

**BROOKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 167
REGULAR MEETING - APRIL 18, 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 was answered by: Pettis, Jennings, Brunson, Taylor, Plott, and Birmingham

6 Present
1 Absent

Absent: M. Snoddy

II. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The March 14, 2011 regular meeting minutes were approved. Brunson/Plott

Regular Meeting
Minutes
Approved
5-1

Comment: Ms. Birmingham stated that the minutes did not reflect the statements made by Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Brunson, and Mrs. Plott at the last meeting that the residents were lied to and given fraudulent information regarding the petitions for the sale of bonds. Dr. Hollich responded that the minutes are a summary of the meeting. Mrs. Plott stated that people told members of the Board they were being given misinformation.

The March 14, 2011 closed session minutes were approved to remain closed. Brunson/Plott

Closed Session
Minutes Approved
to Remain closed
5-0
1 Abstain

The March 21, 2011 special meeting minutes were approved. Brunson/Jennings

Special Meeting
Minutes
Approved
5-0
1 Abstain

The March 21, 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 \$512,082.09, the March actual payroll of \$599,765.76 and the April payroll as per agreements were approved. Plott/Brunson

Bills/
Payroll
Approved
5-1

V. REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report--See attached.

B. President's Report

1. Mr. Taylor presented 2010-2011 Certificates of Recognition to Longwood School, Hickory Bend School, Brookwood Middle School, Brookwood Junior High School, and the District.
2. Mr. Taylor presented a plaque to Angelique Jennings for her service to the Board of Education. Mrs. Snoddy's plaque will be presented to her at a later date.
3. Mr. Taylor announced that a special Board meeting will be held on Monday, May 2, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of seating new Board members and election of Board officers. All current Board members and the two newly elected members should attend.

C. Committee Reports

1. Mrs. Plott reported on her attendance at a session at the National School Boards Association conference regarding referenda. It is important to encourage the community to embrace the project. She stated that once the decision to go to referendum has been made, it will be important to strategize.
2. Mr. Taylor reported that he and the Superintendent went to a workshop regarding the referendum at Lincoln Way High School. Baum and Company helped Lincoln Way run their referendum. Dr. Hollich will have information on Baum and Company for the May Board meeting.

D. Board Member Comments

1. Ms. Birmingham stated she didn't attend the National School Board Association conference and feels discriminated against because Mr. Taylor didn't provide her with the same information as other Board members.
2. Ms. Birmingham concurred that the District will need a consultant for the referendum.
3. Mrs. Plott stated that if a Board member doesn't respond to an email, Debbie calls.

- 4. Ms. Birmingham stated that Debbie does a wonderful job. Ms. Birmingham stated that the board was supposed to vote on whether to attend the NSBA conference.
- 5. Mr. Taylor stated that Ms. Birmingham chose not to attend the conference.
- 6. Ms. Birmingham stated that the Board President was supposed to bring attendance at the NSBA conference back to the table in light of the budget deficit.

VI. READING OF COMMUNICATIONS

There was one request for information regarding drivers education and a response was provided.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into closed session at 8:23 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
6-0

The Board returned from closed session at 9:00 p.m. Jennings/Plott

Return From Closed Session
Approved
6-0

VIII. RECOMMENDED ACTION

A1. Amber Crews' resignation as a School Psychologist was accepted the end of the 2010-2011 school year. Brunson/Jennings

A. Crews Resignation
Approved
6-0

A2. Shirley Bragg was hired as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction effective July 1, 2011 at a salary, including retirement payments, of \$110,490 Jennings/Brunson

S. Bragg Hired
Approved
6-0

B. The 2010-2011 school year calendar was shortened by three days, allowing for 180 total days with 175 pupil attendance days, three institute days, and two parent/teacher conference days, making June 7,

2010-2011 Calendar Shortened
Approved
6-0

2011 the last day of school. Brunson/Plott

Comment: Mrs. Pettis asked if we are really shortening the calendar. Dr. Hollich responded yes, because the original calendar has 5 emergency days built in.

- 8C. The 2011-2012 school year calendar was approved with an opening date of August 17, 2011 and a closing date of June 4, 2012, providing for 185 days of which 180 are scheduled pupil attendance days, three institute days, and two all-day parent/teacher conference days.
Jennings/Brunson

2011-2012
School Year
Calendar
Approved
6-0

Comment: Mrs. Pettis asked if the dates for parent/teacher conferences were earlier because the school year starts earlier. Dr. Hollich responded yes and she worked with the GEA President and teachers on calendar dates.

