

RILEY COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL
District 18
9406 Riley road
Marengo, IL 60152

Wednesday, December 17, 2008
7:00 PM

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

School Board Members Peters, Proberts, Wardzala, Schnable, Mitchell, Behnke, and Olsen answered roll call at 7:02 PM. Members of the public in attendance were Mrs. Wojcik, Mr. Wardzala, Mr. & Mrs. Schmitt, Aaron, Ethan and Sarah Schmitt, Ms. Bough, Ryan and Chase Bough, Mrs. Cisneros, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Pollnow and Mr. & Mrs. Nitzi. Also in attendance were Mrs. Conkling, Mrs. Schnable, Mrs. Rooney, and Mr. Trickett.

Those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Trickett would like to amend the Consent Agenda by removing Item E: Approve the Seniority List for school year 2008/09 from New Business.

There were no Freedom of Information Act requests.

Mrs. Proberts' copy of policy changes was incomplete. Mr. Trickett informed her that most of the changes are minor, dealing with changes in laws or citations. The Policy Committee has reviewed all changes and will recommend adoption of changes as recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards.

Member Proberts made a motion to approve the amended Consent Agenda. Member Olsen seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Proberts – AYE
Member Schnable – AYE
Member Behnke – AYE
Member Peters – AYE

Member Wardzala – AYE
Member Mitchell - AYE
Member Olsen – AYE

At the November Board of Education Meeting all Board Members were presented with a certificate of Recognition Award for Annual School Board Member Day. This award was presented to Member Mitchell and Member Wardzala due to their absence at the November meeting. Congratulations were extended by the administration and public to members. Principal Conkling and President Schnable both presented Sarah Schmitt and Ryan Bough with their Viking Award for the month of November. Congratulations to Sarah and Ryan for being outstanding Riley students. Mr. Schnable also had the pleasure of honoring Mrs. Belinda

Pollnow by presenting to her a Plaque in Recognition of 36 years of dedicated service to Riley School. Mrs. Pollnow will be missed by everyone at Riley School

PUBLIC INPUT

Mrs. Laurie Cisneros extended her appreciation to the Riley Board of Education for their countless hours of dedication for the betterment of Riley School. Since she has been very involved in local government these last few years, she knows first hand the time and effort involved. Thank you again. Mrs. Cisneros would also like to know if the Board has made any decision as to when Riley School will be looking for a replacement for Mr. Trickett as superintendent. President Schnable assured Mrs. Cisneros that this is one of the items to be discussed in Closed Session. Riley will continue looking for a part-time Superintendent and continued support of a full time Principal. Mr. Schnable would also like to take this opportunity to inform the public that there are several openings on the Riley School Board. Mr. Schnable and Mrs. Mitchell are seeking re-election which leaves two seats needing to be filled. If anyone is interested, or knows of someone who would be interested in running, please pick up a packet in the Riley School Office. All petitions must be filed by January 26, 2009.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2008 PROPERTY TAX LEVY

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:15 PM. Superintendent Trickett presented the Tax Levy giving an explanation of the 22% increase in the 2008 levy request over the previous 2007 actual extension. The increase is based on an estimated 15% in the current assessed valuation of property. However, he noted due to the tax cap the County may not extend taxes in the aggregate for any taxing district in excess of 105% of the previous year's extension or the percentage increase in the consumer price index for the prior levy year, whichever is less. The Tax Cap Law generally lowers the tax rate annually by formula, which has a significant impact on the District's ability to raise revenue, which causes municipalities in general to run referendums more often. The Public Hearing on the 2008 Property Tax Levy was closed at 7:22 PM.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Riley Board Members were presented with the results of the Student Improvement Plan Staff Survey. The top concerns were playground area and equipment improvement by updating and moving equipment from existing mobiles because of noise. Another item of improvement is a consistent writing program. We are still using the 4 square program and are looking at other writing programs to complement the existing program. Other areas of concern are increased numbers in Title I which in turn will require more hours dedicated to that program. Some staff members will be attending a Reading in-service in January. Coordinating Special Education schedules so aides are available and specials are scheduled better. There is still continued concern about the mold. The mobiles have had windows replaced, new roofing and calked to eliminate moisture from entering the buildings and causing mold issues. The four classrooms in the elementary section housing our first and second graders are the hardest to keep mold free during the summer months when the carpets are being cleaned.

