warranty through Huntley International. If the warranty has expired, the work will be done at Alan Brown's Garage in Genoa. Superintendent Trickett would like to thank the Board of Education for providing the staff with a holiday luncheon on December 15, 2010.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Trickett asked if any of the Board Members have received any feedback on this year's school calendar. It will be time to start thinking about the 2011/12 calendar. Member Mitchell noticed that many schools are taking the week of Thanksgiving for vacation. Mr. Trickett believes that many districts are doing this as part of the parent/teacher conferences scheduled that same week. Mrs. Conkling feels that the week of Thanksgiving is too late in the year for parent/teacher conferences. We need parent contact earlier than that.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Trickett, as part of the levy process, has revised the dollar amount for the estimated levy by lowering the dollars requested in Working Cash Fund and increasing the dollar amounts for the Transportation Fund and the Operations and Maintenance Fund to better meet the future fiscal responsibilities of these funds.

Member Schnable made a motion to adopt the resolution providing the Certificate of Tax levy for the year 2010 in the amount of \$3,528,000; and to approve Secretary's Certificate and Truth and Taxation Certificate of Compliance. Member Aubry seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Northcutt – AYE
Member Mitchell – AYE
Member Schnable – AYE

Member Behnke – AYE
Member Aubry – AYE

Member Schnable made a motion to approve membership in the Elementary District Organization for \$200 per year. Member Aubry seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Behnke – AYE
Member Aubry – AYE
Member Northcutt – AYE

Member Mitchell – AYE
Member Schnable – AYE

Member Northcutt made a motion to re-designate Superintendent Jerry Trickett and Principal Christine Conkling as District F.O.I.A. officers and Open Meeting Act (OMA) designated employees and to approve any training for designated officers and OMA employees. Member Mitchell seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Member Northcutt made a motion to approve a resolution supporting the McHenry County Board and the underage Drinking Task Force. Member Schnable seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Superintendent Trickett reported that in the past the Rural Education Achievement Program Grant has been used for teacher salaries. Superintendent Trickett, after reviewing the terms and conditions of this grant, felt that under certain guidelines, we are allowed to use these funds for the purchase of educational software materials and equipment for enhancement of student achievement. Member Aubry and Member Proberts met with the Mr. Eric Vance, representative for Educational Technology Partners, for a preview of the Autoskill

Software programs for Reading and Math to supplement the Response to Intervention program. Member Aubry was impressed that this software not only meets the needs of struggling students, but will also challenge those students on the other end of the spectrum. The software cost is \$25,350.00.

Member Aubry made a motion to approve use of the Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) Grant for fiscal year 2011 in the amount of \$31,772 to purchase AutoSkill Reading and Math Software from Educational Technology partners for use with Response to Intervention (RtI) Program; and technology equipment to support the utilization of the programs. Member Mitchell seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Mitchell – AYE
Member Schnable – AYE
Member Behnke – AYE

Member Aubry – AYE
Member Northcutt – AYE

Member Schnable made a motion to approve Principal Christine Conkling and Barb Rooney as local election officials for 2011 School Board Elections. Member Aubry seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Superintendent Trickett recommends that Riley CCSD 18 make application for a \$250,000 Energy Efficiency Grant through the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). This kind of a grant is to help school districts enhance their energy efficiency by replacement of inefficient equipment such as: boilers, boiler controls, heating ventilators, windows, cooling units, and the installation of automated thermostatic controls. This grant is a matching fund grant with a maximum of \$250,000, which simply means the District shall provide an amount equal to whatever the final dollar amount is awarded by ISBE. All grant applications must be initiated through an Architect, who will stipulate what qualifies as energy efficiency improvements. The cost to submit this grant by Bradley & Bradley Architects of Rockford will be \$500.00. Payment for the energy efficiency work identified would be through one of two options: (1) Revenue from the District's Building Fund, (2) Performance Base Contracting. Performance Contracting is where a vendor commits to replacement of the District's old HVAC equipment with new equipment. The vendor shall reimburse the District for the difference in energy costs if the new equipment does not provide the projected savings. Performance Contracting is means for school districts experiencing cash flow problems to upgrade HVAC equipment now with payment extended over a number of years. Generally, the District pays for the Performance Contracting through a debt service agreement over 20 years. Superintendent Trickett believes that due to the aging facility most of the heating and ventilation equipment is outdated; and the Board should apply for the grant and determine later if they will accept the award.

Member Schnable made a motion to authorize Superintendent Trickett to submit an application, in conjunction with Bradley & Bradley Architecture Engineering firm of Rockford, to the Illinois State Board of Education for the Energy Efficiency Grant for \$250,000. Member Northcutt seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Aubry – AYE
Member Northcutt – AYE
Member Mitchell – AYE

Member Schnable – AYE
Member Behnke – AYE

Member Schnable made a motion to adjourn for Executive Session at 6:38 PM for the purpose of Negotiations and Personnel. Member Aubry seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The regular School Board Meeting resumed at 7:02 PM.

Member Schnable would like to thank Mr. Stimes for his dedicated service to Riley School as Athletic Director for the past 22 years. He would also like to thank Mr. Stimes for finishing out the 2010/11 season as Athletic Director.

Member Schnable made a motion to regretfully accept the resignation of Mr. Joseph Stimes for Athletic Director. Member Aubry seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The next regular Board of Education meeting will be January 19, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

Member Schnable made a motion to adjourn at 7:04 PM. Member Aubry seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Jay Behnke – President

Mrs. Anita Mitchell - Secretary