

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION,  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 119, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
DECEMBER 15, 2009

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The Board of Education of District No. 119, St. Clair County, Illinois, met in a classroom, Belle Valley School-South, 1901 Mascoutah Road, Belleville, Illinois, in said District at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 15, 2009.

President Kunz stated that the purpose of the meeting was to hold a public hearing on Truth in Taxation hearing for the 2009 tax levy. President Kunz opened the public hearing and called for public comments from the audience on the 2009 tax levy. Supt. Freeman discussed the 2009 tax levy rates with an estimated 7% increase in equal assessed valuation of real estate in the Belle Valley School District in regards to the 2009 tax levy, which will be received in 2010. Supt. Freeman stated that the State of Illinois has been very slow in State revenue payments. The State of Illinois may not be able to pay the last five state aid payments to the District, which would be a loss of a half million dollars in revenue. Supt. Freeman discussed the District need to optimize the real estate tax levy, which is a reliable source of revenue. Mr. Farmer commented on the tax rates and appreciated Supt. Freeman's candor on the revenue sources for schools. President Kunz recommended closing the public hearing. Mr. Smith moved to close the public hearing on the Truth in Taxation for the 2009 tax levy. Mr. Tiemann seconded the motion. All members in favor, motion carried.

President Kunz called the meeting to order. The roll was called and the following members were present: Mr. Byrd, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Kunz, Mrs. Skillern, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Tiemann. Those absent: Mr. Vaughn.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

President Kunz called for citizen's non-agenda items. Mr. Farmer asked how many students in the District receive free or reduced lunches. Supt. Freeman responded that 50% of the District students receive free or reduced lunches. Mr. Farmer commented that parents are charged \$2.00 to attend basketball games. He recommended not charging parents to attend games. Board members asked how many students are on each team. President Kunz recommended looking into various options.

President Kunz thanked Mrs. Haas, Belle Valley North music teacher, for the great music program performed at Southwestern Illinois College in early December. President Kunz appreciated her creativity and work with the North students.

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President Kunz recommended adoption of agenda with the additional board bill. Mr. Smith moved to adopt the amended agenda including the additional board bill. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. All members in favor, motion carried.

Mrs. Kunz 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 November 17, 2009, the executive minutes of the regular meeting on November 17, 2009, the financial report, the treasurer's report, the policy committee meeting minutes on November 9, 2009 and December 1, 2009, the finance committee meeting minutes on December 2, 2009 and December 9, 2009, the extended school program report, the cafeteria reports, the enrollment report, the tax report, and appointment of Joan McKay as Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act Coordinator. Board members recommended voting on the consent agenda items a through h, which excluded the appointment of the FOIA coordinator. Mr. Smith moved to approve the consent agenda items a through h. Mr. Tiemann seconded the motion. Members voting aye on roll call: Mr. Byrd, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Kunz, Mrs. Skillern, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Tiemann. Nays none, motion carried.

Supt. Freeman discussed recent legislation regarding the Freedom of Information Act and the requirement of appointing a coordinator for freedom of information requests. He stated that Mrs. McKay is the person who has retrieved information for requests in the past and recommended that she be appointed the coordinator for such requests. Supt. Freeman stated a training session is required for the appointed person. Mr. Smith moved to approve the appointment of Mrs. McKay as the Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act Coordinator. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. Members voting aye on roll call: Mr. Byrd, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Kunz, Mrs. Skillern, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Tiemann. Nays none, motion carried.

The board bills were presented for approval and payment in the following amounts (see itemized lists attached): Ed. Fund \$250,372.99; O & M Fund \$16,214.94; Debt Service Fund \$9,720.70; Transportation Fund \$41,374.92; Tort Fund \$11,065.00 and Capital Project Fund \$1,026,846.53, which included the additional Capital Project Fund board bill. Board members discussed several bills. Mr. Smith moved to approve the board bills. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. Members voting aye on roll call: Mr. Byrd, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Kunz, Mrs. Skillern, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Tiemann. Nays none, motion carried.

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The proposed 2009 tax levy was discussed in detail at the regular meeting of the Board of Education held November 17, 2009. Mr. Smith asked about the tax levy spreadsheets. Mrs. McKay stated the spreadsheets were in the November board packets.

**WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT WE REQUIRE** the sum of \$2,285,000.00 to be levied as a special tax for Educational purposes, the sum of \$404,500.00 to be levied as a special tax for Operations and Maintenance purposes, the sum of \$138,500.00 to be levied as a special tax for Transportation purposes, the sum of \$57,500.00 to be levied as a special tax for a Working Cash Fund, the sum of \$125,000.00 to be levied as a special tax for Illinois Municipal Retirement purposes, the sum of \$140,000.00 to be levied as a special tax for Social Security purposes, the sum of \$127,000.00 to be levied as a special tax for Tort Immunity purposes, the sum of \$25,000.00 to be levied as a special tax for Special Education purposes, the sum of \$57,000.00 to be levied as a special tax for Lease Fund, and the sum of \$57,500.00 to be levied for fire prevention, safety, energy conservation, disabled accessibility, school security and specified repair purposes on the taxable property of our school district for the year 2009.

Mrs. Collins moved to approve the 2009 Certificate of Tax Levy and the IMRF and Special Education tax levy resolutions be adopted and the above remaining tax levy resolution be adopted. Mr. Tiemann seconded the motion. Members voting aye on roll call: Mr. Byrd, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Kunz, Mrs. Skillern, and Mr. Tiemann. Abstained: Mr. Smith, nays: none, motion carried. Copies of the special tax levy resolutions and official levy are attached and made an official part of these minutes.

Supt. Freeman discussed the board policy manual addition and revisions to the following sections:

- 5:100 – General Personnel – Staff Development Program
- 5:280 – Educational Support Personnel – Duties and Qualifications
- 6:20 – Instruction – School Year Calendar and Day
- 6:30 – Instruction – Organization of Instruction
- 6:120 – Instruction – Education of Children with Disabilities
- 6:160 – Instruction – English Language Learners
- 6:230 – Instruction – Library Media Program
- 6:250 – Instruction – Community Resource Persons and Volunteers
- 6:280 – Instruction – Instruction – Grading and Promotion
- Administrative Procedures

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5:100-AP – General Personnel – Administrative Procedure – Staff Development Program

6:60-AP – Instruction – Administrative Procedure – Comprehensive Health Education Program

6:120-API – Instruction – Administrative Procedure – Special Education Procedures Assuring the Implementation of Comprehensive Programming for Children with Disabilities

6:250-AP – Instruction – Administrative Procedure – Securing and Screening Resource Persons and Volunteers

6:280-AP – Instruction – Administrative Procedure – Evaluating and Reporting Student Achievement

Exhibits

6:250-E – Instruction – Exhibit – Volunteer Information Form and Waiver of Liability

Supt. Freeman stated the board policies that were presented as additions or revisions were updated for the compliance visit. The St. Clair County Regional Office of Education will be reviewing the District's policies and personnel files on January 22, 2010. Mr. Smith recommended keeping the footnotes in the board policies in the future for board members to read. Mr. Smith moved to approve the above named policies, administrative procedures and exhibit. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. Members voting aye on roll call: Mr. Byrd, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Kunz, Mrs. Skillern, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Tiemann. Nays none, motion carried.

President Kunz asked Supt. Freeman to discuss the investment program for the bond receipts. Supt. Freeman discussed investing \$240,000 in multiple banks with FDIC insurance. The potential earnings from an extensive list of banks have an average rate of interest of 1.48% from 23 banks compared to the .1% rate or less, currently earned. Supt. Freeman discussed managing the investments within the administrative office by having the part time secretary work additional hours to allow Mrs. McKay time to manage the multitude of bank accounts. Mr. Smith discussed not adding additional hours for the part time position in the District with justifying the position for a higher rate of return. Mr. Byrd asked about the banks included on the schedule. Mrs. Collins asked about costs incurred for establishing 50 or more banks with the annual audit. Supt. Freeman would provide the list of banks to the board members and will inquire with the auditor for any additional audit fees. Mr. Smith moved to table the investment proposal. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. All members in favor, proposal was tabled.

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President Kunz asked for an update from the construction committee. She asked Mr. Bob Quandt, insurance agent, to discuss the builder's risk plan insurance policy on the building during construction. Mr. Quandt stated that the premiums were estimated to cost \$1,000 per million dollars of construction. The general contractor would increase the insurance cost with an additional markup. The insurance policy would make any possible claims payable to the District. The insurance policy needs to make Belle Valley School District as the insured. He referred to Whiteside School District and the tornado incident, which damaged their building during the last phase of construction. He stated it is up to the District if they want to pay for the insurance policy or have the general contractor purchase the policy and list the District as the insured.

Mr. Smith discussed board building committee updates. Rain and standing water has slowed progress since the dirt is so wet. Poettker's schedule has been extended by three weeks. The excavation company needs fifteen good working days to complete the dirt package. They are estimating a completion date of 12/31/09. Mr. Smith is estimating that the earthwork will be completed in March 2010. The contractor has not had good weather conditions to work. The next building meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2010.

