

**BROOKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 167
REGULAR MEETING - SEPTEMBER 12, 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 Deborah Birmingham at 7:32 p.m.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was answered by: Dixon, Wheeler, Pettis, Plott, Birmingham, and Taylor

6 Present
1 Absent

Absent: S. Brunson

II. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The July 11, 2011 revised regular meeting minutes were approved. Dixon/Pettis

Revised Regular Meeting Minutes
Approved
4-2

Comment: Mr. Taylor stated that you can't cross out something in the minutes that had been said. Ms. Birmingham stated that was correct. What was crossed out wasn't said. Mrs. Plott stated that she (Mrs. Plott) indicated at the meeting that Mr. Taylor wanted to be on the Male Parent Advisory Committee. Ms. Birmingham stated it is the power of the chair to appoint members to committees and if Mr. Taylor wanted to be on the committee, he did not tell her (Ms. Birmingham). Mr. Taylor stated that before the last meeting, Ms. Birmingham asked him if he wanted to be on the committee and he said yes.

The August 8, 2011 regular meeting minutes were approved. Taylor/Dixon

Regular Meeting Minutes
Approved
6-0

V. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLL

Bills totaling \$327,246.89, the August actual payroll of \$364,432.15 and the September payroll as per agreements were approved. Taylor/Dixon

Bills/
Payroll
Approved
6-0

V. REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report--See attached.

B. President's Report

1. Ms. Birmingham thanked Dr. Hollich for the ISAT presentation.
2. Ms. Birmingham stated that the Committees are working diligently.
3. Ms. Birmingham stated it is the Board's vision to have more people interested in District 167. A lot of students are going to private schools and the District wants to highlight what they have to offer. Ms. Birmingham wants people to know the District's accomplishments and would like to increase community relations.
4. Ms. Birmingham stated she would like to develop a public participation policy and showcase the effective Board leadership poster and the annual Board agenda poster.
5. Ms. Birmingham stated there will be a Committee of the Whole meeting on October 3, 2011 to discuss the referendum and an educational town hall meeting.

C. Committee Reports

1. Policy Committee—Ms. Birmingham reported that the District 167 policies are now available on the District's web site.
2. Buildings & Grounds—Mrs. Wheeler reported that the Committee met on August 15, 2011 and toured all four buildings. Committee members include Emma Kirtley, Wayne Washington, Hilary Myrick-Winston, Lashon Myers, and Ron Sorsby. Mrs. Wheeler stated that everyone should encourage the Middle School staff because they are doing a great job.
3. SCOPE—Mrs. Wheeler is the delegate for SCOPE and will be attending the first meeting of the year on September 26, 2011.
4. Finance Committee—Mr. Dixon reported that the Finance Committee will monitor financial decisions that the Board of Education is to consider for action. The Finance Committee can/should work with the business manager to compare expenditures to budget as we go through a budget year. Members of the Finance Committee are: John Dixon, Chair; Warren Linden, Reginald Truitt, Janice Berry, Salena Newsom, Linda Tatum, Jim Summers, Donna Gayden, Melinda Plott, and Arthur Taylor. Mr. Dixon reported that the first meeting of the Finance Committee was held on August 25, 2011 and Jeff Charleston, Business Manager, gave an overview of the budget.
5. Personnel Committee—Mr. Dixon reported that the Personnel Committee will assist in establishing

qualifications, interview questions and procedures, and participate on interview teams. Members of the Committee are: John Dixon, Chair; Beth Lindsay, Michelle Snoddy, Lorrie Wheeler, Rita Peterson, Ernestine Dobbins, Robert Lord, and Melinda Plott. The first meeting of the Committee was held on August 24, 2011. The Committee reviewed the personnel section of the Board policy book and discussed the use of substitute teachers from Glenwood.

6. SPEED—Mr. Dixon is the SPEED governing board member from District 167. He reported that the SPEED budget was approved on August 25, 2011. He indicated that the SPEED goals were given to all board members on a CD and that he received a useful book of acronyms at the SPEED meeting. Dr. Hollich will order a book for all Board members.
7. Male Parent Advisory Committee—Mrs. Pettis reported that there will be an MPAC meeting on September 29th. Flyers and sign-up sheets were available at all the open houses. This Committee is not excluding young ladies and is not taking the place of RAY or Watch Dogs. The Committee will focus on speakers, activities, homework help, college fairs, etc. At the meeting on September 29th, parents can suggest items to have the Committee target.

