

EPG Unit #11 Quick Board Summary

September 21, 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 September regular meeting. The following is a summary of that meeting.

Visitors: Janet Smith and Jenny Kearney (El Paso Journal)

The consent agenda action approval contained the following items:

- Approval of minutes from the regular Board meeting held on August 17, 2009
- Approval of minutes from the Board Closed Session held on August 17, 2009
- Approval of minutes from the special Board meeting held on September 1, 2009
- Approval of financial reports
- Approval of bills
- Approval to hire Sandra Ahnafield as a High School Teacher Aid for 2009-2010
- Approval to hire Alex DePauw as the High School Scholastic Team Coach for 2009-2010
- Approval to hire Kara Zimmerman as the High School Student Council Coach for 2009-2010
- Approval to hire Jennifer Smith as the High School Student Council Coach for 2009-2010
- Approval to hire Megan Tolle as the Key Club Sponsor for 2009-2010
- Approval to hire Kelly Eastman as a part-time teacher for 2009-2010
- Approval to hire Jodi Dewispelaere as a cook for 2009-2010
- Approval to confirm Iyad Abbed's resignation as a junior high wrestling coach effective immediately
- Approval of Application for Recognition of Schools for 2009-2010
- Approval of ISBE Administrative Salary/Benefit Report
- Approval of Individual Sport Request for Collin Buchanan pending securing a certified coach

Mentoring Program Update: Teacher Mentoring Committee

Cathy Johnson, Sherrie Kuntz, Kendy Schroeder, and Shannon Dudek (EPG Unit #11 Mentoring Committee) presented an overview for the Board on the teacher mentoring program. This program is in its second year of existence. Our district is now fully credited by the ISBE as a researched based program provider. The Induction of the 21st Century Educator program creates a mentor-mentee relationship with specific activities required of both to complete the two year process. It is another way that the district reaches out to aid in the success of the beginning educator. Currently, the district has fifteen trained mentors. The mentor covers areas from building procedures, classroom management, and teaching pedagogy—just to name a few topics. The School Board was eager to hear about these relationships being built.

Administrative Reports: Each building administrator shared their monthly report in writing prior to the meeting. They fielded questions from Board members concerning those reports.

Superintendent Report:

Construction Projects Update

HS Library—This Health/Life/Safety project will be finalized when the windows will be installed within the next two weeks. The subcontractor has indicated that it should take just a few days to complete the work once they are on site.

Centennial Roof—there was a change order on the solution where the two roof lines meet. The solution was needed to join the two roof lines into one guttering system. Once this is complete, the roof (as well as a small section above the music area) will be complete.

JP boiler replacement—All bids have been rejected by the school district. The solution that was proposed was above budget and was far too risky to implement within the proposed timeframe at Christmas Break. The heating unit would not be able to be manufactured and delivered until late December. At 80% efficiency, this boiler would not have been the best solution over the next ten years. The project will now be reopened for further scrutinization with a mid-spring installation projection date. A contingency plan for temporary heating in the areas of JP served by this boiler will be developed by JT Carr and the architects in the event of boiler failure this winter. There are heating units in place for the newer classrooms on the southwest corner of the building, the classrooms in the multi-level portion of the building on the south side of the building, and units in place for the main office-gymnasium-cafeteria areas.

IASB Professional Advancement Seminar

I was asked to speak at the seminar in Springfield last week as a first year superintendent to prospective superintendents. The search, preparation, and interview process were topics of discussion. Information was shared that was specific to the process that the EPG Board of Education and I went through this past year.

EPG Foundation Requests

The staff will be reminded of the request process so that the district office can compile a list of those requests for the foundation board on September 29th. Reminder that the Heller Ford test drives fund raiser will be September 27th between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. Each low pressure test drive by the public will mean a twenty dollar donation to the foundation.

PMA Network Financial Planning Software

The finance committee met to listen to a presentation about a tool made available by PMA Financial Consultants on school financial planning. There are over 240 districts throughout Illinois that utilize this software package. PMA currently manages the district's cash flow and investments. They already have the financial data for the district since consolidation compiled. This will be a discussion item for the October meeting.

Channel 25 Week Visit

The sports team from Channel 25 visited EPGHS and created a short promotion video that was aired on their weekly Prep Show on Thursday nights. Dr. Loper's classroom illustrated the interactive white boards with the instance response system, show choir, the cheerleaders, and students in the fitness center were highlighted. It was a solid promotion for EPG schools.

Corn Festival Days Booth

The participation from the Board members and administrators is greatly appreciated. There were many adults that visited the booth to share their thoughts about the district. This was a terrific opportunity for me to meet the

public. There was tremendous amount of positive comments about our direction. The early start date was shared as a negative.

Homecoming Festivities

The annual Homecoming Parade will be Friday after school. As has been past practice, there will be a one hour early dismissal on Friday for all district schools.

Action Items:

- Approval of out-of-state trip for High School Show Choir providing a Certificate of Insurance is provided
- Approval to host a Show Choir Invitational
- Approval of IASB Policy Manual Customization Program
- Approval of 2009-2010 Budget

Closed Session:

The board went into closed session to discuss the approval of salaries for noncertified and administrative staff.

Further Action Item: *(after being tabled to discuss in closed session)*

- Approval of Noncertified and Administrative Staff Salaries

(The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.)