

**BROOKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 167  
REGULAR MEETING - FEBRUARY 14, 2011  
BOARD ROOM - ADMINISTRATIVE & DIAGNOSTIC CENTER**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Brookwood School District 167 Board of Education was called to order by President Arthur Taylor at 7:30 p.m.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call 6 Present  
was answered by: Pettis, Jennings, Brunson, 1 Absent  
Taylor, Plott, and Birmingham

Absent: M. Snoddy

II. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ISSUANCE OF \$4,000,000 IN WORKING CASH FUND BONDS AND \$4,200,000 IN FUNDING BONDS

President Taylor announced that the next agenda item is the public hearing on the proposal to sell \$4,000,000 in working cash fund bonds and \$4,200,000 in funding bonds.

Mr. Taylor asked if there were any comments from the Board regarding the issuance of the working cash fund bonds. There were none.

Mr. Taylor asked if there were any comments from the public regarding the issuance of the working cash fund bonds.

Mr. Larry Williams presented petitions requesting that the issue of working cash fund bonds be brought to referendum at the March 20, 2012 election.

Mr. Lord expressed concern that the Board hasn't explained what this money is for. Mr. Taylor, Board President, explained that the Board has been talking about this issue for the past six months and asked Mr. Charleston, Business Manager, to explain the bond issue.

Mr. Truitt indicated he has been talking with community members and they are not aware of what this money will be used for. He feels the Board needs to develop a plan for students to be competitive in the future and well equipped when they enter high school.

Mr. Taylor asked if there were any comments from the Board regarding the issuance of the funding bonds. There were none.

Mr. Taylor aksed if there were any comments from the public regarding the issuance of the funding bonds.

Mr. Larry Williams presented petitions requesting that the issue of funding bonds be brought to referendum at the March 20, 2012 election.

Moved by Melinda Plott, seconded by Shirley Brunson to adjourn the public hearing.

Motion to Adjourn  
Public Hearing  
Approved  
6-0

III. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Charleston, Business Manager, explained that the money from the bond issue will be used to fund projects identified in the life safety survey which will cost approximately two million dollars. The other six million dollars will be used to put an addition on to Brookwood Junior High School to make room for the sixth graders. There will be no tax increase to taxpayers as a result of this bond issue.

Mr. Williams stated that the District's original debt will be paid off in 2013 and taxes may be reduced if the District doesn't extend their debt. As the result of this bond issue, debt will not be paid off until 2021. The District wants to stretch out their debt and he feels this should be brought to the taxpayers.

Mrs. Plott stated any responsible school board should have a plan to improve their facilities. She feels as a Board member, it is irresponsible to condone the environment at the Middle School. She indicated she is a taxpayer and all taxpayers pay taxes. This bond issue is for the benefit of the children and she doesn't know who is passing around lies. She can't understand why anyone wouldn't want to improve the environment for their children.

Mrs. Newsome stated that she wants the best for her children but she wants a proper plan and have it done in a proper way. She feels you need the proper teachers, the proper curriculum, in addition to proper facilities.

Mrs. Plott indicated that the Board didn't feel a referendum would pass to build a new Middle School, so this plan was the next best thing.

Mr. Taylor indicated that taxes would not be raised with this plan and the Board has been planning for the past two years.

Mr. Lord asked what improvements will be made to the two elementary schools. Dr. Hollich responded that the district's architect, Mr. Planera, did an extensive review of these projects at a previous Board meeting. All of the A items from the life safety survey must be done within one year. All of the B items must be done within five years, and all of the C items are recommendations.

Mrs. Wheeler stated the community wants better input and a clearer vision. She feels that children need a good atmosphere, teachers need to be energized, and the Board needs to come together. She feels the District should investigate different architects regarding building a new building. She stated that she feels Hickory Bend is extremely crowded.

Mrs. Pettis asked the audience what they wanted the Board to look at.

Mrs. Newsome stated that she is not in agreement with building an addition. The Board needs to start from the bottom with curriculum and students need to be motivated. She also feels the Board needs to get more than one quote.

Mrs. Plott responded that the bidding process has not started for any of these projects.

Dr. Hollich responded that the improvements in the life safety report are required by law.

Mr. Summers stated he doesn't have children in the schools but he is a stakeholder and has been a substitute in the district. He feels the community should have a say in what the school board does and there should be open discussions.

