

North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Board of Education**

District Office

6248 North Boone School Road, Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065

Monday, March 21, 2011

6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Don Ward.

Present: President Don Ward, Vice President Denise Balsley, Secretary/Treasurer Laura Zwart, Mr. Bradley Crull, Mr. John Ellingson, Mr. Glen Gratz and Mr. Tom Kinser

Absent: *(None)*

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Steven Jenkins stated that he looked up to Mr. Aska, and that music was very important to him. He was sad to think there would be no music classes or musicals at school. Everyone would miss them.

Dr. Baule explained that no music programs are proposed to be cut for the 2011-2012 school year. Instead of teaching five classes like all teachers, Mr. Aska only teaches four classes. Staffing has been reviewed so that teacher contracts correctly state all teachers' assignments and the correct number of hours taught by each teacher. He assured everyone that all music programs would remain in place. He then explained the timeline within which state law allows reduction in staff and decreases in staff hours. Also, teachers' schedules are made depending on how many students select a particular program. High school courses will not be offered unless 20 students select that course.

Carrie Smith, as a clergy person and a parent, thanked the Board for clarifying this proposal. However, she was concerned that reducing the number of hours for the Askas would result in their having no medical benefits. She appealed to the Board to consider the ethical nature of this decision. [Note: This is not accurate – part-time teachers still have access to benefits.]

Johnny Lammersfeld, North Boone alumni and Mr. Aska's student for three years, enumerated the benefits of the music program taught by Mr. & Mrs. Aska. He stated that to discontinue the music program would be detrimental to the students' education. He pleaded with the Board not to change the music program.

Linda Lammersfeld suggested the district put a sign in front of the buildings like other schools have done stating how much is owed to our district by the state. She felt that the reason Mr. Aska's hours were being changed was just to prevent him from getting tenure and asked whether

the Board planned to discontinue the music program. She could find no positives in how the scheduling was done.

Haley Stratten, freshman, informed the Board that she was in the band class, and it has always been her favorite class. She added that Mr. Aska was beyond a teacher, he was like a father figure. She felt she was being punished by the Board cutting Band and Mr. Aska. She stated that it would be foolish to cut Mr. Aska.

Ronda Newcomb asked how things could get so bad that the district had to cut teachers and programs. She suggested that the Board was making the wrong decisions with the taxpayers' money. She stated that she was sick of continually putting money into the school system.

Maddie Bomher, sophomore, informed the Board that she has been in band since 5th grade and never learned so much until the Askas came to the District. It would be a disappointment to lose them after the music department has come so far.

Michael Abraham, freshman, suggested that, as an alternative to cutting Mr. Aska, Manchester Elementary be closed.

Abby Bomher participates in musicals, plays and is in the band. She stated that the band is very special, and a lot of people would be distraught if Mr. Aska was taken away. He puts in many hours of his own free time.

Nicholas Cummings, senior, is in a number of activities and has been a part of the music department since 7th grade. He felt the choir has excelled dramatically since the Askas have been in the district, and two full-time teachers are necessary in the music department. He suggested starting a choir at the Upper Elementary in order to keep both of the Askas. He felt there should be no cuts in either sports or music.

Joseph Bomher, President of the North Boone Music Boosters, stated that on behalf of the Music Boosters, they find the superintendent's proposal unacceptable. It is flawed and only measures class time and expenses. There have been vast improvements in the music department since the district has had two music teachers. He asked the Board to reject any proposed reduction in Mr. & Mrs. Askas' roles. He also did not agree with the district trying to save money by combining their purchasing power with surrounding townships as it would only lead to problems. He suggested the Board hold a public forum to provide for a back and forth discourse with the community members. He stated that any plan can only be successful if it is supported by the community. He asked for a cost benefit analysis of closing Manchester and outsourcing transportation, and requested a public town hall forum to discuss these matters.

Christopher Cummings addressed the intangibles offered by the Askas. He talked about what his son had learned since joining the Air Force and passed pictures around the Board, asking them to reflect on them. As in the Air Force, band also teaches pride, perseverance, discipline, teamwork, self-reliance, composure, creativity and dedication. He asked the Board to reconsider cutting the band program.

