

Quick Board Summary

EPG

Connecting: ...to our students, staff, and community
Creating: ...the best learning opportunities
Committing: ...to student achievement



2012 McLean
County/HOIC
Tournament
Champions:
EPG Lady Titan
Basketball

The Board of Education met in
regular session at 7:00 pm
at the Centennial Library in El Paso.

Board of Education

President
John Hartness (2013)

Vice President
Eric Zehr (2015)

Secretary
David Mool (2015)

Member
Bill Schifferer (2013)

Member
Matt Stuckel (2013)

Member
Jeremy Faulk (2015)

Member
Rich Kiefer (2015)

Superintendent of Schools
Rick Johnston

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El Paso, IL 61738
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<http://www.unit11.org>

Consent Agenda Items:

- A. Approval of minutes from the Board Meeting held on December 19, 2011
- B. Approval of minutes from the Board Closed Session held on December 19, 2011
- C. Approval of financial report
- D. Approval of bills
- E. Approve Joe Wyckoff's resignation as a high school teacher effective the last day of the 2011-2012 school year
- F. Approve Jane Radebaugh's Retirement/Resignation as a library assistant effective the last day of the 2011-2012 school year
- G. Approve Cynthia Koeller's Retirement/Resignation as a teacher effective the end of the 2013-14 school year with amended language agreement
- H. Approve Lucy Loper's Retirement/Resignation as a teacher effective the end of the 2014-2015 school year
- I. Approve Gail Evans Retirement/Resignation as a teacher effective at the end of the 2014-2015 school year
- J. Approve Ron Henkelman's Retirement/Resignation as a teacher effective at the end of the 2014-2015 school year
- K. Approve Julie Carr's request for a leave of absence
- L. Approve keeping Closed Session Minutes dated 08/16/2011 thru 12/19/2011 Closed
- M. Approve destroying Closed Session audio tapes dated 01/25/2010 thru 05/24/2010 per policy 2:220

Overview

The meeting was called to order by President John Hartness. All Board members were present except for Vice President Mr. Eric Zehr. There was a folder shared across the table for correspondence (thank you card). There were no requests for public comment. Janet Smith and Jennie Kearny (El Paso Journal) were guests.

Administrative Reports:

The administrators submit their written reports prior to the meeting so the BoE has those included in their board packet materials. These are also supplied to local media.

Principal Krug reported to the BoE on the "Transitions Program" at EPGHS which assists students who need academic or behavioral assistance with their normal school day. This program is producing the type of results we had hoped for based on the original plan. It was noted that those involved have seen the communication component between the transition instructor and the regular education teacher as the major element for success. Ms. Krug supplied the BoE a summary based on the rubric developed by the Board on a definition of success when the pilot program was presented.

Principal Tomlinson reported to the BoE on the Alternative Education Program instituted at EPGJH. He noted decreases in overall failing grades across the school population as well as a decrease in office referrals and suspensions. This program is just one of the reasons for this improvement. Mr. Harris was complimented by Mr. Tomlinson on his contribution toward the successes exhibited.

Library Report:

District librarian Georgia Oltman presented the annual library report to the BoE. This report is a requirement of the Illinois State Library Grant. She presented the overall ratings in seven different areas for each media center in the district. In particular she thanked the BoE for purchasing the “Destiny” program which allows for 24/7 access to resource in the media center for our students and staff.

Superintendent Report:

Health/Life/Safety Update: The most east and west fire escapes on the north side of the high school building have been part of the HLS survey the past several years. The BoE has approved work to be completed on these two sections in order to reach proper safety codes. The section that leads from the second floor corridor east exit will be replaced with a new unit. The fire escape that serves the second floor most west exit will be refurbished with additional bracing, treads, and handrails. This is the most economical solution to this mandated update.

1:1 HS Committee: The committee met this past Thursday afternoon to discuss their thoughts on previewing the various devices being considered. At the February BoE meeting, the formal proposal will be presented to the Board. A decision on approval will be made at the March meeting for this program.

Mackinaw Valley Special Education Cooperative: I have talked with the ISBE coordinator overseeing this transition and he believes we are very appropriate in our current plan. The Unit #11 BoE will receive a recommendation for discussion in February for transitioning to the Tri-County Special Education Coop. A final vote by the BoE will occur in March. If approved, the TCSPEC would consider membership within the next month. Our transition plan is a multi-year process.

Gridley TIF: We received an email on Sunday Jan. 22nd from Brent Kirkton requesting a meeting with the Village Board on either February 27, 28, or 29th. We will be arranging this meeting.

Open Meetings Act Training: The BoE was supplied information regarding this mandated yearly training.

Discussion Items:

- ✓ **Long Range Facilities Planning—Phase I Update**
 - The contract for the topographical and boundary survey was finalized so the process can take place this week. These are needed prior to requesting bids.
- ✓ **Purchase of a ¾ ton Work Truck**
 - The district will develop a specifications sheet for this vehicle. The transportation committee will meet to review options from the local dealerships to address this need. This was a budgeted item for this fiscal year. The vehicle will be equipped with a service body and snow plow.

Discussion Items Continued....

- ✓ **Gas/Electric Energy Contracts (options)**
 - The finance committee agrees that this could be the most advantageous time to lock in pricing for the next two or three years for budgeting purposes. The district will be investigating options for future pricing. A recommendation to the BoE may be presented at the February meeting.
- ✓ **Senate Bill 7 Effects**
 - Mr. Johnston shared the Joint Committee work, the Seniority List, and the effects of the new legislation as it relates to RIF and evaluations.
- ✓ **Orville Haas Scholarship Trust**
 - Heartland Bank has indicated that they will need to begin to charge fees on the administration of that trust. In order to avoid those costs and to optimize the trust dollars for our students, we need to transfer the administration of that trust from Heartland to the District. The district already does this with the Ruch scholarship. GUIDELINES FOR THE REQUIREMENTS AND COMMITTEE WORK WOULD REMAIN INTACT.

Action Items:

- 1. Approval of Library Report**
- 2. Approved motion to “lay on the table” PRESS policy 77 changes/updates for final approval on February 27, 2012.**
 - a. These policies are available at the district office for public review.**
- 3. Approve Orville Hass Scholarship Modification of Trustee**

Closed Session:

The Board moved into closed session to discuss personnel. They moved into Open session three minutes later to end the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

*Next regular meeting will be
February 27, 2012 @ Centennial Library*