

ROCKTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 140
ROCKTON, ILLINOIS 61072

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2008 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Rockton School District No. 140, Winnebago County, Illinois was duly called and held on September 30, 2008, at the Rockton Grade School Library in Rockton, Illinois, within the boundaries of said District.

President Mrs. Warren called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

	<u>LaForge</u>	<u>Meason</u>	<u>Pearcy</u>	<u>Neece</u>	<u>Praneis</u>	<u>Schubert</u>	<u>Warren</u>
Roll Call	P	ABS	P	P	P	ABS	P

Others present: Superintendent Jean Harezlak, Principals Barb Browning, Kindyl Etnyre, Scott Rollinson, Assistant Principals Glenn Terry and Jim Taphorn, Curriculum Coordinator Lindy Daniels, RTA Representative/Teacher Gail Johnson, and various guests.

Mrs. Warren moved to appoint Mrs. Pearcy to serve as Secretary Pro-tem, seconded by Mrs. Praneis.

Roll call vote: Aye: LaForge, Neece, Praneis, Warren, Pearcy. Nay: None. Carried.

Closed Session

Mrs. Pearcy moved to enter closed session at 6:01 p.m. to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Lawfully closed meeting minutes (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21). Student discipline (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9). Sale, lease or purchase of real property (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6), seconded by Mrs. Neece.

Roll call vote: Aye: Warren, Neece, Pearcy, Praneis, LaForge. Nay: None. Carried.

Mrs. Pearcy moved to return to open session at 6:12 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Neece.

Roll call vote: Aye: Pearcy, LaForge, Neece, Warren, Praneis. Nay: None. Carried.

Student/Parent Handbook Change

Attorney Robb Cooper presented the information regarding the language change for the student/parent handbook.

A motion was made by Mrs. Warren, seconded by Mrs. Pearcy to adopt the following residency language change for this year's student/parent handbook per the recommendation by district attorney:

Custody by an adult who demonstrates that in fact, he or she has assumed and exercises legal responsibility for the child and provides the child with a regular fixed night time abode for purposes other than to have access to educational programs of the District.

Roll call vote: Aye: Praneis, Pearcy, LaForge, Neece, Warren. Nay: None. Carried.

Budget Hearing

The budget hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mrs. Warren. Mrs. Warren moved to open the meeting for public input, seconded by Mrs. Pearcy, carried unanimously, no one wished to address the Board of the proposed budget. Regular session resumed.

Mrs. Warren moved to approve the 2008-2009 budget as presented, seconded by Mrs. Neece

Roll call vote: Aye: Pearcy, LaForge, Neece, Warren, Praneis. Nay: None. Carried

Student Council Proposal

Kate Williams and Emma Porter, representatives from SMMS Student Council along with teachers Sarah Kazluski and Stacey Shahamat, presented a proposal for a recreation area to be built at the middle school. Mrs. Kazluski noted that they are contacting the Booster Club and PTO about possible funding of the project. Ms. Shahamat shared they are checking into a grant opportunity sponsored by Lowe's to help fund the recreation area. The BOE is in support of the proposal and will consider making a contribution for the recreation area.

Welcome New Teachers

Our school community is pleased to recognize and welcome our new teachers – Jay Bigwood, Kristin Bindl – Social Worker, Scott Carlson, Teresa Kannard, Rachael Leamon, David Lynch, Stephanie Lynde, Holly McLaughlin, Kim Ward, Richard Wicks. The new teachers had the opportunity to share what the district could do to make their experiences better as the new professional members to our staff.

Correspondence

- Thank you card received from Linh Phommachanh for approving the second Science Olympiad advisor position.
- Thank you card received from Julia Saunders for the plant sent after her surgery.
- Thank you card received from Jayne Maxwell for the plant sent after her surgery.
- Three letters of in-school suspension.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Percy moved to approve consent agenda as presented, seconded by Mrs. Neece. Roll call vote: Aye: Percy, LaForge, Praneis, Neece, Warren. Nay: None. Carried.

Items included:

1. August 27, 2008 Regular meeting minutes
2. September bills, October payroll, August treasurer's report
3. Winnebago County Special Education Cooperative executive action
4. Donation – Carpet from Carpetland USA for the SMMS group meeting room
5. Request – Upham Woods
6. Recognition
7. Hazardous Roadways

Policy Committee:

- Mrs. Percy moved to approve August 27, 2008 Policy Committee minutes, seconded by Mrs. Neece, carried unanimously.
- The following policy changes were reviewed and recommended for Board action at the October BOE meeting. Recommendations for each of the policies listed below are noted in the Policy Committee minutes.
 - 4:80 – Accounting and Audits
 - 4:90 – Activity Funds
 - 4:170 – Safety
 - 5:330 – Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves
 - 5:338 – Probation
 - 6:20 – School Year Calendar and Day
 - 7:60 – Residence
 - 8:20 – Community Use of School Facilities
- Mrs. Percy moved to approve amended policies noted below, seconded by Mrs. Neece, carried unanimously.

- 2:105 – Ethics and Gift Ban
- 2:120 – Board Member Development
- 4:20 – Transfer of Funds
- 4:46 – Duplication of and Stop Payment of Checks
- 4:50 – Payment Procedures
- 4:55 – Use of Credit Cards
- 5:334 – Job Descriptions/Categories/Multi-Level Pay

Roll call vote: Aye: Neece, LaForge, Percy, Warren, Praneis. Nay: None. Carried.