- 8D. The Board approved disposing of obsolete equipment per the attached list.
Brunson/Jennings

Disposal of
Obsolete
Equipment
Approved
6-0

Comment: Ms. Birmingham asked if parents and the community will be allowed to get equipment in a lottery. Dr. Hollich responded that the items highlighted in yellow will be given to the staff via a lottery. Ms. Birmingham asked if there is any equipment left after the staff lottery, could we consider a lottery for the community. Dr. Hollich responded yes.

- 8E. The Board approved the Assistant Superintendent for Student Special Services job description.
Jennings/Plott

Assistant
Superintendent
Job Description
Approved
5-1

- 8F. The Board approved rescinding item D from the December, 2010 Board agenda regarding reorganization of the grade levels at Hickory Bend and Longwood School.
Plott/Birmingham

Rescinding Item
D from December,
2010 Board Agenda
Approved
5-0
1 Abstain

Comment: Mrs. Plott stated that it is disappointing when you plan for something and it doesn't go through but she

felt that this was the best option instead of grade centers.

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|---|--|
| <p>8G. The Board approved rescinding item F from the December, 2010 Board agenda regarding the reorganization of the grade levels at Brookwood Junior High School.
Birmingham/Brunson</p> | <p>Rescinding Item F from December, 2010 Board Agenda
Approved
5-0
1 Abstain</p> |
| <p>8H. The Board approved the rental of one classroom at Brookwood Junior High School to SPEED at the rate of \$12,000 per room for the 2011-2012 school year.
Brunson/Jennings</p> | <p>Classroom Rental to SPEED
Approved
6-0</p> |
| <p>8I. The Board approved a resolution calling the debt certificates, series 2011, of School District 167 for redemption prior to maturity (see attached resolution).
Brunson/Plott</p> | <p>Resolution Calling Debt Certificates
Approved
6-0</p> |

Comment: Ms. Birmingham asked if we are just transferring funds. Rob Grossi stated we are transferring funds from Operations and Maintenance to the Education fund to repay the loan from the Education fund.

IX. ADVISORY

Discussion:

1. Life Safety Bonds--Dr. Hollich stated she will put the life safety bonds on the May agenda.
2. Town Hall Meeting--Ms. Birmingham felt a Town Hall meeting should be held at the beginning of the school year. Dr. Hollich stated she will have Baum & Associates come out to the June or July Board meeting for a presentation.
3. Graduation--After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to have graduation on Friday, June 3, 2011.

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|---|----|---|
| Tuesday, April 19, 2011 | -- | Fine Arts Fair |
| Wednesday, April 20, 2011 | -- | Longwood Pre-Kindergarten
Spring Performance |
| Friday, April 22 to Friday,
April 29, 2011 | -- | Spring Recess |
| Monday, May 2, 2011 | -- | School Resumes |
| Wednesday, May 4, 2011 | -- | Hickory Bend ACES Walk |
| Thursday, May 5, 2011 | -- | Hickory Bend Science Fair
3:00-5:00 p.m. |

Friday, May 6, 2011	--	11:30 a.m. Dismissal/ Half Day School Improvement
Monday, May 9, 2011	--	May Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, May 11, 2011	--	Safety Fair
Tuesday, May 17, 2011	--	Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee Meeting

X. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Following are comments made by parents in support of Mr. Patterson:

A parent asked if the Board could address a rumor that Mr. Patterson's contract had not been renewed and why it wasn't renewed. Mr. Taylor responded that the Board could not comment because it was a personnel issue. She wanted to know why parents were not allowed in the decision-making process. She stated that under his leadership, test scores have gone up. She didn't understand why the Board wants to fix something that isn't broken. She stated she would like to petition the Board to reconsider this issue.

A parent asked when the Board President's position was up. Mr. Taylor responded in two years. The parent felt this decision was made on a personal bias. She stated Mr. Patterson has done a wonderful job. She feels that the teachers, students, and parents were left out of the equation.

A parent asked the Board to explain the procedures for firing the Longwood principal. Mr. Taylor responded that he couldn't discuss personnel issues. Dr. Hollich responded that every year at the March Board meeting, the Superintendent puts forth recommendations on renewal of staff which is discussed in closed session.