D. Board Member Comments

1. Mr. Taylor suggested a digital recorder be used during Board meetings. Dr. Hollich reported that one was ordered and arrived just prior to the meeting. Mr. Taylor also mentioned that the microphones are working well.
2. Mr. Taylor asked Ms. Birmingham why she didn't want him on the Male Parent Advisory Committee. Ms. Birmingham referred him to Robert's Rules of Order. Mrs. Pettis stated that she feels no community member or Board member should be excluded from a committee. Ms. Birmingham referred her to Robert's Rules of Order. Mrs. Plott stated that kids are not prepared for college and it is important to get our boys excited to read. She felt everyone should give input on this committee. Mr. Taylor stated that he has a passion for this school district. He spends time in the schools talking to the students, has helped with the wrestling team, and has invested a lot of time in this district. Ms. Birmingham encouraged every Board member to be involved. She stated that it is the power of the president to appoint committee members and referred to Robert's

Rules of Order. Mr. Dixon explained that Board policy states that the Board President establishes committees and appoints members. He stated that committees can get too big and felt the Board should move forward.

- 3. Mrs. Wheeler suggested the District explore the possibility of using BoardBooks.org to put the Board packet on the internet. This would require a lap top computer for the Board members.

VI. READING OF COMMUNICATIONS

There were two Freedom of Information requests. One regarding the district's natural gas contract and the other requesting email addresses of district employees. Both requests have been responded to.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

The President called for a motion to go into closed session. There was no motion made and closed session was not held.

VIII. RECOMMENDED ACTION

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|--|---|
| <p>A1. The resignation of Linda Prafke, Title I teacher, was accepted effective September 6, 2011. The resignation of Amanda Walsh, DEC teacher, was accepted effective August 9, 2011. Angela Szczepanik-Sanchez was hired as a special education teacher for Hickory Bend School effective September 13, 2011 at a salary of MA+30, Step F, \$43,697 prorated. Taylor/Plott</p> | <p>L. Prafke,
A. Walsh
Resignations
A. Szczepanik-Sanchez
Hired
Approved
6-0</p> |
| <p>A2. Bridgette Alexander was hired as a paraprofessional for Brookwood Middle School effective September 13, 2011 at a salary of \$14.58 per hour. Lamika Bryant was hired as a playground/lunchroom supervisor for Hickory Bend School effective September 13, 2011 at a salary of \$12.15 per hour. Evelyn Griffin was hired as a playground/lunchroom supervisor for Hickory Bend School effective September 13, 2011 at a salary of \$12.15 per hour. Byron Prell was hired as a paraprofessional for Brookwood Middle School effective September 13, 2011</p> | <p>B. Alexander,
L. Bryant,
E. Griffin,
B. Prell,
Y. Smith
Hired
Approved
6-0</p> |

at a salary of \$14.58 per hour. Yvette Smith was hired as a playground/lunchroom supervisor for Brookwood Middle School effective September 13, 2011 at a salary of \$12.15 per hour. Taylor/Plott

- B. The Board approved the membership payment for Fed Ed for the 2011-2012 school year in the amount of \$325.00. Taylor/Pettis

Fed Ed
Membership
Approved
6-0

- C. The Board approved the fund raiser for Brookwood Middle School to sell items from a holiday catalog from September 26-October 7, 2011. Dixon/Taylor

Fund Raiser
for BMS
Approved
6-0

Comment: Mrs. Pettis asked if this was the same company that was used last year. This year, it is a new company.

- D. The Board approved the first reading of administrative procedures for Board policy 7810-Education of Children with Disabilities - Care of Students with Diabetes. Taylor/Wheeler

1st Reading
Administrative
Procedure for
Policy 7810
Approved
6-0

Comment: Mrs. Pettis asked if the nurse knows the children with diabetes. Dr. Hollich responded yes.

- E. The Board approved the first reading of administrative procedures for Board policy 7810-Education of Children with Disabilities - Service Animal Access Requests. Taylor/Dixon

1st Reading
Administrative
Procedure for
Policy 7810
Approved
6-0

Comment: Ms. Birmingham asked if this procedure is in reference to the request from last month. Dr. Hollich responded no. It is just a coincidence. This procedure is standard practice.

