

EPG Unit #11 Quick Board Summary

**June 18, 2009 Regular Board of Education Meeting
June 20, 2009 Special Board Meeting**

Rick Johnston, Superintendent of Schools

(EPGJH Library-Gridley) The Board of Education met last Thursday night in regular session for its June meeting. The following is a summary of that meeting.

Visitors: Jennifer Mudd was recognized by Tom Frazier (Bloomington Area Career Center Director). She won a state-wide vocational contest (SkillsUSA conference) for 3D Visualization & Animation when she created an advertisement for a school in three hours with computer generated characters with video.

The consent agenda action approval contained the following items:

- Confirm the resignation of Katie Schad as EPGHS Spanish Teacher
- Confirm the retirement resignation of Tricia DePew at the end of the 2011-2012 school year
- Approval to hire Michael Melick as the Cross Country Coach for 2009-2010
- Approval of reassignment of Emily Jenkins as Junior High Assistant Volleyball Coach for 2009-10
- Approval of reassignment of Jaclyn Verticchio as High School Assistant Volleyball Coach for 2009-10
- Approval to seek bids for bread, food, fuel, and milk for 2009-2010
- Approval of nursing contract with Eureka Hospital for 2009-2010
- Approval to join IASB for 2009-2010
- Approval to direct the superintendent to develop the 2009-2010 budget

Superintendent's Report

Administrative Workshop

Mr. Clyde Leonard, an ISBE teacher evaluation trainer and long-time high school principal, will be at EPG to work with our administrative team on current trends and strategies in regard to the teacher evaluation process. He has already visited EPG, met with the administrators, talked with staff members, and has begun to learn about us as a district. This will be a full day "Leadership Session" on Tuesday when he will take the new state guidelines for evaluation along with our current evaluation tool and practices—then blend this into a process that should help build relationships which in turn should enhance teacher performance. This is actually an administrative academy workshop that is designed to fit our current environment.

Technology

The connectivity between both campuses is complete. The security cameras at all sites are operational and are recording back to the main server. Phones are being configured right now and should be operational next week for all sites. The configuration of the high speed connection to the state backbone will be next on Justin Kissinger's agenda.

Skyward

The update on Skyward implementation is as follows:

- Conference call on server specifications is complete and quotes are being obtained. We will order the server immediately.
- Data compiling from existing year end files is complete according to their technicians
- Conference call on June 29th with Lori Kirchner (our Skyward specialist) and various stakeholders in the district on system setup. The extensive setup informational file is being completed prior to that meeting.
- There will be training sessions, as planned, in July for administrative assistants in preparation for the new year.
- We hope to be operational by registration but are planning for both scenarios.

Supt report continued....

Registration

We recently had another planning meeting with key personnel on the registration procedures for August. Forms will be made available online for parents prior to registration. The streamlining of payments (particularly at the high school) should really help the process. One simple change will be helpful to parents when they will not revisit a station, which will keep the process moving. Registration will take place at the Link on August 5th and 6th. Parents will be reminded through the school reach telephone system.

Summer Work

Maintenance and work crews were organized a little differently this summer based on tasks performed rather than by building. Crews have been working at the high school and now into Centennial/JP. There is one less work week this summer based on school calendar. Paint crews have been addressing the high traffic areas at the high school and now junior high. JT Carr created a paint color palette with input from staff members containing six colors including purple, black and white that will be used district wide.

Board Working Day (Retreat)

We look forward to a good strategic planning session for the district at our retreat on Saturday. The board will review school wide financial and academic data, board mission statements, slogan, collective bargaining, curriculum, educational/behavioral programs and personnel issues. There will be a fall board retreat as well.

