

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
AMBOY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #272  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2007, 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 Akre, Setchell and Flessner. Also present were: Quintin Shepherd, Bonnie Morris, Sam Smith, Tina Eller, Carol Schnaiter, Ed Morris, Mike Vaessen, Jessica McCormick, Jeff Thake, Joyce Schamberger and Judi Callison.

President Becker opened the Public Hearing regarding the 2007 tentative Tax Levy. Superintendent Shepherd briefly reviewed the information. He said this year's request was a 7.23% increase 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.

Board member, Akre arrived at 7:01 p.m.

There being no comments or questions from the audience or Board of Education, a motion was made by Stephenitch and seconded by Olson to adopt the Resolution for the 2007 Tax Levy, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Stephenitch to direct the Secretary of the Board of Education to file the Certificate for Compliance for the 2007 Tax Levy. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Akre and seconded by Mead 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.

Board member, Setchell arrived at 7:03 p.m.

A motion was made by Stephenitch and seconded by Mead to close the Public Hearing regarding the 2007 Tax Levy. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

The floor was opened to comments from the public. There were none.

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

- Minutes of the November 20, 2007, Regular Open & Closed Board Meetings;
- Use of Facilities and waiver of fees by Vicky Appleman of the IKWF to hold a tournament at Amboy High School on Sunday, January 13, 2008;
- Use of Facilities and waiver of fees by Mike McCracken to conduct a volleyball clinic for officials at Amboy High School on March 2, 2008; and
- Destruction of audiotapes dated June 22, 2006.

Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

In his finance report, Superintendent Shepherd said there were no significant changes from last month. He noted that the Teamster contract had not been enacted, heating degree days were down compared to last year and money had not been received from the State, in terms of the BIMP. Shepherd said the district is not getting the money that was built into the revenue projections.

A motion was made by Stephenitch 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.

In his report, Superintendent Shepherd said that Al Groll had turned maintenance building into a distribution warehouse, which has been working well.

The School Improvement Plans were presented by Jessica McCormick, Joyce Schamberger and Jeff Thake. President Becker extended his appreciation for the continued efforts that have been put forth to “raise the bar” and find the best way to educate.

A motion was made by Setchell and seconded by Stephenitch to approve the School Improvement Plans for Central School, Amboy Junior High School and Amboy High School. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

The next agenda item was discussion of the report by Tom Lynch, hired consultant, which summarized the expenses and services offered by Lee County Special Education and the Ogle County Education Cooperative. In the 22-page report, Lynch’s findings indicate that Amboy students would gain access to superior services at two-thirds the cost if the Amboy school district were to accept the formal invitation from the Ogle County Education Cooperative. Tom Mead said that it is important to note that the district “will do what’s best for the kids.” President Becker reiterated that the district now has a better understanding of the two cooperatives to help bring the decision into focus. A determination on the move must be made in the next several months, according to Superintendent Shepherd.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Akre to approve the proposed IASB Policy Revisions, which were presented on the district website in November. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Stephenitch and seconded by Setchell to approve revision of dates for the January and February 2008, regular Board of Education meetings to Wednesday, January 23, 2008 and February 27, 2008. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call. A decision on the March and April meetings will be made at a later date.

A motion was made by Stephenitch and seconded by Mead to table the agenda item # 9- Support Staff Collective Bargaining Agreement- until after the Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

At 7:42 p.m., a motion was made by Akre 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; student discipline and litigation, when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

At 8:35 p.m., a motion was made by Olson and seconded by Setchell to return to Open Session. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Stephenitch to approve three-year (3) Support Staff Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Amboy Board of Education and Teamster Local Union No. 722, for the contract years of 2007-2008, 2008-2009, and 2009-2010, and to authorize the Board President and Board Secretary to sign the Contract Agreement. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Olson and seconded by Setchell to approve the suspensions of Students 12-13-07-01 through 12-13-07-19, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Upcoming dates include: Finance Meeting on Wednesday, January 9, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in Room #105 at AHS; Regular School Board meeting on Wednesday, January 23, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria at AHS and the School Board Retreat on Saturday, February 9, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. in the Community Room at KSB Medical Clinic on Rt. 52.

Before adjourning, the Board entered into discussion on the ongoing block vs. traditional scheduling. Superintendent Shepherd said the ability to have engaged dialogue is critical to provide leadership and a shared mutual goal, with the best interest of the students in mind. Based on results of discussion with staff, students and parents, the Board has concluded it would be in the best interest of the students to remain with the block schedule for the 2007-2008 school year.

Other options such as utilizing the Lee County Extension Office or Sauk Valley Community College will continue to be researched, which may result in changes for the future.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, a motion was made at 8:45 p.m. by Setchell and seconded by Olson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Thomas E. Mead, Secretary

---

Mark F. Becker, President

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_