Ms. Birmingham stated that the schools are the bloodline of a community and the purpose of the Board is to provide the best possible education to the students up to the limits that the taxpayers are willing to support. She indicated that the district's scores are almost where they should be and everyone is working hard.

Mrs. Brunson stated that the Board meetings are always announced on the Junior High sign and if the community doesn't come to the meetings, there is nothing the Board can do. She stated that the Board wants the community to voice their opinion and discuss these issues openly.

Mr. Winston stated that students need the right resources, the right technology, and the right environment to learn. He feels it is important to continue to invest in Glenwood in order to protect our investment.

Mrs. Plott stated she knows there are people who move to different communities in order to send their children to different schools. She would like to see people move to Glenwood because they want their children to go to Glenwood schools. Denying improvements to our schools denies progress to our town.

Ms. Birmingham stated that the district's math programs have improved, technology is great, and community forums have been held. She feels that the aspirations of the community need to be determined.

Mr. Taylor stated that it is quite common for a school board to maintain some level of debt.

Mr. Williams stated that they are not the enemy but they just want the true story because they feel they are getting different information all the time. He wanted to know exactly what the money is going to be used for.

Mr. Taylor stated that it is important to attend Board meetings to get the correct information.

Dr. Hollich explained that the funding bonds are used to pay off the debt certificates and the working cash fund bonds are used for improvements to the schools including life safety work and an addition to the Junior High school.

Mr. Williams asked how the community would know this and Mr. Taylor answered that they need to come to the Board meetings.

Mr. Truitt stated that there is a disconnect here and we need to keep in mind that the children should be the basis for all that we do. He stated that we all want the same things and the public needs to be involved in this decision.

Mrs. Plott stated that everyone should regularly read the District's mission statement. We should celebrate the successes of the District. The Board has been fiscally responsible today and needs to be fiscally responsible for tomorrow.

Mr. Truitt applauded the District with regard to their fiscal management. He stated that we need to work on the apathy in

the neighborhoods and get the community involved in the process. He feels that the money should go to programs for the students.

Mrs. Pettis suggested the community could participate in parent workshops that the District offers. She mentioned that the computer lab at the Junior High is open to the community on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She stated that everyone has to work together and realizes that this isn't always easy.

Ms. Birmingham stated the Board needs to go out into the community and dialogue with the community.

Mr. Taylor stated the Board has been planning for the past two years. The Board can't force the community to come to the meetings. He can't understand why anyone would want to take something from the children when it won't cost them anything. This project will not raise taxes. The Board has been fiscally responsible. The District is one of the top two in the region financially. He respects everyone's opinion but the information has been available. He feels the community has not been told the truth. The District looks out for the best interests of the students.

Mr. Williams stated that he has over 800 signatures from the community and the District has approximately 1,100 students.

Ms. Birmingham stated that under the first amendment, everyone has the right to petition a municipality. The Board's mission is to provide the best possible education up to the limit that the taxpayers are willing to support. She feels that everyone needs to communicate.

Mrs. Brunson stated that the Board is open to the stakeholders' input but the stakeholders aren't at the meetings. There is an opportunity at every meeting for citizen's comments. Everything is open but the community needs to come.

Mrs. Newsome stated that everyone needs to be treated with respect and there should be no bickering and hollering.

Mrs. Plott stated that this Board has been extremely patient and polite. There are very few people attending the meetings. She stated that in addition to learning and teaching, the Board needs to be concerned about the students' environment.

Mr. Winston asked if the Board could revisit the building of a new Middle School.

Mrs. Brunson stated that the District is not spending 8.2 million dollars on repairs.

Dr. Hollich stated that there is 1.7 million dollars in repairs to the schools and 6 million dollars to build an addition on to the Junior High which would include a competition size gymnasium and additional classrooms. There are \$30,000 in repairs to the Middle School that by law must be completed in one year. She stated that with declining enrollment and the economy, the Board felt it would be difficult to support a referendum for a new school. Without this bond issue, the District must use cash reserves to pay for the life safety projects.

Mrs. Elmore feels a community forum is a wonderful idea. If the community won't come here then we need to go to the community and hear from the people.