Supt. Freeman discussed the Chicago conferences sessions he attended. One session was legislative review of the General Assembly, who is trying to balance a \$12 billion state deficit. Supt. Freeman said that Mr. Roger Eddie stated that if you find yourself in a hole, stop digging. Supt. Freeman discussed a session on a discipline package, which enlisted the entire faculty with a pride cheer in the morning, a character education program, what can work for our school district, positive role models, better relationships with teaching universities and minority candidates, and chief executive officer conversation on handbooks.

Mrs. Skillern discussed conference sessions, which included policy pitfalls, 10 tips to avoid District consolidation for small rural school districts and opportunity for students. Mrs. Skillern attended the general sessions, which addressed generational differences, dashboard on website, ISAT scores and finances.

Mr. Tiemann stated this was his third year attending the conference and the second year as a delegate. He attended a session, which discussed the Illinois elementary athletic and academic association. The process works begin with competition with local schools and advance

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to state competitions. Sporting schedules would have to be worked out for travel and time to compete within the state competitions.

Mrs. Collins stated the Chicago conference was a first for her and was glad to have the opportunity. She attended the new board member session for general information, the legislator's session, the general session which covered inclusion was motivating and complimenting. She attended a session on school law: the powers to be, ramifications, and standards for school districts.

Mr. Byrd stated the Chicago conference was his sixth conference. He attended sessions on differences in generations, diversity in teaching and reaching out to universities for teaching candidates. Another session addressed making the grade and managing your time.

Mrs. Collins added that many sessions covered law topics.

Mrs. Goetter, North principal, discussed the North ISAT scores. The math scores held very strong and reading scores improved for grade four. Grade three reading scores dropped with a special education count of students. She addressed the needs of special education students. More parent involvement for school improvement goals are planned with a parent training night for an ISAT night scheduled for January 2010. The North teachers are conducting parent involvement analysis progress monitoring with RtI groups by using tools from the Aspire training. RtI services are given to Tier II and III students who are at or below the standards. The teachers perform progress monitoring with Tier II students every two weeks. Mr. Smith discussed the decrease in mobility this year.

Dr. Leib, South principal, reviewed the ISAT test results per grade level for reading and math. The RtI school improvement plan includes all self-contained special education students. The special education teachers are teaching one or two subject areas this school year. Students are pulled out to help them better their performance for a particular subject area. Students read aloud to improve their fluency practice at least once a week. Vocabularies learning in science and social studies have been strengthened in reading classes. Tier III students are going to Auto Skills four times a week. Parents have been wonderful for the children enrolled in Auto Skill. RtI has been used to improve student progress by teaching students more reading skills.

Mrs. Collins left the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

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Upon the recommendation of President Kunz, Mr. Smith moved that the Board of Education go into closed executive session at 9:27 p.m. for the purpose of discussing litigation, staff grievance, student discipline, board self-evaluation, negotiations, and the appointment, employment, and/or dismissal of an employee or an officer. Mr. Tiemann seconded the motion. Members voting aye on roll call: Mr. Byrd, Mrs. Kunz, Mrs. Skillern, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Tiemann. Nays none, motion carried.

At 9:32 p.m. Mr. Byrd moved that the Board of Education reconvene in open session. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. All members were in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smith moved to approve the leave of absence request from Mrs. Vandora Elfrink for the spring semester for student teaching. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. Members voting aye on roll call: Mr. Byrd, Mrs. Kunz, Mrs. Skillern, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Tiemann. Nays none, motion carried.

Mr. Smith moved to employ Donna Doyen and Karla Koester as noon supervisors at Belle Valley North for the 2009-10 school-year. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. Members voting aye on roll call: Mr. Byrd, Mrs. Kunz, Mrs. Skillern, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Tiemann. Nays none, motion carried.

Upon the recommendation of President Kunz, Mr. Smith moved that the Board of Education go into closed executive session at 9:38 p.m. for the purpose of discussing litigation, staff grievance, student discipline, board self-evaluation, negotiations, and the appointment, employment, and/or dismissal of an employee or an officer. Mr. Tiemann seconded the motion. Members voting aye on roll call: Mr. Byrd, Mrs. Kunz, Mrs. Skillern, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Tiemann. Nays none, motion carried.

At 10:15 p.m. Mr. Byrd moved that the Board of Education reconvene in open session. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. All members were in favor, 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. Tiemann seconded the motion. All members in favor, motion carried.

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Karen L. Kunz, 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