

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
AMBOY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #272  
THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2008, 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, Kevin Chandler, Carol Schnaiter, Anna Willis, Shirley Willis, Linda Klein, Stephanie McLaughlin, Tina Lindenmeyer, Deanna Hoy, Maranda Wheeler, Deanna Decho, Randy Highbarger, Becky Highbarger, Sue Kessel, Joanie Zimmerly, Amanda Henkel, Shannon VanDrew, Andy Jones, Karen Jones, Mary Sheridan, Brittany Klein, Neil Shaw, Brenda Shaw, Kellylyn Wood, Staci Stewart, Chris Schaver, Deanna Barlow, Jackie Steinbach, Elizabeth Bontz, Tony Becker, Janet Payne, Louis Payne, Jessica McCormick, Joyce Schamberger, Jeff Thake, and Judi Callison.

President Becker opened the Public Hearing regarding the Application for Modification of Section 24-2 of the School Code as it relates to school holidays, specifically Veterans Day. Superintendent Shepherd explained that this is a standard application, which allows for the students to stay in school on Veterans Day and engage in meaningful activities that honor veterans. The day will be made up on the day before Thanksgiving. The floor was opened to comments and/or questions from the audience and Board of Education. There were none. President Becker declared the Public Hearing closed.

A motion was made by Stephenitch and seconded by Setchell to approve submission of the Application for Modification of Section 24-2 of the School Code as it relates to school holidays, specifically Veterans Day. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

President Becker opened the Public Hearing regarding the Application for Modification of Section 5/27-23 of the School Code as it relates to driver's education. Superintendent Shepherd explained that this is a standard application, which allows the district to raise driver's education fees over a three-year period to bring the district in line with other school districts in the area. The floor was opened to comments and/or questions from the audience and Board of Education. There were none. President Becker declared the Public Hearing closed.

A motion was made by Flessner and seconded by Stephenitch to approve submission of the Application for Modification of Section 5/27-23 of the School Code as it relates to driver's education for the school years of 2008-2011. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

The floor was opened to comments from the public. Approximately twenty-five parents and teachers were present to ask questions and express concerns regarding class sizes at Central School for the 2008-2009 school year. Primary concern centered on this year's first grade, which has seventy-three students in four sections. Parents pointed out there are students with special needs, which will make it difficult to provide a fair education with classes of approximately twenty-five students. President Becker said, "The Board of Education must look at the curriculum for all grade levels and try to meet the needs of all children as best as we can."

The availability of grant money was discussed to pay the salary of another teacher. Since the district does not have a grant writer, board member, Setchell encouraged parents to become active in the process of grant applications. "If you see a place where you can help, such as applying for grants, I would recommend that you should come and help us, said Setchell.

Another parent asked about the Student Achievement Committee, which is usually held before the school board meetings. President Becker replied that the meeting had been cancelled because participation had declined to the point where the committee was no longer viable. Sign up will be held at registration, and parents are invited to join the group to discuss curriculum across the board and ways to improve it, said Becker.

Discussion also ensued on the new English Language Learner program, which is being introduced to meet the needs of non-English speaking students. President Becker added that the program is no different than special education. "We have an obligation to those children," he said.

Superintendent Shepherd explained that the decision will be made as quickly as possible, but because of changing patterns in the classes, the board must be allowed time to do what's best for the students.

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

- Minutes of the April 24, 2008, Regular Open & Closed Board Meetings; and
- Destruction of audiotapes dated November 10, 2006 and November 21, 2006.

Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

In his finance report, Superintendent Shepherd discussed balances in the O & M and Transportation funds. Both funds have suffered from rising energy/fuel costs that could not have been predicted. "From all accounts, it doesn't sound like it's going to get much better as we look to the future." The Education Fund is close to being on budget. According to Shepherd, the total budget is close to where it should be through the end of the fiscal year.

Funding for next year is down. No Child Left Behind will be down 10.5% and initial projections show no allocations for Title IID, and technology, with Title I also down.

A motion was made by Stephenitch and seconded by Setchell 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. Shepherd briefly discussed the superintendent evaluation and said it was a valuable process, which gave good feedback from the staff to be utilized in the future.

A motion was made by Akre and seconded by Stephenitch to approve the proposed handbook revisions for Central School, Amboy Junior High School and Amboy High School as presented at the April meeting. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Flessner to approve the proposed IASB Policy Revisions as presented in April. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Flessner to approve a request for proposal with HR Imaging Partners, Inc. of Ottawa, IL for the provision of student photography services for a term of three years, 2008-2009; 2009-2010; and 2010-2011, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Stephenitch and seconded by Mead to approve Municipal Lease Purchase Program with Sovereign Bank for financing of (1) 2009 Model 59-Passenger, Special Needs School Bus and (1) 2009 Model 42-Passenger School Bus, for a term beginning July 15, 2008, and ending on July 15, 2010, payable in installments of \$45,132.00 yearly. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Stephenitch and seconded by Flessner to approve Municipal Lease Program with Sovereign Bank for financing of (1) 2008 Chevy Collins 14-Passenger School Bus, for a term of one year, in the amount of \$7,899.00, according to the terms of the contract. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Flessner and seconded by Setchell to accept the extended quote of Rochelle Community Hospital, Rochelle, IL for provision of Health/Nursing Services for a one-year contract for the 2008-2009 school year, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Setchell and seconded by Mead to accept the extended quote of Medical Fitness Services, Inc. of Sublette, IL for provision of Drug/Alcohol Services for a one-year contract for the 2008-2009 school year, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

The next order of business was discussion of the End of Year Review for School Improvement Plans, as presented.

At 8:05 p.m., a motion was made by Setchell and seconded by Mead to move to Executive Session to discuss 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 9:23 p.m., a motion was made by Flessner and seconded by Mead to return to Open Session. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Akre and seconded by Setchell to approve the suspensions of Students 5-22-08-01 through 5-22-08-27, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Flessner and seconded by Mead to approve and uphold the expulsion of Student ID # 8000, effective immediately, through and including the end of the 2007-2008 school year. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Flessner and seconded by Mead to uphold the suspension of Student ID # 9141, as presented during the suspension hearing. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Setchell and seconded by Akre to accept retirement resignation of Vicki Conderman as Cafeteria Cook at Central School, effective at the end of the school year. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Stephenitch and seconded by Flessner to accept the resignation of Todd Appleman as Head Wrestling coach at Amboy Junior High School, effective May 1, 2008. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Setchell and seconded by Stephenitch to accept the resignation of Jeannie Yeske as Business/Computer teacher at Amboy High School, effective at the end of the school year. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Stephenitch and seconded by Mead to accept the resignation of Tina Eller as Spanish teacher at Amboy High School, effective at the end of the school year. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Flessner and seconded by Akre to approve the employment of Anthony Parks as Assistant Maintenance Director, as per contract. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Setchell and seconded by Stephenitch to approve the employment contract of Brittany Klein as English Language Learner/Spanish teacher for the 2008-2009 school year. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Upcoming dates include: Finance meeting on Wednesday, June 11, 2008, and next Regular School Board meeting on Monday, June 23, 2008, at Amboy High School.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, a motion was made at 9:30 p.m. by Setchell and seconded by Akre to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Respectfully submitted,

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Thomas E. Mead, Secretary

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Mark Becker, President

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