Personnel

A motion was made by Mrs. Warren, seconded by Mrs. Neece, to approve the following personnel report.

a. Employment – 2008-2009 school year

Certified

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ○ Melissa Blecker | SMMS Science Olympiad Advisor |
| ○ Anita Stiffler | WPES After School Reading Teacher |
| ○ Laura Benkovich | WPES After School Reading Teacher |

Roll call vote: Aye: Neece, LaForge, Percy, Warren, Praneis. Nay: None. Carried.

Closed Session Minutes

Mrs. Warren moved to approve the August 27, 2008 regular closed session minutes and that they are to remain closed, seconded by Mrs. Neece, carried unanimously.

MAP Assessment Program & Teacher Training Class

Mrs. Praneis moved to approve district MAP teacher training sessions, seconded by Mrs. Neece.

Roll call vote: Aye: Praneis, Neece, LaForge, Percy, Warren. Nay: None. Carried.

Food Service Personnel

Mrs. Percy moved to approve additional part-time food service aide to assist with lunch serving at WPES, seconded by Mrs. Neece.

Roll call vote: Aye: Neece, LaForge, Percy, Warren, Praneis. Nay: None. Carried.

BOE Meeting Dates

Mrs. Percy moved to change the October BOE meeting date to Tuesday, October 21, 2008 and the November BOE meeting date to Wednesday, November 19, 2008, seconded by Mrs. Neece, carried unanimously.

SMMS Concession/Storage Building

Superintendent Harezlak shared information regarding the potential costs and joint funding efforts with PTO and Boosters for construction of a concession/storage building. The BOE directed Superintendent Harezlak to investigate the appropriate location of the building and obtain price for concrete slab.

2008 Illinois Report Card

Our district students have maintained a high level of excellence as demonstrated in the district's 2008 state report card. The district and building report cards will be posted on our website by October 23rd and individual student reports will be sent home with first quarter report cards. Lindy Daniels, Curriculum Coordinator, will provide a summary assessment of our results at the October BOE meeting.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2009 School Board Election

Information regarding filing dates and necessary forms is now available at the district office for the April 2009 School Board election. Tuesday, October 28, 2008 is the first day that prospective candidates may circulate nominating petitions for signatures for the April 7, 2009 school board election. An informational meeting for prospective candidates will be held on Monday, November 10, 2008.

District Strategic Plan II – Update

Action plan initiatives for this year have begun. The district Leadership Team is working on implementation of activities scheduled for the 2008-09 school year.

SchoolSearch™ Bright Star Award

Once again our district receives national distinction as a school district of educational excellence despite low funding. The award is based on districts whose students' academic performance ranks in the upper one third of Illinois school districts, but whose expenditure per pupil ranks in the lower one fourth of Illinois school districts. SchoolSearch™ is an educational research and consulting firm that publishes rankings of school systems for families.

CPPRT

An article was provided from Illinois Public School Finance manual that describes the history and current implementation of the Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax that is a revenue source for our operating budget.

Golden Apple Foundation

September 18th was "Golden Apple" day for teachers in Winnebago County. The Golden Apple Foundation presents apples to teachers in appreciation for the valuable work with children. This day was also the beginning of the annual award nomination process for teachers. This year teachers in sixth grade through high school can be nominated for excellence in education. Nomination forms are available at www.goldenappleofrockford.com.

Annual Fundraisers

The Rockton School District PTO, Booster Club and Rockton Teachers Association have requested and received approval from the superintendent to conduct a variety of fundraisers for this school year.

Other

- The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rock Valley will be having an open house to celebrate the purchase of their church building on October 18th from 2 – 4 p.m. A dedication of the church building will be October 19th from 1:30 – 3 p.m.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mrs. Praneis

- Attended a Rtl meeting with Mrs. Warren and Superintendent Harezlak in Belvidere.
- Noted that she attended a very informative county sales tax meeting with Mrs. Warren and Superintendent Harezlak.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mrs. Browning reported:

- The breakfast program started Monday at RGS.
- A fire drill was conducted last week at RGS.
- School Improvement Planning day was great and noted plenty of positive feedback was received.
- Classes have been going on field trips to Rockton, Severson Dells, and the apple orchard.

Mr. Rollinson reported:

- The PTO Fun Run is Thursday, October 2nd.
- Culver's Night was successful.
- The bus evacuation drill went well.
- SIP day was successful.
- PTO allocations are now available and over \$26,000 of requests have been received.

Mrs. Etnyre reported:

- Sports Day is Thursday, October 2nd and if \$15,000 is raised, the students will see her in the 'dunk tank'.
- Spirit wear is available to purchase from the Booster Club.
- The staff is to be commended for their hard work and dedication.

Mr. Taphorn reported:

- The lady Warriors have an undefeated season in volleyball.
- The Booster Club offers delicious snacks at the concession stand.
- A great start to the school year.

Mr. Terry reported:

- He is excited about the BOE approval of the MAP teacher training sessions and thanked the BOE for their approval.
- The new RGS a.m. drop-off parking lot plan is working wonderful.
- Saturday is the family bike ride.
- WPES is averaging 40 children a morning for the breakfast program.

Mrs. Daniels reported:

- She is enjoying her position as Curriculum Coordinator.

Mrs. Pearcy moved to suspend the regular order of business and open the meeting for audience input, seconded by Mrs. Neece. Gail Johnson shared that there are envelopes in school offices for staff who would like make donations for a memorial for Cindy Moberg, former Rockton teacher, who passed away last week. Funds collected for her memorial will be donated to the Rockton Elementary Education Foundation in honor of Cindy Moberg, regular session resumed.

NEXT BOE MEETING

The next regular Board of Education meeting will be held at Rockton Grade School library on Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Praneis moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Neece, carried unanimously.

Approved date: October 21, 2008

President: _____

Secretary: _____