Printing/copier Solutions for the district

We are investigating an improved printing solution for our staff. Proposals are being submitted for replacing existing copy machines and network printers with machines that have better functionality. Staff members should be able to go to a copy machine and email a document to a parent or other staff member (at no charge) in order to share documents electronically. Teachers should be able to send a print job to a centralized printer, have it stored until they arrive, and then print it for security purposes. Accounting functions on all printers will allow for better budgeting and should help reduce costs. Taking the workload off smaller inkjet printers that are not cost effective should also create savings to the district. Increased functionality with greater efficiency is the key.

During the June and July meetings, there will be no administrative reports.

Old Business

Mr. Steve Bushue of Bushue Human Resources reviewed the bids for the district property/casualty and workman's compensation insurance. We had four different agencies supply bids using a wide variety of companies to support those bids. Competitively bidding these services put the district in a very good position financially with all proposals. The board took action later in the meeting.

Building Projects

A discussion of four specific problem areas in buildings has been ongoing with the district and the architectural firm of BLDD. The projects are:

1. Mechanical heating system at Jefferson Park School
2. Library Re-Roof and Ceiling abatement at El Paso Gridley High School
3. Centennial Gymnasium Re-Roof
4. Elevator for the El Paso Gridley High School

Mr. Bill Schifferer, chair of the Facilities Committee, shared with the Board the findings of the committee when it met with the district architect, superintendent, and facilities manager to review each proposal individually. The committee found that these issues had not been dealt with the past few years and they were "not going to go away". The district must deal with these four issues. They recommended to the finance committee that we accept the architectural proposals and move forward with the projects.

Mr. Curt Stoller, chair of the Finance Committee, then shared with the full Board their findings. He said that the committee, working with the superintendent, feels like our current fund balances do support these projects. They recommended that Unit #11 not request a bond issue for these projects and the projects be addressed in the following manner:

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| 1. Library Re-Roof/abatement at EPGHS (\$148,000) | Current Health/Life/Safety Funds |
| 2. Elevator at EPGHS (\$277,00) | The vast majority of the payment can be deferred to 2010-11 |
| 3. Mechanical heating system at JP (\$317,000) | Existing Fund Balances |
| 4. Centennial Re-Roof (\$250,280) | Existing Fund Balances |

Mr. Stoller indicated that through these existing dollars for the district, we would be fiscally responsible by acting now at a time when costs should be very competitive and the interest on our investments are so low. It was also mentioned that the \$400,000 per year consolidation revenue had never been “earmarked” for expenses and that these projects would certainly qualify for appropriate use of those dollars.

Action Items:

1. Board approved the amended budget for 2008-09
2. Board approved the Option #2 proposal for property/casualty and workman’s compensation
 - a. This action will save the district over \$85,000 next year versus the payments for the coverage in 08-09 with many of the liability limits being increased. We now have Earthquake and Flood insurance as well.
 - b. We will be joining the Prairie State Insurance Cooperative for our property/casualty insurance.
3. Approve the use of prevailing wage
4. Approved BLDD Associates to design and bid the district building projects

There was no closed session for the meeting since the board would be utilizing a work day on Saturday, June 20th and could discuss collective bargaining during at that time.

June 20th Board Work Day

9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Bloomington, IL

A board retreat style meeting was held on Saturday, June 20th, for the purpose of strategic planning for Unit #11. As part of the entry plan for the superintendent, a report to the board on the first five months of his tenure was shared. This included the current “state of the district” with data items of personnel, programs, curriculum, and finance.

The day long work day included long term discussions and possibilities/vision for the district, three to four year planning as well as immediate concerns for EPG. The Board also discussed what they “valued” for our district that moved into mission statement creation. While the mission statement is not finalized, the Board did pen a new slogan for our district that will replace “The Future Starts Here”. The new slogan is:

EPG—“PURSUING EXCELLENCE”....

You will begin to see this used across the district. It reflects a desire to have schools that are progressive, evolving, and striving to the best we can be.

A fall board retreat is planned so that specific goals can be determined using staff input. These goals will be shared with the public on our school website. They will be measurable, achievable, and timely.

Although the day was long, honest and open discussions have laid the foundation of trust and direction for Unit #11.