

# EPG Unit #11 Quick Board Summary

## **December 14, 2009 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 December regular meeting. The following is a summary of that meeting.

Correspondence: Numerous thank you cards and note from Dan Brady.

\*Special Note: A retirement letter from Sherry Duley was shared with the board. Since it was received after the agenda was set for December, Mr. Johnston indicated that the retirement would be official on December 18<sup>th</sup> and a replacement aid for her would be pursued. Boards do not have to “act” on a letter of resignation/retirement—although most boards do. The district appreciates Sherry’s years of diligent service and wishes her health and happiness in retirement.

### **The consent agenda action approval contained the following items:**

- Approve minutes from the regular Board Meeting held on November 23, 2009
- Approve minutes from the Board Closed Session held on November 23, 2009
- Approve Abby Young’s request to take one day of unpaid leave
- Approve financial report
- Approve bills
- Appoint Superintendent Rick Johnston as the District FOIA Manager

**Administrative Reports:** Each building administrator shared their monthly report in writing prior to the meeting. Ms. Krug, Mr. Kurz, Mr. Dudek, and Ms. Throneburg highlighted components of their report. 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.

JT Carr fielded just a couple questions about the power backup for the communications room for the district at the high school as well as the district office. The contract for installation will be with Zeller Electric. The backup system will protect the many operations that are configured in that area. Additionally, a small unit will supply the district office for emergency use. This is part of our multi-hazard planning.

### **Superintendent’s Report**

1. Tax Levy—Review of the tax levy certificate and worksheet.
2. Update on IASB Policy Customization Project—The policy committee met along with the IASB consultant, Kelly Throneburg, Susan Stella, and me on the initial meeting. This long meeting was necessary in the review of the entire policy manual to set parameters for the consultant to develop the new manual with marked items for review at the next meeting. The next meeting will take place in late January.
3. Update on Mackinaw Valley Special Education Cooperative—In our last meeting with the Coop, we shared with the executive committee that it is our desire to remain with the Mackinaw Valley Special Education Coop for the 2010-11 school year. At the end of the current year, we will survey our parents and other stakeholders regarding the satisfaction level for the current special education services. The Woodford County Special Education Cooperative is hiring a new director for the 2010-11 school year. This will allow us to monitor their progress in order to evaluate our future alignments for 2011-12.

4. CIVEC Update: The vocational cooperative that we belong to has committed to the cooperative for the 2009-10 school year. EPG uses this cooperative as a flow through agency for Perkins Grant money (federal), Ag Incentive Grant (state) and CTEI grant money (state). The agency has not received state CTEI money to this point. The coop is in danger of not being able to cover payroll if they do not receive money by the end of January. In order to get the Perkins money that has been budgeted and approved, the member districts voted to support the office to remain open through the end of this year on a prorated contribution rate. Our district contribution for that effort if needed would be \$714. I am investigating becoming a member of the Vocational Cooperative in Bloomington that is associated with the BACC. We already send students there. This could be a partnership that could make more sense for EPG.
5. PMA Financial Planning Software—I met with the consultant with PMA on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> to review the base assumptions and setup for the new software package. The lengthy report from that meeting was received Friday afternoon. The Finance Committee will meet in January to review “what if” scenarios in a three year plan for the district. The consultant will also be at that meeting. I have been extremely pleased and impressed with the potential of this program.
6. General State Aid information—The handouts you are receiving include a summary of the state revenue for EPG. This includes the projected revenue from various accounts, amounts received, dates of payments, and amounts that are still owed to the district. The long list of unfunded mandates that the legislature continues to pass continue to put schools in Illinois in a difficult position to find local dollars to pay for these items. Reports are that the state of Illinois may cut General State Aid payments for FY11 by 10%. That would translate into approximately \$310,000 for EPG. We are being told to not count on our last two payments this year for special education and transportation. This translates into \$512,000. If this carries to next year along with the reduction in GSA, El Paso Gridley would stand to lose over \$800,000 in state funding.
7. HOIC Superintendent School Funding Forum—There will be a School Funding Forum for all Heart Of Illinois Conference School Boards on January 13<sup>th</sup> at Heyworth High School. All Board members are invited from each school. This will be treated as a special board meeting by each school board. The goal is to create awareness for the public as to the effect of state revenue commitment to education by our state legislature. If there will be reductions in the state funding for schools the next two years, this will hurt rural schools significantly. The forum will explain this effect in detail. The conference superintendents have drafted a possible resolution that may be passed by the conference school boards in a show of unity and support of funding for schools across the state.

#### **Old Business**

- Received proposal for updating equipment in the EPGHS Fitness Center
  - i. This proposal just puts into writing the commitment to set aside dollars for replacement of equipment for the fitness center on an as needed basis for the next four years up to \$10,000 per year.

#### **New Business**

- School Improvement Plan for E.P.G.H.S.: Karen Krug shared the School Improvement Plan for the high school. It included components around four main goals:
  1. *Create an environment of High Expectations for the students.*
  2. *Expand and investigate curriculum needs and possible alternatives.*
  3. *Build a stronger relationship between the community and the school.*
  4. *Develop a plan for implementing and aligning RTI at the secondary level.*

#### **Action Item(s)**

- A. Approve Tax Levy for 2010
- B. Approve the power backup for the District communications systems/District office building

#### **Closed Session**

- C. Personnel

(The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.)