Darin Wheeler, parent of a freshman, expressed his disappointment that many Board members did not attend the recent musical. He felt the Askas must have put in a lot of their own time on the musical. He reiterated how highly his daughter speaks of Mr. & Mrs. Aska, and he asked the Board to find a way to keep the Askas where they are and to find other areas in which to “clean house.”

Cory Rogers, alumni of North Boone, stated that Mr. Aska was the father he never had. Music teachers prior to Mr. Aska were never as good as he. He expressed hope that the music program would be saved.

Connor Carmody stated that Mr. & Mrs. Aska were the “greatest” teachers in the district and asked the Board to keep them. He knew that Mr. Aska takes pride in what he does and loves teaching.

Philip Holton, senior, stated that measuring a teacher’s job in numbers does not serve to show everyone what an amazing teacher Mr. Aska is. He added that Mr. Aska did an innumerable amount of other things besides teaching, and he was “blown away” by the job Mr. Aska does.

Jennifer Denk commented on how “thrilled” she was to see the number of students present to speak on something they care so much about. She expressed concern that students living within 1.5 of their schools may not be provided bus service. She pointed out the problems that would occur at Poplar Grove Elementary because of the amount of traffic it would create. She added that this would only impact the littlest students in the district. Mrs. Denk was concerned about the safety of the students.

Rebecca Anderson stated that as a mother of small children, she, too, was concerned about not having bus service for those who live within 1.5 miles. She felt the district was responsible to get the children to school safely.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mr. Kinser to approve the Agenda as amended:

- IX. Consent Agenda: Move the following items to XI. New Business:
 - J. Proposal to Replace District Copiers
 - K. Purchase Wheel Chair Equipped Mini Van (tentative – need ARRA approval)
 - L. Poplar Grove Elementary Window Replacement
- XI. New Business: Move the following items to after Executive Session:
 - B. Honorable Dismissal (Reduction in Force) of Tenured Staff
 - C. Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Staff in the 4th Year of Probation
 - D. Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Staff Not in the 4th Probationary Year

The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC HEARING IN REGARD TO THE REDUCTION OF TENURED TEACHERS

Deb Torrison identified herself as a teacher in the district and clarified that this public hearing was being held for anyone to speak on the reduction of Jim Orr who is a tenured teacher teaching Career Education. He was being dismissed because Career Education will no longer be offered at the high school for the 2011-2012 school year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Baule reported that Kim Moore, Special Education Director, held a parent meeting on March 15 to explain the changes planned for the Special Education program next year. The principals from Capron Elementary (Mr. Matt Klett) and Poplar Grove Elementary (Mrs. Sharon Olds) were present and Jairo Alvarez interpreted for any Spanish speaking parents.

Dr. Baule announced that an entry by Mr. Ed Mulholland in the Midwest Transit Equipment school bus photo contest won \$1,000 as 1st prize.

Dr. Baule congratulated Kyle Garman, Kyle Johnson and Morris Kennedy from North Boone High School who qualified to compete in the IHSA state indoor track meet. A couple of our students also won gold medals in the Science Olympiad.

A number of superintendents under the Winnebago/Boone County Regional Office of Education are trying to get all 13 districts to develop a waiver to eliminate the need to bus all students. This is part of an effort to emphasize the fact that the state is not providing funding for mandated items. Superintendents were also told by the ROE that there will probably be a 20% reduction in federal vocational funding.

The Board has requested administration to find additional budget reductions based on an anticipated additional 5% decrease in state funding. This would increase the reductions necessary to balance the budget from \$353,000 to \$655,000.

Dr. Baule explained the current staffing in K-6 physical education, K-6 Art and K-12 music, the minimum necessary to run the same programs and the recommended level of staffing for these programs next year. This will save the district approximately \$100,000.

In an effort to reduce transportation costs, bids will be requested to outsource transportation, but it isn't expected there will be any savings in outsourcing. Other recommendations to reduce expenses include reducing two or three routes by more efficient routing, eliminating approximately three routes that are not required, eliminating one special education route and implementing an anti-idling policy. These reductions will save approximately \$110,000.