- F. The Board approved the 2011-2012 budget showing a balance on hand of \$15,272,604; with anticipated revenues of \$14,146,083; other financing sources of \$1,400,000; anticipated expenditures of \$16,374,649; leaving a balance on hand on June 30, 2012

2011-2012
Budget
Approved
6-0

of \$14,444,039. Taylor/Wheeler

G. The Board approved the Application and Recognition of Schools for the 2011-2012 school year. Dixon/Taylor

Application & Recognition of Schools Approved 6-0

H. The Board approved a contract with Hershey's Ice Cream for the sale of low fat ice cream products to staff and students for \$0.50 per item. Taylor/Dixon

Contract w/Hershey's Ice Cream Approved 6-0

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Hollich prepared an update on foreign language, facebook, BJH tile, life safety, Pre-K, website, Watchdog, SES, and the First Tee Program. There were no questions from Board members.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Hollich prepared an update on town hall meeting, golf outing, voter registration, student expulsion, ice cream, ISAT report, Save the Date, Parent Volunteer Coordinator, Leadership Summit, BMS fire escape, and new training requirements for Board members. There were no questions from the Board.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tuesday, September 13, 2011 -- Middle School Open House, 6:00-8:00 p.m./ 2:00 p.m. Dismissal
- Wednesday, September 14, 2011-- Parent Advisory Council, 7:00 p.m., Junior High
- Tuesday, September 20, 2011 -- Hickory Bend/Longwood Open House, 6:00-8:00 p.m./2:00 p.m. Dismissal
- Tuesday, September 27, 2011 -- PTA Meeting, Middle School, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, September 29, 2011-- Male Parent Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Brookwood Junior High School

Tuesday, October 4, 2011 -- Bilingual PAC, Longwood, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 5, 2011 -- IASB South Cook Fall Dinner Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Doubletree, Alsip

Thursday, October 6, 2011 -- Personnel Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Pre-Kindergarten Screening

Friday, October 7, 2011 -- Pre-Kindergarten Screening

Saturday, October 8, 2011 -- Board Meeting/Strategic Board Planning, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Monday, October 10, 2011 -- Columbus Day Observance/No School

Wednesday, October 12, 2011 -- Longwood Father/Daughter Dance, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 13, 2011 -- Junior High Band & Choral Concert, 6:00 p.m. Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Friday, October 14, 2011 -- 2:00 p.m. Dismissal/End of Quarter One

Monday, October 17, 2011 -- October Board of Education Meeting

Dr. Hollich reported on the following:

- GSU/MILE is sponsoring a workshop on October 12, 2011 regarding legal requirements for Board members.
- The Fed Ed luncheon is October 21, 2011.
- The SCOPE Chili dinner/meeting is on October 24, 2011.
- There is a workshop on forced consolidations offered on October 25, 2011 at Tinley Central Middle School.
- The District 167 golf outing will be held on May 31, 2011.

XII. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Mrs. Bowman reported that her son attends Brookwood Middle School and it was 96 degrees in his classroom last week. She felt this environment is not conducive to learning.

Mrs. Bowman mentioned the discrepancies between the Longwood and Hickory Bend scores and how they drop when students get to the Middle School. She felt that the boys don't get as much attention as the girls and she is glad there is the

Male Parent Advisory Committee. She also stated she thinks Mr. Taylor should be on the committee if he wants to be.

Mrs. Smith stated she thinks the atmosphere between the Board members is sad and uncomfortable. She feels the Board members are not working together and rules can be broken, changed, or amended. She stated that in order for things to work in the schools, it must first work among the Board members. She feels the Board needs to work together and communicate.

Mr. Bowman stated he is concerned about the male students in the community. He feels it is important to have more male role models and asked how the District recruits male teachers. Ms. Birmingham responded that the Personnel Committee can design ways to diversify the teaching staff and they will work on this in the future. Right now, male teachers are at a premium.

Mrs. Myrick-Winston asked how often we order new curriculum books. Dr. Hollich responded about every eight years. Right now, the District is looking at new social studies books which can be viewed on-line or on a DVD. Mrs. Myrick-Winston suggested students have I-pads with the books on them.

Mrs. Smith stated that it is unacceptable that the District did not meet state standards. The District strategy should not be to bring students close to the standards but that the students meet and exceed the state standards. She felt teachers can only do so much and it should be a parent and teacher effort.