Dr. Hollich responded that the principals have held Parent Advisory Councils and no one has come. Dr. Hollich held a Parent Advisory Council with a nice turnout. The next one is scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Longwood School and 7:00 p.m. at the Junior High School.

Mr. Gosha stated that some people believe in what the Board is doing and those people aren't present. He stated he believes in the Board. There are community members who are in agreement with the Board and their voices aren't being heard.

Ms. Seals stated she is a 25 year resident of Glenwood and has worked in the District for 19 years. She read the District's logo: Preparing for the Future: Parents+Children+Community.

Mrs. Winston stated that she would like to see a new Middle School in Glenwood. She feels that our children deserve the best, we need to invest in our children and the community, and that may involve some sacrifice. She stated parents need to get involved and support our Board.

Mr. Summers stated that he is not against spending money but wants to spend money for the best outcome.

Mrs. Winston feels there should be a new school, a new curriculum, and that we should agree to disagree.

Mrs. Brunson stated that two years ago, the Board discussed building a new school which would have required a referendum. With the economic downturn and so many people out of work, the Board didn't feel a referendum would pass, so they came up with an alternative. When Glenwood starts to grow again, the Board could revisit building a new school.

Mr. Truitt felt that the Board should have reached out more when no one was attending meetings.

Dr. Hollich stated that they have spent two to three years planning, gathering information, and holding focus group meetings.

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The January 10, 2011 regular meeting minutes were approved. Plott/Jennings	Regular Meeting Minutes Approved 6-0
The January 10, 2011 closed session minutes were approved. Brunson/Plott	Closed Session Meeting Minutes Approved 5-0 1 Abstain
The January 18, 2011 special meeting minutes were approved. Brunson/Jennings	Special Meeting Minutes Approved 6-0
The January 18, 2011 closed session minutes were approved. Jennings/Brunson	Closed Session Meeting Minutes Approved 5-0 1 Abstain

#### V. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLL

Bills totaling \$411,671.50, the January actual payroll of \$571,021.39 and the February payroll as per agreements were approved. Brunson/Plott	Bills/ Payroll Approved 5-1
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VI. REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report--See attached.

B. President's Report

- 1. Mr. Taylor, Board President, presented the Glenwood Junior Woman's Club with a Certificate of Appreciation in honor of their efforts and dedication in furthering the Fine Arts curriculum in Brookwood School District 167. Becky Morton accepted the certificate on behalf of the organization and thanked Dr. Hollich and the Board. She encouraged everyone to visit the Glenwood/Lynwood Library during March which has been designated Youth Art Month.
- 2. Mr. Taylor stated that good things happen when we all work together and thanked the Board members for their work on behalf of the students of our District.

C. Committee Reports

- 1. Mrs. Plott stated that the recent Board self-evaluation was a very good session and the Board tries to speak with one voice. She thanked the teachers and principals for their support during this process and for all the encouragement they give our students.

D. Board Member Comments

None

VII. READING OF COMMUNICATIONS

None

VIII. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>A1. Paul Standberry was hired as a playground/ lunchroom supervisor for Brookwood Middle School effective February 16, 2011 at a salary of \$11.68 per hour.<br/>Brunson/Plott</p> | <p>P. Standberry<br/>Hired<br/>Approved<br/>5-0<br/>1 Abstain</p> |
| <p>B. The 2011-2012 staffing plan was approved as presented (see attached).<br/>Jennings/Brunson</p>  | <p>2011-2012<br/>Staffing Plan<br/>Approved<br/>6-0</p>           |

Comments: Ms. Birmingham asked if raises were included in this plan. Dr. Hollich responded that the GEA raise

of 2% and the USA raise of 4% were included but administrative raises will be a separate approval item.

#### IX. ADVISORY

##### Discussion:

1. Board Goals and Action Plan—Dr. Hollich reviewed the Board Goals and Action Plan through 2013.
2. Deployment of Old Equipment—Dr. Hollich called the Board's attention to policy 4625 regarding the disposal of obsolete equipment. Obsolete equipment (overhead projectors, old printers, etc.) was identified during recent space audits in the schools. The Superintendent will have a recommendation to dispose of this equipment at the next Board meeting.