Mr. Trickett presented the Board with an overview of the school lunch program by showing the current school year to date and the prior two years program expense/revenue status. The program expenses generally included supplies, food, and labor. The District does not account for equipment, utilities, or cleaning toward the expenses. The State looks very seriously at a program with large balances. At this time we see no reason to increase lunch prices but will keep reviewing for possible increases in the future.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mrs. Conkling reported that the local Clergy and school districts compiled a directory of personnel, addresses, telephone numbers, web addresses and e-mail addresses for the use of facilities. Marengo Community High School applied for a Grant and received this Grant to hold a Saturday morning program with a guest speaker for parents "Helping Your Children Help Themselves". This seminar will be March 2, 2009 and will touch on subjects, such as drugs, bullying etc. Riley's Movie Night was well attended by 40 students and their parents. Popcorn and beverages were distributed. The classroom Spelling "B" was completed in grades 4 through 8. There were two students from each class selected to compete in the all school Spelling "B" on January 12, 2009. The winner of the all school Spelling Bee will complete at the Regional level. Once again, our Winter Music programs were wonderful regardless of inclement weather. Mrs. Conkling has provided a copy of our District Improvement Plan and Riley School's Response to Intervention plan to each Board Member. There are two different formats for the Response to Intervention Plan for easier understanding. We will be conducting an in-service day hopefully during school hours to get staff input on Special Education concerns in reference to the Response to Intervention Plan. The second semester we will be concentrating on finding a universal assessment tool that will best suit Riley School. We have completed our curriculum mapping in reading and will start curriculum mapping in math second quarter. Member Peters asked Mrs. Conkling for an estimate on how many interventions might be expected. Mrs. Conkling's responded that initially there will be many recommendations, some classes needing more than others. Once these students have been recognized and implemented in to the plan it will be easier year after year. Member Peters is concerned that this might take time from staff members. Can they handle it? Mrs. Conkling said that more staff might need hired in the form of aids, but it may reduce the number of referrals for special education services. Our Title I Program might have to be extended to more than ½ day. These are things that we will have to look into as time goes.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Trickett commented that the Response to Invention Plan is to help reduce placement in special education programs which is a big part of the Riley School budget. Once the program is in place and staff is more comfortable with the process things will flow much easier. Superintendent Trickett would like to thank Mrs. Conkling and the Riley Staff for all their hard work on both the District Improvement Plan and the Response to Intervention plans. Mr. Trickett commented that the administration will be focusing their efforts over the next several weeks in preparation for the Three Year Annual Comprehensive Evaluation conducted by the Regional Office of Education for McHenry County. The probe document consists of over 60 items to be available as evidence of complying with The School Code; and entails personnel records, certification, medical, and statutory documentation.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Member Behnke made a motion to approve the FY08 Certificate of Tax Levy for \$3,795,000 and Secretary's Certificate. Member Wardzala seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Wardzala – AYE
Member Mitchell – AYE
Member Olsen – AYE
Member Proberts – AYE

Member Schnable – AYE
Member Behnke – AYE
Member Peters – AYE

The Elementary District Organization is an organization representing our collective interests and monitors legislation that benefits our interests by lobbying in the legislative arena in Springfield. Mr. Trickett believes that all elementary districts should belong in order to have a legislative voice; and \$200.00 is a reasonable cost.

Member Peters made a motion to approve membership in the Elementary District Organization for \$200.00 per year. Member Mitchell seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Behnke – AYE
Member Peters – AYE
Member Wardzala – AYE
Member Mitchell – AYE

Member Olsen – AYE
Member Proberts – AYE
Member Schnable – AYE

Mr. Trickett would like to enter an agreement with the Illinois Energy Consortium (IEC) for the purchase of our electricity. IEC is a Not-For-Profit Corporation that purchases energy for over 460 school districts. The agency is under the auspices of the Illinois Association of School Business Officials. They collectively have the sole interest of schools in mind when negotiating rates for both electric and gas.

Member Mitchell made a motion to approve electric membership and participation agreement with Illinois Energy Consortium (IEC) for purchase of electricity. Member Behnke seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Olsen – AYE
Member Proberts – AYE
Member Schnable – AYE
Member Behnke – AYE

Member Peters – AYE
Member Wardzala – PRESENT
Member Mitchell – AYE

Member Wardzala made a motion to approve the ISBE District Improvement Plan (DIP) and the Response to Intervention Plan (RTI) for FY 2009. Member Proberts seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Peters – AYE
Member Wardzala – AYE
Member Mitchell – AYE
Member Olsen – AYE

Member Proberts – AYE
Member Schnable – AYE
Member Behnke - AYE

Member Peters asked if all districts involved in the Attainable Housing Authority lawsuit have all agreed to settle. Mr. Trickett informed Member Peters that all districts involved have agreed on the settlement.

Member Wardzala made a motion to approve the settlement of Attainable Housing Authority vs. McHenry County School Districts, Riley Community Consolidated School District 18's share of \$11,764.71. Member Olsen seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Proberts – AYE
Member Schnable – AYE
Member Behnke – AYE
Member Peters – AYE

Member Wardzala – AYE
Member Mitchell – AYE
Member Olsen – AYE

Member Peters made a motion to approve the first reading of Personnel Policy 5:330 Vacation, Holidays and Leaves. Member Wardzala seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Wardzala – AYE
Member Mitchell – AYE
Member Olsen – AYE
Member Proberts – AYE

Member Schnable – AYE
Member Behnke – AYE
Member Peters – AYE

Member Peters would like the Board to plan a committee for the future growth of Riley School. With the recent economic status, growth will not be an immediate issue but feel we should start planning for it now. Member Behnke agreed and feels a committee should be formed. Member Peters would like Mr. Trickett with his past experiences to help the Board with the next step. Superintendent Trickett suggested that the first step is to form the committee and use some of the impact fees available through the annexation agreements to hire a firm to outline our options.

Member Behnke made a motion to enter Closed Session at 8:05 PM for the stated reason of Personnel. Member Peters seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Open Session was resumed at 8:57 PM.

President Schnable announced the resignation of Mrs. Long as the 8th grade class sponsor because of stress and pressures put upon her from outside sources. Mr. Schnable commented that this is an unfortunate situation and thanks Mrs. Long for her dedicated years of service to the 8th grade classes at Riley School.

Member Wardzala regretfully accepts Mrs. Long's resignation as the 8th grade class sponsor. Member Peters seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Member Behnke made a motion to hire Mrs. Hazek as the 6th grade girls' basketball coach at the entry level. Member Olsen seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Schnable – AYE
Member Behnke – AYE
Member Peters – AYE
Member Wardzala – AYE

Member Mitchell – AYE
Member Olsen – AYE
Member Proberts – AYE

Member Behnke made a motion to adjourn and wish everyone a Merry Christmas at 9:03 PM. Member Mitchell seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Rooney, Riley School Secretary

Mr. Kurt Schnable – President

Mrs. Anita Mitchell - Secretary