

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AMBOY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #272
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2007, AT 7:00 P.M.
AMBOY HIGH SCHOOL, CAFETERIA**

President Becker called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. All board members were present except Olson. Also present were: Quintin Shepherd, Bonnie Morris, Sam Smith, Monica Bulfer, Todd Appleman, Anna Willis, Jackie Steinbach, Ed Morris, Richard Lohse, Joyce Dean Stogentine, Matt Wicks, Ryan Steines, Claire Buyert, Jessica McCormick, Jeff Thake, Joyce Schamberger and Judi Callison.

The floor was opened to comments from the public. Todd Appleman addressed the Board and requested permission to allow fifth grade students to join the wrestling program. After several questions from the Board, President Becker said the matter would be taken under consideration at the next school board meeting. Joyce Dean Stogentine introduced herself to the Board as the Early Childhood classroom teacher at Central School. President Becker thanked Stogentine for attending the meeting. President Becker also thanked the Amboy News and Sauk Valley Newspaper reporters for their attendance at the meeting.

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

- Minutes of the August 21, 2007, Regular Open & Closed Board Meetings;
- Use of Facilities and Waiver of Fees by Reed Akre to conduct practices for the Amboy Rage softball team using Amboy High School and Amboy Junior High School fields and gymnasiums;
- Use of Facilities and Waiver of Fees by Carole Patton to conduct Girl Scout meetings in the Central School cafeteria;
- Destruction of audio tapes dated March 9, 2006 and March 23, 2006.

Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

The next order of business was the presentation of the Annual Financial Audit by Claire Buyert of Clifton Gunderson, LLP, Clinton, Iowa. Mr. Buyert explained that the audit included an evaluation of the financial statement, as well as an assessment of accounting practices.

According to the report, the financial statements referred to, presented fairly, in all material respects, the assets and liabilities arising from cash transactions of the funds and account groups of the District and its revenue received and expenditures disbursed during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007. Tests of compliance disclosed no instances of noncompliance. "That's a clean, unqualified report which is what you're hoping to achieve," said Buyert.

As reported in the past, Buyert went on to comment on the lack of segregation of duties among personnel involved in the accounting function. He said that management's close supervision and review is the best means to help mitigate the situation. In addition, Buyert said that the financial statements are the responsibility of the district, not the auditors. He pointed out, that even though the auditors are hired to do the financial statement, they are not considered a part of the district's internal control system.

There being no questions or comments from the Board of Education, a motion was made by Stephenitch and seconded by Setchell to approve the Annual Financial Audit as of June 30, 2007, as presented by Claire Buyert of Clifton Gunderson, LLP, Clinton, Iowa. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

In his financial report, Superintendent Shepherd told the Board that there were no real surprises on the financial report that would differ from the information received at the finance meeting.

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

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

With regard to the maintenance report, President Becker inquired if it was feasible to have a set of bleachers in the gymnasium installed that would allow for a built-in walkway to permit easier access. Since bleacher repairs are on the maintenance schedule, he suggested this might be a good time to consider the option. It was also suggested the handicapped accessible areas be reassessed if modifications are made to the bleachers.

Matthew Wicks, Associate Director of Operations at Illinois Virtual High School, was present and gave an explanation of the online program for high school students. He said the purpose of the program was to offer students the opportunity to take courses that their local school may not be able to provide. IVHS offers over 100 courses each semester from advanced placement courses to remediation courses. Ten students from Amboy High School are currently enrolled in the program.

A motion was made by Setchell and seconded by Flessner to approve a two-year Mentoring and Induction Program, which began August 1, 2007. The program is designed to improve and facilitate the growth of new teachers in the district. Jessica McCormick will serve as Mentor Coordinator. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Stephenitch and seconded by Akre to approve the 2007-2008, Annual Applications of Recognition, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Flessner and seconded by Mead to approve the 2008-2008, PPO and HSA certificated employee contribution amounts, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Flessner and seconded by Stephenitch to file Notification of Withdrawal at the next regularly scheduled Lee County Special Education Board meeting.

Superintendent Shepherd explained that the motion to withdraw is a step in the process, should the Board of Education decide to leave Lee County Special Education and accept the formal invitation to join the Ogle County Special Education Cooperative.

