

EPG Unit #11 Quick Board Summary

January 24, 2010 Regular Board of Education Meeting Rick Johnston, Superintendent of Schools

(El Paso, IL--Centennial Library) The Board of Education met on Monday night in regular session for its January regular meeting. The following is a summary of that meeting.

Correspondence: Numerous thank you cards.

The consent agenda action approval contained the following items:

- Approve minutes from Special Board Meeting held on January 13, 2010
- Approve minutes from the regular Board Meeting held on December 14, 2009
- Approve minutes from the Board Closed Session held on December 14, 2009
- Approval to keep Closed Session Minutes dated 07/20/09 thru 12/14/09 Closed
- Approval to destroy Closed Session audio tapes dates 01/17/08 thru 06/05/08 per policy 2:220
- Approve hiring Tracy Garrett as the third grade special education teaching assistant
- Approve Katie Kurz as a volunteer for junior high girls volleyball
- Approve Amanda Watson's request to take April 19th – 23rd off as unpaid leave
- Approve Beth Hartness' request to take February 25th and 26th off as unpaid leave
- Approve Teresa Nieukirk's request to retire at the end of the 2012-2013 school year
- Approve financial reports
- Approve bills

Administrative Reports: Each building administrator shared their monthly report in writing prior to the meeting. Building principal's reports are emailed to the board and to the local media. Typically, board members ask questions about the report and the principal can add to or highlight each report as needed.

Superintendent's Report

1. **FRIS Report and Categorical Spreadsheet-** Included in board's materials were the FRIS report summary of what state payments are vouchered and/or paid to this point. Also, a categorical spreadsheet that shows the totals to this point of what has been budgeted and received for each category. These are the amounts projected for the full FY10 year.
2. **HOIC Superintendent School Funding Forum-** I was very proud that we were the only district at the HOIC that had all seven members in attendance at this forum. While we have similar demographics in our school districts, each district is at a different situation in terms of financial status. I commend the Board's actions over the past years to create substantial fund balances to assist the district during times like these. The message that we wanted to share with the media as superintendents was that our local taxpayers have done their part—they have met their obligations. The school Board has adopted responsible budgets that have allowed our district to be very viable but is moving us forward in our quest to become a destination district in the Bloomington/Normal area. The resolution that we will look to adopt tonight reflects the philosophy that has been what this board has believed in for the past few years. We must be responsive but responsible. We are currently working on a three-year plan for the district that will take us forward with the momentum that we have gained in our instructional atmosphere in our schools while still keeping us in a positive light with fund balances.

3. **EPG Foundation-** The Foundation met in January at the east campus. Members were given a presentation on technology tools that our staff has available to them. We wanted to demonstrate the items that are requested so that the members have a strong understanding of how those tools enhance learning. We will be prioritizing the next round of requests and bringing them to the BOE for approval.
4. **School Closings and School Reach Notification-** We have had two snow days this month. It is my practice to drive the roads early; inspect our facility needs with the help of JT Carr; get input from Mike Kelly (transportation director) and various road commissioners. I also talk to surrounding superintendents including Lexington, Prairie Central, Roanoke-Benson, and Fieldcrest. I will try to make the decision on school that day before 5:45 am. Our first step once that decision is made is to send the automated call to our staff and parents. This is over 3700 calls within minutes. If there is no answer on a particular number, the system will try two more times to reach that number. *We did have some issues on the second snow day with our system. We then did a test call to our staff last Friday during the day and had no issues.* The media calls are then made to over 10 outlets in our area. The district website is updated also.

Road Conditions/Drivers— District-wide we have varying responses by township commissioners. Most get out early and work to address their area beginning around 4:00-4:30 am. A couple areas are not addressed until much later which makes it harder for our bus drivers to have consistent conditions. We cover 170 square miles twice each day. Our bus drivers and custodial staff deserve much credit for their efforts the past couple weeks in dealing with the weather conditions. I worry about our student drivers much more than our trained bus drivers when it comes to getting to and from school. Ice is the toughest condition --particularly trying to prepare our property to ready for the day.

5. **Keys at the West Campuses-**Staff members now have ID cards that will also act as their electronic key to the buildings that currently have the “buzz in” system..
6. **Signage-**Thank you to the City of El Paso and Village of Gridley for putting up our school signs along the streets to help direct people to our facilities.
7. **IASB Policy Manual Progress-** Sharon Kennedy and I talked Monday morning. The IASB office in Springfield has our rough draft from Ms. Kennedy and they are producing the bound copy draft. We should have the draft within two weeks I am told. We will probably schedule our next Policy Committee meeting toward the end of February with her for our next step in the process. As soon as I get the rough draft, we will create and distribute copies of the needed materials with committee members.
8. **Water Leak--** Centennial School has a water leak at 3:30 am on January 13th that caused about 300 gallon of water to flow down the east hallway from a classroom into the cafeteria. JT Carr organized two custodians and Jeff Price to clean up the water within 90 minutes. The cooks and teachers (other than the classroom where the leak occurred) did not realize there was this issue earlier. Damages were: clean up costs including Jeff Price’s services and approximately \$100 in classroom damages to materials/supplies. This is the same issue that occurred in another room with a faucet failing just over a year ago. JT Carr has an estimate to replace the seven other faucets in the building that need to be replaced to keep this from happening further.

Old Business

- Carson Durham, BLDD Architects
 - i. Jefferson Park mechanical project—this project is for installation of the boiler and air conditioning units in June.
 - ii. El Paso Gridley High school elevator project—this project includes installation of a commercially rated elevator to make the building ADA compliant. This also includes work in the affected area for re-roof, ceiling work, and locker replacement.

New Business

- Dave Duncan, Athletic Booster Club President
 - i. Mr. Duncan reviewed past purchases and fundraisers for the group. It was pointed out that this group has routinely contributed approximately \$25,000 per year toward EPG athletics. Their efforts are much appreciated.
- School Improvement Plan for Gridley Grade School: Brian Kurz and Tim Fairchild shared the School Improvement Plan for the Gridley Grade School. It includes alignment in nine areas:
 1. *Alignment of District Curriculum*
 2. *Skyward Implementation*

3. *Knowledge of features for new copier*
4. *ISAT Writing*
5. *Other areas of ISAT*
6. *Response to Intervention*
7. *Otter Creek Math Facts*
8. *ThinkCentral.com*
9. *Additional Technology initiative*

Brian Kurz and Tim Fairchild shared the School Improvement Plan for the El Paso Gridley Junior High School. It includes growth in three areas:

1. *Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment*
2. *Leadership and Organization*
3. *Culture and Community*

Action Item(s)

- Approve DuMont's bid for \$289,100 to install the boiler and air conditioning units at Jefferson Park School
- Approve Associated Constructors' bid of \$299,000 for work related to the elevator project at El Paso Gridley High School
- Approve purchase of two treadmills for the El Paso Gridley High School Fitness Center
- Approve Resolution on HOIC Budget Philosophy Statement

Closed Session

- Personnel

(The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.)