

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION,  
BELLE VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 119, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
FEBRUARY 20, 2007

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The Board of Education of District No. 119, St. Clair County, Illinois, met in the library, Belle Valley School-South, 1901 Mascoutah Road, Belleville, Illinois, in said District at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 2007.

President Feder called the meeting to order. The roll was called and the following members were present: Mrs. Baltz, Mr. Baysinger, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Smith and Dr. Feder. Those members absent were Mrs. Kunz and Mr. Vaughn.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

President Feder recommended adoption of the agenda. Mr. Byrd moved to adopt the agenda. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. All members in favor, the agenda was adopted.

Supt. Floit recognized John Forness and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students of Belle Valley South for their efforts to support our troops overseas. Last fall, Mr. Forness contacted the not-for-profit organization, A Soldier Wish List, out of St. Louis. Under Mr. Forness' guidance, the district adopted Abe Conn, a soldier based in Afghanistan. The faculty and staff of Belle Valley North and South contributed items for the soldier and his troops while Mr. Forness' 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies class wrote letters. This winter, the new beneficiaries will be Sgt. Juan Hernandez and his 80 troop members who are part of a fueling company stationed in Baghdad, Iraq area. The entire 7<sup>th</sup> grade class is participating by donating items from the company's "wish list." In addition, as part of their language arts poetry unit, the students are writing poems with a patriotic theme. Several 7<sup>th</sup> grade students attended the board meeting and read their poems for the Board of Education.

President Feder called for public comments from the audience. Kathleen Thelen, parent of a Belle Valley South student, addressed the Board regarding a teacher. Mrs. Thelen appreciated Mrs. Gasparich's communication of e-mails to notify parents for upcoming tests and her response to reach parents regarding her classroom lesson. Mrs. Thelen stated that her daughter did not take offense to the words used in the classroom. The parent discussed building a collaborative approach with the children for character and respect. Mr. Byrd stated that he appreciated her comments and emphasized that negative words should not be used at all. Mrs.

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Thelen also opposes the use of any derogatory or negative words. The school environment should bolster the students to have a positive attitude with the teacher as a role model.

Mrs. JoAnn Rushing gave a report on school library services, which included the total number of books and CDs checked out. The statistics show increased transactions per student. The State of Illinois Library grant gives the District \$.75 per student to purchase paperback books for students. Sally Walker was invited as a presenter on February 6, 2007 and does extensive research before she writes her books. The Reading Is Fundamental federal grant funding is changing to qualified schools with at least 40% low income students. The library offers on line resources such as internet encyclopedias for students too.

Mr. Jeff Morrison gave the technology report for both school buildings. The Belle Valley North School has a lab of 28 computers for computer and math instruction. The library has 10 computers. There are smart boards used in early childhood, pre-k, one kindergarten and a grade one classroom. The Belle Valley South School has a lab of 28 computers, a 24 computer portable cart and two – 12 computer carts. There are three smart boards used for special education, sixth grade science and eighth grade. The District's software applications include V-raptor for the sex offender registry, AESOP for substitutes, on line employment application, SOCS web service, Café Prepay for parent fee payments, STI student management, finance and payroll, Discovery Education, security camera application at Belle Valley North, access control systems, and Internet. In the future, the student management software will be moving for off campus access for inputting and viewing. The data will have security and back up recovery with off site storage of critical data. Board members and Mr. Morrison discussed technology report further. Supt. Floit discussed teacher technology needs and development.

Supt Floit recommended employing Rebecca Brombolich as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls' basketball coach. Mr. Byrd moved to employ Rebecca Brombolich as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls' basketball coach. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Members voting aye on roll call: Mrs. Baltz, Mr. Baysinger, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Smith, and Dr. Feder. Nays none, motion carried.

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Supt. Floit recommended approving a request from Mike Toeben for an unpaid leave of four days. Mr. Smith moved to approve the request from Mike Toeben for an unpaid leave of four days. Mr. Baysinger seconded the motion. All members in favor, motion carried.

Supt. Floit recommended accepting a letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Jo Ann Rushing effective at the end of the 2007-08 school year. Mrs. Baltz moved to accept the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Jo Ann Rushing. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. All members in favor except Mr. Smith, motion carried.

Supt. Floit recommended accepting a letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Barb Hechenberger effective at the end of the 2006-07 school year. Mr. Byrd moved to accept the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Barb Hechenberger. Mrs. Baltz seconded the motion. All members in favor, motion carried.