Board Member, Mead went on to explain that a year ago, when the Dixon school district was contemplating withdrawal from LCSEA, they had a study completed by Ray Lechner. The study showed that Dixon receives 91% of services and only pays 58% of the costs. The other 42% of costs are split among five districts: Amboy, Ashton-Franklin Center, Nelson, Paw Paw and Steward who receive 9% of the services. According to Mead, the district has been doing a disservice to Amboy students by staying with Lee County for so long. "We are paying a lot of money out and receiving very little in return."

Mead said one way to address the issue is what he calls a "fee for services" basis, whereby schools pay only for the services their students require. This option would save money when needs are down, but could prove costly in years with high special education enrollments. He said, in that situation, Dixon would go from paying 58% to about 91% of the costs. According to Mead, if that option is not possible, Doug Lee of the Dixon school board has pledged support for Amboy or any other district wishing to withdraw from the co-op.

With that in mind, Mead said he believes Amboy should hire a consultant to facilitate the process. He said it is important to look at every aspect including short-term and long-term ramifications.

Roll call was taken on the above motion to withdraw. The motion carried unanimously.

President Becker then asked for discussion on the topic of hiring a consultant. Mead suggested Tom Lynch, an Amboy native, to serve as consultant. His credentials include extensive knowledge in special education, as well as serving as past director on Ogle County Educational Cooperative

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Akre to authorize the Board President and Board Secretary to negotiate a contract with a consultant to review the District's special education needs and recommend options for the special education program. Flessner asked if Ogle County would be able to assess our needs and provide a cost analysis. Superintendent Shepherd said that they have already begun an extensive fact finding process. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

The first reading of the Proposed IASB Policy Revisions was presented on the district website. The revisions will be voted on at the October meeting.

At 7:50 p.m., a motion was made by Flessner and seconded by Mead to move to Executive Session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body; collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees and student discipline. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

At 8:23 p.m., a motion was made by Mead and seconded by Setchell to return to Open Session. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Stephenitch and seconded by Flessner to approve the suspensions of Students 9-27-07-01 through 9-27-07-14, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Flessner and seconded by Mead to accept the resignation of Angela Shields as Paraprofessional at Amboy Junior High School, effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Setchell and seconded by Mead to accept the resignation of Ann Damery as Paraprofessional at Central School, effective September 7, 2007. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Akre and seconded by Mead to accept the resignation of Kathy Bua as Paraprofessional at Amboy Junior High School, effective September 28, 2007. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Stephenitch to accept the resignation of Cindy Hindriks as Bus Driver, effective 9/13/07. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Setchell to accept the resignation Andrew Full as boys' track coach at Amboy Junior High School, effective for the 2007-2008 school year. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Akre and seconded by Mead to accept the resignation of Tina Eller as girls' softball head coach, effective for the 2007-2008 school year. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Flessner and seconded by Mead to accept the resignation of Tim Bivins as volleyball head coach, effective for the 2007-2008 school year. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Flessner and seconded by Mead to approve one-year leave of absence request by Joe Robbins as head varsity baseball coach at Amboy High for the 2008 season. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Flessner and seconded by Akre to approve the employment contract of Dennis Weidman at Central School for the 2007-2008 school year. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Stephenitch and seconded by Setchell to approve the employment contract of Mike McCracken as Athletic Director at Amboy High School. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Flessner and seconded by Mead to approve the employment of Brenda Frederick as Assistant Head Cook at Amboy Junior High School. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Akre and seconded by Flessner to approve the employment of Stephanie Bossemeyer as Cafeteria Cook-Part Time at Amboy Junior High School, moving to Paraprofessional at Central School. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Setchell and seconded by Akre to approve the employment of Theresa McGraw as Contractual Bus Driver. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Flessner and seconded by Mead to approve the Extra-Curricular Schedule, as amended. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Upcoming dates include the Finance Meeting on Thursday, October 11, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school faculty room and the next Regular School Board Meeting on Wednesday, October 24, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Amboy High School cafeteria.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, a motion was made at 8:30 p.m. by Mead and seconded by Akre to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Mead, Secretary

Mark F. Becker, President

Approved: _____