Thursday, February 17	--	Longwood School Bedtime Story Night, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Friday, February 18	--	Half-day School Improvement, 11:30 a.m. District Dismissal
Monday, February 21	--	President's Day Observance/ No School
Thursday, February 24	--	Hickory Bend African American History Program 1:30 & 6:30 p.m.
Friday, February 25	--	Historical Perspectives Assembly Harriet Tubman, 9:30 a.m. at Brookwood Junior High
Monday, March 7	--	Casimir Pulaski's Birthday Observance/No School
Thursday, March 10	--	Junior High Spring Band Concert, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, March 14	--	March Board of Education Meeting

#### X. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Mrs. Bragg announced that the date for the Hickory Bend African American History Program has been changed from February 24 to March 27.

Mrs. Morton announced there will be a reception on February 24 for the kick-off of Youth Art Month at the Glenwood/Lynwood Library and invited everyone to attend.

Mr. Truitt asked if the obsolete equipment is operational. Dr. Hollich responded that she won't know until the list has been developed. Mr. Truitt suggested the possibility of a sale to the community. Dr. Hollich also suggested the possibility of using some of the equipment as raffle prizes.

XI. CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into closed session at 10:06 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. Jennings/Plott

Into Closed Session  
Approved  
5-0  
1 Abstain

D. Birmingham left the meeting at 10:06 p.m.

The Board returned from closed session at 10:47 p.m. Brunson/Plott

Return From Closed Session  
Approved  
5-0

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:49 p.m. Jennings/Brunson

Meeting Adjourned  
All AYE

Deborah M. Young  
Recording Clerk

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Secretary

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President

Present: R. Patterson, O. Nowels, B. Lindsay, S. Bragg, P. Czapbovicz, B. Whalen, C. Marcinski, P. Davis, R. Moehlig, E. Avant, D. Wilson, R. Lord, R. Morton, D. Morton, L. Wheeler, R. Truitt, M. Myers, J. Dixon, R. Seals, B. Elmore, J. Summers, R. Gosha, A. Dixon, H. Winston, A. Winston, L. Williams, S. Newsome.

## BROOKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 167

### Superintendent's Report

February, 2011

1. The Superintendent wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.
2. Mr. Charleston, Business Manager, presented a budget update. The budget is on track and will include a small surplus this year due to health care costs coming under budget and out-of-district special education costs coming under budget. Next year, there is a projected deficit of \$600,000 in part due to stimulus funds going away. He indicated the bond issue has zero impact on the budget. The recent state income tax increase won't affect the budget very much and we can assume no more than two percent growth from year to year. The state continues to be behind in their payments. The CPI for 2010, which will be part of the tax levy received in 2012, is 1.5% and the property tax cap is limited to CPI.
3. The Superintendent reported on the bus monitors. There are no bus monitors on the morning routes. All the afternoon routes have monitors except the activity buses. There are no monitors on the morning Pre-K routes but the 11:30 a.m. drop off and pickup routes for Pre-K have monitors as do the afternoon Pre-K routes.
4. The Superintendent invited the Board to the district's mini-technology conference on Friday afternoon, February 18<sup>th</sup>. The GEA is providing lunch at 11:30 a.m. at the Junior High and all Board members are welcome.
5. ~~The Superintendent called the Board's attention to the flyer in the back packet from Net 56. This company provides a wide range of technology services and they are in the process of conducting a technology audit. They will look at our infrastructure, interview teachers and staff, and put together a three year plan.~~ The Superintendent called the Board's attention to the information regarding the IASB South Cook Dinner meeting on Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.
6. The Superintendent announced that there were 650 entries to the PTA Reflections program and four students advanced to the state level.
7. The Superintendent congratulated Mrs. Bragg and Hickory Bend School for being selected to receive a 2010 Spotlight School Award from the Illinois State Board of Education.
8. The Superintendent congratulated Ms. Lindsay and Brookwood Junior High School for being selected to receive a 2010 Spotlight Award and an Academic Improvement Award from the Illinois State Board of Education.
9. The Superintendent announced that the District received an \$85,000 Model Communities Grant which will be used to fight obesity in the community. The grant includes monies for fitness equipment which the community will have access to and a farmers market to be held at Longwood School on Saturdays. The Superintendent thanked Joyce Johnson-James, social worker, and Brenda Porter, nurse, who worked on getting this grant.

10. The Superintendent congratulated Jay Blackman, Director of Technology, who will be receiving the Technology Educator of the Year Award at the ICE conference on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.