Mr. Linden stated there is a Finance Committee meeting scheduled for October 27, 2011.

Mr. Malone spoke in defense of the school board. He stated that sometimes it looks like the board is having a heated discussion but things happen from month to month and the Board members spend a lot of time doing their job. With regard to the ISAT scores, he stated there are two things being overlooked that impact the scores: the poverty level and mobility rate.

Mr. Truitt stated he feels there should be better parent participation with open houses being mandatory. He also stated he was happy to see so many people attending the

Board meeting.

Mr. Summers stated he has been to many Board meetings. Board members are very passionate about their work and they must discuss concerns in open session. Heated discussions are nothing unusual. He also stated if the Board involves the community and works with the Village, nothing but good will come of it.

Mrs. Smith stated that the poverty level has no effect on students learning. All students can learn and they all learn differently.

Mr. Dixon stated that public schools can not force parents to attend open house.

Mr. Taylor thanked Mrs. Smith for coming to the meeting and hopes she comes again. He stated there are going to be disagreements among Board members in the future. The Board can't talk in private so they have to discuss issues in open session but they want the community here.

Ms. Birmingham concurred with Mr. Taylor. Board members have the same goals. They want the best for the students. It is healthy to have these discussions and there will be disagreements at times.

Mrs. Wheeler stated that the Middle School does have parents and students sign a contract. She stated the District is trying very hard and we should not discount someone's education because of poverty.

Mrs. Plott stated that the Board considered the condition of the Middle School last year and considered expanding the Junior High School and closing the Middle School. She also stated she feels that teachers need to give as much homework as needed to prepare students for high school. We are the training ground.

Mrs. Bowman stated that the poverty level is something everyone is dealing with across the country. It is important to involve parents and the community and especially male parents.

Mr. Taylor stated that the Board is working on all of this now and everyone can contribute. He stated that the district is rated one of the top five financially so we must be doing something right.

Dr. Hollich stated that when she first came to the district she was dealing with parent complaints regarding discipline. Now she is dealing with textbooks, curriculum, and parent involvement.

Ms. Birmingham stated that the Board is working to make this District a model district and community concerns are the Board's concerns.

Mrs. Bowman commended her son's teacher, Mrs. McClam-Hollimon for trying to make the classroom as comfortable as possible during the heat wave.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.
Wheeler/Taylor

Meeting
Adjourned
All AYE

Deborah M. Young
Recording Clerk

Secretary

President

Present: J. Charleston, R. Patterson, O. Nowels, S. Bragg,
B. Lindsay, J. Blackmon, P. Czapbovicz, W. Linden,
M. Myers, L. Tatum, B. Elmore, J. Summers, W. Washington,
B. Prell, R. Sorsby, B. Whalen, T. Matthews, B. Alexander,
B. Washington, S. Warner, A. Sanchez, K. Blackwell,
L. Smith, R. McGhee, C. McGhee, M. Nelson, C. Mann,
C. Malone, C. Bowman, J. Bowman, M. Snoddy, C. Smith,
S. Newsom, H. Winston, R. Truitt, and S. Mangan.

BROOKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 167

Superintendent's Report

September, 2011

1. The Superintendent reported that the band and choir concert on October 13th will be dedicated to veterans.
2. The following new staff were recognized: Josephine Blackmon and Angela Sanchez from Hickory Bend School. Tanaya Matthews, Brittany Washington, Kimberley Blackwell, Sara Warner, Clare Hines, and Lisette Livingston from Brookwood Junior High School. Melissa Nelson from Longwood School. Bridgette Alexander, Byron Prell, Ali Pedersen, Myiesha Spates, and Jennifer Turner from Brookwood Middle School. Alex Trakas, District Technology Director.
3. The Superintendent congratulated Dr. Sharon Price on finishing her doctorate this summer.
4. The Superintendent reminded the Board about the NSBA conference April 21-23, 2012. There is information in the Board packet.
5. The Superintendent reported on two grant opportunities. There is an implementation grant to expand foreign language opportunities and a construction grant that would allow the District to add on to Hickory Bend and expand the Pre-K program
6. The Superintendent announced that there will be a Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:00 p.m. on October 3, 2011 and it is open to the public.
7. The Superintendent presented and reviewed the ISAT scores for grades 3 through 8 from last year.