

# El Paso Gridley Community Unit School District #11

## Citizens Advisory Council Minutes

### 10/13/2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. at Centennial School by Superintendent Rick Johnston. Council members present: John Hartness, Nancy Schuler, Michelle Marr, Leah Fletcher, Stephanie Matzke, Rhonda Zielsdorf, Hannah Denney, Becky Duley, Haley Stoller, Brent Johnson, Shelbie Bigger, Lisa Meyer, Kelly Faulk, John Garrels, Rick Johnston and Karen Krug. Council members absent: Rich Kiefer, Casey Knobloch, Shelly Forrest, Kelly Throneburg, Shannon Dudek, Brian Kurz, and Tim Fairchild.

Technology update was presented by Justin Kissinger. He stated that several projects have been completed and are successfully in place. The phone system is completed and working well. All teachers have phones and voicemail in their rooms. The security system is up at both campuses. You now need to buzz in at Jefferson Park School, Centennial School, and El Paso Gridley High School. Security cameras have been put in place in all schools. The teachers have the ability to access an online video website to utilize in their classrooms. The teachers are also able to Instant Message each other which further facilitates better communication. Student information has been transferred to a new system "Skyward," which has all information from all schools on one database. Over 30 classrooms have interactive whiteboards in them. Mr. Kissinger stated that a parental portal to student information will be coming soon.

A meet and greet occurred between the Council members and Mr. Johnston.

Citizens' Advisory Council officers for 2009/2010 were nominated and elected:

- Casey Knobloch was voted President
- Lisa Meyer was voted Vice President
- Becky Duley was voted Secretary

Council members discussed the length of terms for members being two years with an optional one year added on. It was stated that the meetings are covered under the Open Meetings Act and that people can come to the meetings once they are off the Council if they wish.

There is one opening on the Council still to be filled by a community member.

Mr. Johnston explained the Interactive Illinois Report Card Website. As a district, we have been exceeding the state averages. The administrators and teachers will be compiling and comparing class scores over the years. This will be reported on at the next Citizens Advisory Council Meeting. Parents can go to <http://iirc.niu.edu> to see the individual scores of the district and also other districts. 2009 data will be included October 31, 2009.

There seems to be a slight decline in overall enrollment the past three years. The District will be investigating ways to promote the EPG school district. Suggestions included business contacts such as realtors and Chamber of Commerce throughout the Bloomington-Normal area. WEEK Channel 25 aired a short piece on the high school showing what we have to offer. This was very positive public relations for the district.

Flu questions were addressed. Mr. Johnston sent a note out via e-mail and also home with the students concerning the flu situation. *(Please see the school website for links and information on the flu and H1N1.)* We have had influenza A in the district but this does not mean that we have H1N1. The district has the health of the students as a top priority. A Council member was concerned about the quality of air at Jefferson Park School due to the air conditioner not working properly. Mr. Johnston stated that even though the air conditioner was not working properly there, the air was being “turned over” in order to circulate fresh air as required.

Council members who have children in school requested the district look into a central money system so parents can write one check out to pay for lunches, pictures, etc. For example, it would be nice to only have to write out one check for family “John Doe” and then all three children would be able to eat out of that account, instead of writing three checks. Being able to access and pay for items online using credit cards would facilitate this issue. They would also like to be able to see account balances for all of their children’s accounts online.

Mr. Johnston reported that the district has been meeting with the El Paso City Recreation Department concerning the possibility of the community being able to access the fitness center when it is not being used by the students. At this point it is in the “discussion” stage. Several details need to be addressed prior to this being able to occur. The district is hopeful the partnership can be forged.

The next meeting will be held at Centennial School on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Johnston adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.