

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AMBOY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #272
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2006, AT 7:00 P.M.
AMBOY HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM #105**

President Becker called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. All board members were present except Flessner and Stephenitch. Also present were: Quintin Shepherd, Michelle Apple, Rebecca Vaessen, Britainy Ohlendorf, Liz Scriven, Mallory Whelchel, Anna Schultz, Carol Schnaiter, Jeff Thake, Dennis Weidman, Joyce Schamberger and Judi Callison.

President Becker opened the Public Hearing regarding the 2006 tentative Tax Levy. Superintendent Shepherd briefly reviewed the information. He said this year's increase was 9.47% compared to last year at 8.99%. The tax cap formula will limit the actual increase in property taxes collected to no greater than the CPI or limiting rate, whichever is less. Many properties have been reassessed through the tax office, which may or may not lead to increased appeals, affecting the overall EAV.

There being no comments or questions from the audience or Board of Education, a motion was made by Beggs and seconded by Olson to adopt the Resolution for the 2006 Tax Levy, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Beggs and seconded by Setchell to direct the Secretary of the Board of Education to file the Certificate for Compliance for the 2006 Tax Levy. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Beggs to direct the President and Secretary of the Board of Education to file the Certificate of Compliance for the Truth in Taxation Act. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Setchell and seconded by Mead to close the Public Hearing regarding the 2006 Tax Levy. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Board member, Flessner arrived at 7:06 p.m.

Mallory Whelchel and Anna Schultz, Amboy High School sophomores, were present to explain their role as readers to Central School students as part of the Key Club Heartwood Character Program. Mr. Weidman said that the program teaches the seven universal life lessons. Not only do the children enjoy the listening to the readers, but also the high school students are learning from the interaction with the elementary students. He commended Ray Johnson and Michelle Apple for their part in establishing the Key Club, which now has 62 members. President Becker thanked the students for their participation, as well as being good role models for the younger children.

A motion was made by Beggs and seconded by Mead to approve the following consent agenda item(s):

- Minutes of the November 21, 2006, Regular Open & Closed Board Meetings;
- Use of Facilities by Gary Lutz of the Clipper Wrestling Club for Amboy High School all day, Sunday, February 18, 2007 (set up on Saturday, February 17th) to conduct a wrestling tournament;
- Use of Facilities by Gary Lutz of the Clipper Wrestling Club for Amboy High School on Sunday, March 25, 2007 (set up on Saturday, March 24th after alumni basketball game) to conduct a USWGA IKWF USA Women's Wrestling Tournament.
- Destruction of audiotapes dated June 7, 2005 & June 23, 2005.

Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Superintendent Shepherd reviewed the finance report. He said that although he doesn't have the December therm usage, it would be up as result of mechanical and technical problems at Central School. Shepherd also discussed electricity rates and anticipates an increase. He said that ways to conserve energy would have to be implemented in order to offset the increase.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Setchell to approve the current expenditures and payroll. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

The next order of business was Administrative Reports, which were reviewed as presented in the Board packet.

In addition to the maintenance report, Shepherd advised the board on the flooding problem in the high school auditorium. A pump had failed which caused the problem. The pump was replaced, and the problem was resolved with no significant damage to the carpet.

In his Superintendent's Report, Shepherd discussed professional learning communities and its impact on the goal of continuous improvement. He also gave details of a recent legislative roundtable breakfast he attended. According to reports by Todd Sieben and Jerry Mitchell, the outlook for TRS and the State of Illinois is very bleak.

The next order of business was a presentation by Principal Thake of the School Improvement Plan for Amboy High School. He began by saying that the focus is "life after high school" and preparing seniors--whether it be for college or the real world. His presentation contained many strategies to meet the goal. Emphasis will be placed on team teaching with professional learning communities implemented at the high school. Data will be analyzed to identify student strengths and weaknesses. Reading strategies will be utilized in the classrooms. Thake would also like to meet with the junior high school staff on a quarterly basis to coordinate efforts.

The Board of Education then heard a presentation by Liz Scriven, English/Language Arts teacher at Amboy High School, who explained reading strategies that are currently being used in various classrooms throughout the high school. Using PLAN test results, data was analyzed to determine where students are lacking in skills.

Mr. Sauter added that the staff is anxious to take the challenge. He said the professional learning communities teams are producing very good ideas.

Principal Thake responded by saying the teams are trying to establish a common ground to work together. He said, "Although many tough questions will be asked and decisions made along the way, I am extremely focused on the direction we need to go."

A motion was made by Olson and seconded by Setchell to approve the Whiteside Regional Vocational System Joint Agreement, as presented in October of 2006. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Beggs and seconded by Flessner to approve School Improvement Plans for Central School, Amboy Junior High School and Amboy High School as presented by Principals, Weidman, Schamberger and Thake, respectively. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

At 8:05 p.m. a motion was made by Mead and seconded by Olson to move to Executive Session to discuss the appointment, employment, performance of specific employees of the public body; collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives and student discipline. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

At 9:16 p.m., a motion was made by Flessner and seconded by Setchell to return to Open Session. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Olson and seconded by Setchell to approve the suspensions of Students 12-14-06-01 through 12-14-06-16, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Flessner and seconded by Mead to approve the Amboy Junior High School Extra-Curricular schedule, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Flessner and seconded by Mead to approve the employment of Brandon Horner as 240-Day Custodian at Central/Amboy High School, 8 hours per day, at an hourly rate of \$7.55, effective December 15, 2006. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Upcoming dates include: Finance Meeting on Thursday, January 11, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the AHS Faculty Room; Regular School Board Meeting on Thursday, January 25, 2007, in the Amboy High School auditorium at 7:00 p.m. and the School Board Retreat on Saturday, February 24, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. in the Community Room at the KSB Medical Clinic on Rt. 52.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, a motion was made at 9:25 p.m. by Flessner and seconded by Setchell to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Mead, Secretary

Mark F. Becker, President

Approved: _____