

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

Wednesday, November 18, 2009
7:00 PM

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

School Board Members Peters, Proberts, Northcutt, Behnke, Mitchell, Aubry and Schnable answered roll call at 7:00 PM. Members of the public in attendance were Mrs. Wojcik, Mrs. Haeflinger, Ms. Batchelder, Mr. & Mrs. Melnytschuk, Larissa Melnytschuk, Mr. Wills from First Mid-State, Mr. & Mrs. Kirchner, Mrs. Karczewski, Mr. & Mrs. Wilcox, Mrs. Vargas, Kayla and Justin Vargas, and Mr. Millard. Also in attendance were Mrs. Conkling, Mrs. Schnable, Mrs. Rooney and Mr. Trickett.

There was one Freedom of Information request from Peter Olson of the Plumbers Union requesting all building plans and financials. We fulfilled all requests with the exception of two: requests for pay roll and final building permit we were unable to supply at this time but will as soon as they are available. Member Mitchell and Member Proberts were satisfied with answers to their questions on the Financial Report. Member Behnke would like the minutes of the Executive Session Special Board Meeting, last page last sentence of first paragraph to state that Brackmann Construction will be using Ozinga Construction (spelled with an "O") for the concrete on this project. The Annual Statement of Affairs for the fiscal year ending June 20, 2009 was published November 15, 2009. Mr. Trickett stated that Specialty Floors, Inc. has not increased their fees over the past 5 to 7 years; he would like the quotation accepted in order to establish a summer gym cleaning schedule. The Policy Committee met to review School Board Policy revisions and recommends first reading with future adoption at the December meeting.

Member Peters made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Member Proberts seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mrs. Karczewski expressed her concerns with the 4th grade class. Her concerns include the room being too small to accommodate a class of 32 students making it impossible to conduct "centers" or the use of an overhead projector. There are some concerns that the full time aide is not being utilized effectively. She also feels the addition of a special education student has disrupted the class. Mr. Trickett assured Mrs. Karczewski that the Board will be discussing the fourth grade situation in Closed Session. Superintendent Trickett reminded parents that the space at Riley School is very limited, we are recovering from financial tough times, and we are

in a transition period with the new construction. Mrs. Kirchner asked, is there a number at which the Board will decide to split the class. Superintendent Trickett said there are many factors that are considered when classes are being established and a definite class size number does not exist. The staff looks at the complexion of the class, space available and financial conditions. Three years ago Mrs. Conkling had a class of 37 with a full time aide and test scores went up. This District, for the most part, spends fewer dollars per student compared to neighboring schools and with better test score results.

The October Viking Awards were presented to Larissa Melnyschuk and Justin Vargas both 8th grade students by Principal Conkling and Board President Behnke. Congratulations to these outstanding students, keep up the good work.

COMMUNICATIONS

The minutes of Mid-Northern Conference and Alliance Legislative report are for your information. The Industrial Appraisal Company provides Riley with figures of our capital assets. Two spreadsheets containing enrollment data for all of the Marengo Area Schools and McHenry County School Enrollments were provided by the Regional Office of Education (ROE). Gallagher Bassett Services, Inc. sent us a report on the claim filed for vandalism damage on November 5, 2009. Our deductible has increased to \$2,500.00. At this time the damages have not reached the \$2,500.00 deductible. We have received the consent forms from McHenry County on the H1N1 vaccinations. Once the vaccines are available date and times will be scheduled. It will be dependent on availability as to whether it will be a shot or live vaccine nasal spray. H1N1 vaccinations should be provided sometime prior to school break or shortly after break through Centegra Health Systems. The packets will go home two weeks prior to the vaccination date. These vaccinations are available to Riley students only and at risk staff members.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Conkling reported on a great articulation in-service at Marengo Community High School with all schools. The teachers were able to share weaknesses and strengths on the curriculum mapping process. This is something we would like to do again sometime before the holiday break in December. The fall conferences were well attended and went very well. We received positive feedback on the new junior high format in the gym. All grants have been filed and we are still waiting for approval on a few. The 8th grade class attended a Health Career Fair at the new Woodstock High School. The students enjoyed many hands-on experiences and learned about several different job choices.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