Dr. Baule informed the Board that administration was recommending joining the Illinois Energy Consortium to help lower costs for natural gas and electricity. In working with the villages and agencies to find ways to collaborate to save money, the Capron Rescue Squad expressed their desire to work with us to save fuel costs.

Dr. Baule stated that the district clearly had to increase facilities rental rates, as recommended by the Athletic/Activities Committee, since in many instances the rental fee does not cover the expenses incurred. A recent sample created an effective gym rental rate of \$0.69 per hour.

Dr. Baule reported that the Regional Office's Compliance Review has gone well. All of the teacher certification issues have either been resolved and will be shortly.

Dr. Baule noted that a draft Truancy Ordinance was developed by State's Attorney Courier. Ms. Courier asked him to pass on the fact that she would appreciate a letter of support from the Board.

Dr. Baule complimented Sharon Olds and Jane Lenser on the job they did in putting together the Technology Plan.

In response to Mr. Kinser's question as to whether cutting the Technology Director position was an actual cut, Dr. Baule stated that although the position was not filled, it was included in the budget.

In response to Mr. Kinser's question regarding sports fees, Mrs. Nelson stated that to date all fees not collected for participants in sports is about 1/3rd. Mrs. Troller added that they have never denied a student to participate in a sports activity who was unable to pay.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Committee

Mrs. Balsley reported that the Policy Committee did not meet in March. The next Policy Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 4, 2011 at 4:15 p.m.

Business Services Committee

Mrs. Zwart reported that the Business Services Committee did not meet in March. The next Business Services Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 11, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

Facility/Long Range Planning Committee

A Facility/Long Range Planning Committee meeting has not been held. In response to Mr. Kinser's request to hold a meeting in April because of a bond monies issue, Mr. Crull strongly believed that this was an issue to be discussed by the full Board rather than a committee. Parameters should be set by the Board as to how these funds are used.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee

A Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee meeting has not been held. The next meeting is to be determined.

Other Committee Reports

Mrs. Zwart reported that the Community Involvement Committee met on March 2, 2011. The next Community Involvement Committee meeting was scheduled for April 6, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. at the high school.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was submitted to the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mrs. Zwart to approve the Consent Agenda.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting February 28, 2011
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting March 7, 2011
- C. Personnel

Site	Person	Position	Salary	Effective/End Date
1. Summer School Hire				
NBHS	Deb Torrison	Summer School	Per NBEA Basic Agreement	Summer School 2011
NBHS	Becky Giesecke	Summer School	Per NBEA Basic Agreement	Summer School 2011
PGE	KristaLyn Zimmerman	Early Childhood	Per NBEA Basic Agreement	June 13-30, 2011
PGE	Cindy Maten	ESL Teacher	Per NBEA Basic Agreement	June 13-30, 2011
PGE	Elizabeth Burns	Early Childhood Teacher Assistant	Per NBESS Agreement	June 13
PGE	Jodi Pyfer	Early Childhood Teacher Assistant	Per NBESS Agreement	June 13
PGE	Eva Rutiaga	Bilingual Teacher Assistant	Per NBESS Agreement	June 13
2. Non-Certified Hire				
PGE	Brittany Gorham	Special Education Teacher Assistant	10.81/hr.	March 22, 2011-June 8, 2011
3. Extra-Curricular Hire				
NBHS	Katie Hampton	Assistant Soccer Coach	Group III, Step 1	2010-2011 School Year
4. FMLA				
NBHS	Guy Stewart	Special Education Teacher	N/A	March 17, 2011- End of 2010-2011 School Year (use sick/personal days)
5. Resignation				
NBUE	Leah Carlson	6 th Grade Teacher	N/A	End of 2010-2011 School Year
NBUE	Chelsey Paulson	5 th Grade Teacher	N/A	June 30, 2011
NBHS	Sarah Mueller	Fall Soccer Coach	N/A	March 2, 2011
Transportation	Sara Palmer	Bus Driver	N/A	March 16, 2011

- D. Overnight Field Trip Request – NBHS Natural Helpers
- E. Overnight Field Trip Request – Capron Elementary 4th Grade
- F. Approval of Membership in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA)
- G. Establish an Hourly Rate for Vehicle Repair Work
- H. Proposal to Participate in the IEC for Natural Gas Services
- I. Proposal to Participate in the IEC for Electric Services
- J. ~~Proposal to Replace District Copiers~~
- K. ~~Purchase Wheel Chair Equipped Mini Van (tentative – need ARRA approval)~~