A resident asked if the evaluation process was followed per the Illinois School Code with respect to the person being given an opportunity for improvement in their performance. Dr. Hollich responded yes.

A parent stated she is disappointed in the process. She found out Mr. Patterson was being let go second hand. She stated she moved into this district because of the schools and has no complaints. She stated that when you remove the leader of the school, you change the whole dynamic of the school. The students will be affected. She stated the Board should be concerned about the election in two years.

A resident stated that hearing comments in the community, in relation to the referendum, the petitions were not done because of a tax increase but more information and more openness is needed. She feels there needs to be more communication and more respect for the community members.

A parent stated she was disappointed in the release of Mr. Patterson. She feels he is an excellent principal. She knows there might be underlying things that the community doesn't know but since 2006, he is the third principal at Longwood. Continuing to hire and fire is not right. She feels there should have been more investigating and talking with parents. She stated the Board should think about this when selecting a Superintendent.

A parent stated it is not healthy to change principals.

A resident wanted to congratulate all the candidates in the April 5th election, however one candidate wouldn't shake her hand. She stated she is a proud parent, citizen, and employee of District 167. Dr. Hollich clarified that the person who wouldn't shake her hand was not in the room tonight.

A parent stated that the release of Mr. Patterson points to a bigger problem. He stated that the election shows the citizens of Glenwood want change. He feels that the actions of the Board feel one sided. He cautioned the Board as they go forward to take more interest in the community they serve.

A resident stated that this type of exchange is what is needed. Parents and community should solve problems together. All should come together to make it work. He stated that as a new Board member, what the community wants may not be what they get, but he will listen.

A resident stated that as the Board moves forward with employment decisions, the Board can be liable for law suits. He hopes all paperwork is in order and the documentation shows the decision was justified.

A parent stated that no parent involvement was included in this decision yet the district wants parents involved. She felt that parents should have been able to voice their opinions before it was too late. There was no information sent home informing parents ahead of time and she stated that it seems the Board has no respect for parents. Changing principals is disruptive to children.

A parent stated that the Board's "no comment" is a slap in the face.

A resident asked if the position of Assistant Superintendent is an additional position in the district. Dr. Hollich responded that Mrs. Price's duties as the Director of Student Special Services were expanded and this title reflects those expanded duties.

Ms. Birmingham encouraged all here tonight to get involved and keep coming out to the meetings. Community members can find information on the IASB website and in the Illinois School Code.

XI. CLOSED SESSON

The Board went into closed session at 9:51 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation.
Jennings/Brunson

Into Closed Session
Approved
5-0
1 Abstain

Ms. Birmingham left the meeting at 9:51 p.m.

The Board returned from closed session at 10:20 p.m. Brunson/Jennings

Return From Closed Session
Approved
5-0

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.
Brunson/Plott

Meeting Adjourned
All AYE

Deborah M. Young
Recording Clerk

Secretary

President

Present: J. Charleston, R. Patterson, O. Nowels, S. Bragg, B. Lindsay, S. Lott, J. Spearmon-Washington, R. Moehlig, A. Johnson, J.

Summers, A. Mix, I. Sanders, J. Dixon, C. Adams, R. Truitt, M. & S. Johnson, C. Spencer, K. Green, R. Seals, C. Zaragoza, P. Davis, T. Davis, C. Paxton, S. Newsom, B. Whalen, C. Hitchcock, X. Munoz, S. Mangan, L. Cain, J. Alm, S. Washington, M. Myers, W. Linden, L. Williams, C. Mann, R. & P. Darring, D. & S. Simmons, N. Garza, Y. Jones, J. Butler, G. Butler, L. Clemons, and L. Thomas.

BROOKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 167

Superintendent's Report

April, 2011

1. Jeff Charleston, Business Manager, gave a budget update. He indicated that he anticipates a surplus of \$200,000 this fiscal year. The state is still behind in their quarterly payments. Next year, he anticipates a \$600,000 deficit due in part to stimulus funds going away.
2. Rob Grossi, Bloom Township Treasurer of Schools, was present to explain life safety bonds. Previously, the Board approved 2.4 million dollars in life safety work which was to have been paid with bonds that are now delayed for a referendum vote. The work that needs to be done has been deemed necessary as it relates to the safety of students and can be paid for with life safety bonds. These type of bonds do not have to go to a referendum and it would require two board meetings before they can be issued. The money from life safety bonds is very restrictive. The projects could be started before the money is received but no payments could be made until after the bond issue. Issuing life safety bonds would protect the district's fund balances and allow the district to do the necessary work. A BINA hearing would be conducted at the May Board meeting, and the bond issue would happen at the June Board meeting. The money should be available by June 30th.
3. Dr. Hollich explained the action item to approve a resolution calling the debt certificates for redemption prior to maturity. The district issued debt certificates in the amount of four million dollars which created a claim against the district for four million dollars. The district borrowed the money from existing fund balances. The funding bonds in the amount of four million dollars did not go through. The non-issue of the bonds didn't cost the district any money in terms of interest. This resolution is reversing the transaction and moving the money from the Operations & Maintenance fund to the Education fund.

Ms. Birmingham asked what our game plan was for the next four-five years regarding our capital needs. Mr. Grossi indicated that the next five years will be the most challenging ever. Revenue growth will be low, inflation is low, the state has huge financial problems. There is no money left for education. Local, state, and federal money are all low. However, the district is in good shape to weather the storm. The district's total debt is \$3,100,000 and will be debt free in 2015. When capital needs arise, the district has borrowing authority.

Dr. Hollich stated that assuming a little more debt would protect

the current fund balances and help us meet the obligation of upgrading our buildings.

Mr. Charleston suggested issuing life safety bonds and leaving the fund balances alone.

Mrs. Plott asked if we do go to a referendum, would it be for only six million dollars since two million dollars would come from life safety bonds? Mr. Charleston answered yes. There would be no increase in taxes and it extends out our debt.

4. Mrs. Price gave an update on the Model Communities Grant. The kickoff for the grant was March 29th with 49 families in attendance. There are 80 students and 37 parents currently involved in the program. Aerobics classes are being offered, there are incentives for students, exercise equipment is being purchased, and a farmer's market will be held in conjunction with the Village of Glenwood.
5. Dr. Hollich announced that the district received a small library grant in the amount of \$859. She also announced that since the fruit and vegetable grant is being managed so well, the district was selected to receive extra money.
6. Dr. Hollich called the Board's attention to the report from the ISC#4 regarding their life safety visit. This report is related and yet different to the life safety survey. The ISC#4 does their own life safety visit periodically and this is their report.
7. Dr. Hollich called the Board's attention to the information regarding the diabetes care act and implementation of procedures.

BROOKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 167
CLOSED SESSION MEETING
April 18, 2011

Closed Session #1
Meeting Minutes

Present: C. Pettis, A. Jennings, S. Brunson, A. Taylor, M. Plott,
D. Birmingham, and P. Hollich

Closed session #1 began at 8:24 p.m.

The President opened the meeting and board members introduced themselves.

The Superintendent opened with a floor tile update. Mrs. Brunson asked about the original price of installation. The Superintendent replied it was approximately \$40,000.

The Superintendent presented her recommendation of Mrs. Bragg as Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

The Superintendent presented principal search documents and Mrs. Pettis asked a question from an earlier conversation regarding the search documents.

Ms. Birmingham commented on principal candidates going before the Board and if Mrs. Bragg becomes Director of Curriculum and Instruction, it would leave an opening at Hickory Bend.

Mrs. Plott asked if Mrs. Bragg would sit in on the interview process for her replacement. The Superintendent responded, "essentially, yes."

Mrs. Pettis asked if the Board would be looking for two principals at the same time. The Superintendent responded yes.

Mr. Taylor asked the Board if there is anything else the Board wants for principal candidates.

Mrs. Brunson said she wants the candidates to be candidates the Superintendent would recommend, someone she and the Board could approve.

The Superintendent clarified the schedule for the interview process and set June 6, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. for a Closed Session meeting. Interview time is set and everyone brings questions to streamline into a uniform interview questionnaire.

Mrs. Brunson asked for clarification on who is present at the different stages of the interview process.

Board members asked for specific details regarding the interview process.

Mrs. Pettis asked about the Closed Session materials.

Mrs. Pettis asked about the social worker's role in a disciplinary action.

Closed session ended at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Secretary
Board of Education

President
Board of Education