McHenry County Sheriff's Department is continuing the investigation of vandalism done on November 5, 2009. They have some leads and a possible suspect. Our life/safety violations are narrowing. The building project is well underway. Staff is dealing with some of the

inconveniences such as the playground and noise. Students are very interested in the project and are adapting to the change.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Kevin Wills from First Midstate Inc., presented the Board of Education with the Resolution authorizing and providing for the lease agreement and issuance of General Obligation Lease Certificates (limited tax) for the School District. Mr. Wills also provided a 4 year breakdown of the principal, interest rate (4.9162% fixed rate), when interest is due and fiscal total for \$250,000. This will be available December 1, 2009 with a closing date of December 3, 2009. There will be a yearly expense of \$500 for the Certificate of Registrar. The Lessor will be Commerce Bank, N.A., Kansas City, Missouri. They did proposition local banks but all declined. Lease will transfer upon completion. The Lessor has no input whatsoever on the construction project. Mr. Trickett commented that the surety bond will cost \$189. The County does not require a separate levy. Mr. Wills directed the Board to several points of interest in the document.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Trickett presented the Board with information on the dog tracking class that takes place on the Riley School playground on Sunday mornings from 8:00-10:00AM. Superintendent Trickett is looking for Board approval for the clubs use of our outside facility. The Illini Schutzhund Verein has provided Riley with a Certificate of Liability Insurance and has given a yearly donation to the school. The Illini Schutzhund Verein will provide Riley a signed Building and Grounds Request & Agreement Form. Member Northcutt asked about School Board Policy in relation to pets and was concerned about liability. Mr. Trickett commented that the Board tends to have risk of liability issues regardless of the activity on school property. However, the Board and Administration must determine if the activity provides an unreasonable amount of risk for the students, staff and spectators. This activity is on a Sunday when students and staff are not present; and this particular group has been using the grounds for the past twenty-two years without incident.

Since we are not requesting an aggregate levy to exceed more than 105% over last years levy extension, a hearing will not have to be scheduled; and notification in the newspaper is not mandatory without a hearing. Non publication of the levy hearing will save the District \$572.00. Last year the District received \$185,000 in the extension. This year we will expect to receive \$64,000; a decrease of \$121,000 in revenue. This year the levy will notably provide \$121,000 less in funding due to a lower Consumer Price Index of 1/10th of a percent (0.1%) as compared to a 4.2% CPI one year ago; coupled with decline in property values and new development We are not levying for working cash this levy; instead we will levy for leasing of educational facilities. The dollars received for leasing of educational facilities will pay down the project debt over four years.

The building project is at the point where we need to make color selections for the building. Mr. Trickett would like to appoint Mrs. Conkling, Mrs. Schnable and Mrs. Rooney to serve on the color selection and coordination committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Member Mitchell would like to make a motion to approve action on a Resolution authorizing and providing for a lease agreement and issuance of \$250,000 General Obligation Lease Certificates (limited tax), Series 2009, by and for the Community Consolidated School District Number 18, McHenry County, Illinois. Member Northcutt seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Proberts – AYE
Member Behnke – AYE
Member Aubry – AYE
Member Peters – AYE

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

Member Schnable made a motion to approve the proposed estimated aggregate tax levy on 2009 property tax assessments, which is less than 105% of the amount of property taxes extended for the final aggregate extension in the preceding year. Member Peters seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

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

Member Behnke – AYE
Member Aubry – AYE
Member Peters – AYE

Member Proberts made a motion to verify and confirm the destruction of closed session tape recordings for meetings of 3/18/09, 4/15/09, 5/20/09, 6/17/09 and 7/15/09 due to burglary and vandalism of Riley School on November 5, 2009. Member Aubry seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Member Schnable made a motion to approve use of Riley Community Consolidated School District 18 outdoor grounds on Sunday mornings by Illini Schutzhund Verein of 24515 Anthony Road, Marengo, Illinois for purpose of training dogs for tracking (Police dogs, search & rescue). Member Aubry seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Member Schnable made a motion to enter Closed Session at 8:17 PM for the discussion of personal and security. Member Mitchell seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The Regular Board of Education meeting resumed at 8:47 PM.

Superintendent Trickett mentioned that the sidewalk and playground area for the new construction will be delayed until May. The project calls for trenching to install the gas, water, electric and district cabling starting Friday, November 20, 2009. Commonwealth Edison will be upgrading our service either through a separate transformer that has a monthly service fee or upgrading their current transformer as part of their infrastructure improvements without a monthly fee. We will need to evaluate to see which will be more cost effective. All underground plumbing has been completed and the final slab will be poured November 20, 2009. If all goes well we should be under roof by the Holiday break.

The Marengo Fire District sent us six amendments for consideration by our architect. Bradley and Bradley will respond to these per code.

Superintendent Trickett addressed the public on the Board's position in reference to our 4th grade class. Mrs. Conkling will investigate the public's concerns over use of the classroom aide and make necessary observations. She will talk with the 4th grade teacher and aide. Mrs. Conkling will observe the utilization of the aide and look at the room's physical size with a recommendation back to Mr. Trickett. Mr. Trickett will investigate the feasibility of expanding the room with respect to whether it would be structurally sound and cost effective; he will advise the building committee of his finding. The Board will make their recommendations at the December 16, 2009 Board Meeting. Any approved work could be done over the Holiday break.

Member Schnable made a motion to adjourn at 8:57 PM. Member Peters seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Rooney, Riley School Secretary

Mr. Jay Behnke – President

Mrs. Anita Mitchell - Secretary