~~L. Poplar Grove Elementary Window Replacement~~

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(No Unfinished Business)

NEW BUSINESS

A. March 2011 Bills

A motion was made by Mrs. Zwart and seconded by Mrs. Balsley to approve the March 2011 Bills

Ayes: Mrs. Balsley, Mr. Crull, Mr. Ellingson, Mr. Gratz, Mr. Kinser, Mrs. Zwart

Nays: *(None)*

Abstain: Mr. Ward

Motion passed 6-0, with one abstention.

B. Honorable Dismissal (Reduction in Force) of Tenured Staff

(Moved to after Executive Session)

C. Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Staff in the 4th Year of Probation

(Moved to after Executive Session)

D. Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Staff Not in the 4th Probationary Year

(Moved to after Executive Session)

E. Proposal to Replace District Copiers *(From Consent, Item J)*

The Board discussed the cost comparison of leasing copiers versus purchasing and the proposed plan to lease from Xerox Corporation based on the Illinois State Contract pricing.

A motion by Mr. Kinser to table the Proposal to Replace District Copiers to the next Board meeting in April was withdrawn. Mr. Gratz withdrew his second.

A motion was made by Mr. Kinser and seconded by Mr. Gratz to move the Proposal to Replace District Copies to after Executive Session.

The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

F. Purchase Wheel Chair Equipped Mini Van (tentative – need ARRA approval) *(From Consent Item K)*

Administration informed the Board that this purchase had not yet been approved by ARRA.

A motion was made by Mr. Ellingson and seconded by Mr. Balsley to table Purchase Wheel Chair Equipped Mini Van to the April 25, 2011 Board meeting.

The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

G. Poplar Grove Elementary Window Replacement (From Consent Item L)

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mr. Kinser to reject the bids for window replacement at Poplar Grove Elementary.

The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made at 8:12 p.m. by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mr. Ellingson to recess to Executive Session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees; or other matters provided for pursuant to §2(c) of the Open Meetings Act.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

The following members were present: President Don Ward, Vice President Denise Balsley, Secretary/Treasurer Laura Zwart, Mr. Bradley Crull, Mr. John Ellingson, Mr. Glen Gratz and Mr. Tom Kinser.

The Open Session of the Board of Education was called to order at 9:32 p.m. by President Don Ward.

Present: President Don Ward, Vice President Denise Balsley, Secretary/Treasurer Laura Zwart, Mr. Bradley Crull, Mr. Ellingson, Mr. Glen Gratz and Mr. Tom Kinser

Absent: (None)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mrs. Zwart to approve the employment of Dr. Bridget Belcastro as Principal of North Boone Middle School and North Boone Upper Elementary beginning July 1, 2011 as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mr. Crull to approve the Resolution Authorizing Notice of Honorable Dismissal of Tenured Teacher.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mr. Crull to approve the Resolution Authorizing Notice of Dismissal to Final-Year Probationary Teachers.

Ayes: Mrs. Balsley, Mr. Crull, Mr. Ellingson, Mr. Kinser, Mr. Ward, Mrs. Zwart

Nays: Mr. Gratz

Motion passed 6-1.

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mr. Crull to approve the Resolution Authorizing Notice of Dismissal to Non-Tenured Teachers Other than Final-Year Probationary Teachers.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mr. Crull to accept the retirement of Gail Webb at the end of the 2014-2015 School Year.

The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mr. Crull to approve the replacement and installation of district copiers with Xerox Corporation equipment.

Ayes: Mrs. Balsley, Mr. Crull, Mr. Ellingson, Mr. Ward, Mrs. Zwart

Nays: Mr. Gratz, Mr. Kinser

Motion passed 5-2.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

- A. **District Activities Calendar**
- B. **Enrollment**
- C. **Student Activity Fund Reports**

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Ellingson and seconded by Mrs. Zwart to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 p.m. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

PRESIDENT _____
Don Ward

SECRETARY _____
Laura Zwart

APPROVED: _____