Supt Floit recommended employing Carla Milton as a student supervisor and noon supervisor for the rest of the school year. Mr. Byrd moved to employ Carla Milton as a student supervisor and noon supervisor for the rest of the school year. Mr. Baysinger seconded the motion. Members voting aye on roll call: Mrs. Baltz, Mr. Baysinger, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Smith, and Dr. Feder. Nays none, motion carried.

The enrollment count showed 921 enrolled students, which was an increase of six students over the previous month. The North Extended School Program net income for January, which had a net gain of \$8,655 with a year to date net income of \$28,196 compared to \$38,030 for last year. The South Extended School Program net income for January, which had a net income of \$427 with a year to date net income of \$346 compared to a net income of \$980 for last year. The lunch program report showed net income for January was \$2,665 with a year to date net loss of \$7,237. There was no discussion on the reports

Supt. Floit and the board members discussed, reviewed and presented for approval the following new policies:

- 2:20 – Powers and Duties of the School Board (revised)
- 5:280 – Educational Support Personnel

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- 6:60 – Curriculum Content (revised)
- 7:60 – Residence (revised)

Board members discussed above policies and suggested to table Policy 7:60 – Residence until next meeting.

Mr. Vaughn arrived at 8:24 p.m.

Mr. Smith moved to approve the listed policies except policy 7:60. Mrs. Baltz seconded the motion. Members voting aye on roll call: Mrs. Baltz, Mr. Baysinger, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Smith, and Dr. Feder. Mr. Vaughn abstained. Nays none, motion carried.

Supt. Floit discussed requesting bids for roof work for Belle Valley North. Board members discussed the roof areas that needed work and tabled the request.

Mr. Smith discussed and summarized the building committee's meeting for the long-term building plans for Belle Valley South. The committee members will meet again at 6:00 p.m. before next month's regular board meeting.

Supt. Floit asked if any board members had any questions for the consent agenda items, which included: the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education on January 16, 2007, the executive minutes of the Board of Education on January 16, 2007, the minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Education on January 30, 2007, the executive minutes of the Board of Education on January 30, 2007, the financial report, the treasurer's report, and payment of bills. Board members discussed several expenses listed on the board report. The bills were presented for approval and payment in the following amounts (see itemized lists attached): Ed. Fund \$53,537.40; Bldg. Fund \$29,993.36; Transportation Fund \$44,733.62. Mr. Vaughn moved to approve the items listed on the consent agenda. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. Members voting aye on the roll call: Mrs. Baltz, Mr. Baysinger, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Smith, Mr. Vaughn, and Dr. Feder. Nays none, motion carried.

Dr. Feder asked for any board member requests or reports. Mr. Baysinger discussed a bus incident and a parent's concern.

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Mrs. Kathy Goetter, Belle Valley North principal, gave her report. The North school has 78% participation rate for the parent/teacher conferences. Many positive comments and constructive feedback was received. Most parents felt the time allotted was just right. A social worker substitute was found for Mrs. Curtis during her family medical leave. Mrs. Goetter has scheduled meetings with teachers for ISAT. Staff evaluations are being completed. Students are learning a new character word, such as empathy, each month. A kindergarten student will be honored with Racial Harmony Award for her extraordinary care and concern for others. The Belle Valley North Park group promotes meetings with parents and teachers. ISAT testing is planned for March 12 through March 23. Mr. Byrd inquired about the parent/teacher survey results. Mrs. Goetter responded that the results were positive.

Supt. Floit informed board members that the District received notification that Sports Plex petitioned the County Board to reduce their assessment by over \$100,000. Dr. Floit will attend the hearing to challenge the reduction on behalf of the District.

Upon the recommendation of President Feder, Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board of Education enter executive session at 8:55 p.m. for superintendent evaluation, and employment, compensation, and/or dismissal of personnel. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. Members voting aye on roll call: Mrs. Baltz, Mr. Baysinger, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Smith, Mr. Vaughn and Dr. Feder. Nays none, motion carried.

At 10:07 p.m. Mr. Baysinger moved that the Board of Education reconvene in open session. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion. All members in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smith moved that in recognition of 31 years of dedicated service to Belle Valley School, the reading program and procurement of an Emerson Grant, Mrs. Hechenberger be awarded a \$4000 retirement bonus. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vaughn. As all members were in favor, the motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education at this time, Mr. Smith moved that the meeting adjourn. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion. All members in favor, motion carried.

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Thomas J. Feder, President  
Board of Education  
Belle Valley School District No. 119  
St. Clair County, Illinois

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Joan E. McKay, Secretary  
Board of Education  
Belle Valley School District No. 119  
St. Clair County, Illinois