



Webster Groves School District  
Regular Meeting of  
The Board of Education  
Monday, January 14, 2013, 7:00 P.M.

Central Office  
400 East Lockwood  
St. Louis, Missouri 63119

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Monday, January 14, 2013, by its president, Amy O'Brien. The following members were present:

Amy O'Brien	President
Emerson Smith	Vice President
David Addison	
Jean Dugan	
Michael Kearney	
Steve Loher	
Amy Clendennen (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)	

Also present were:

Sarah Booth Riss	Superintendent
Diane Moore	Assistant Superintendent-COO
John Simpson	Assistant Superintendent-Curriculum & Instruction
Linda Holliday	Human Resources Consultant
John M. Thomas	Director-Student Services
Cathy Vespereny	Director-Community Relations
Doug Copeland	Attorney
Katie Brookes	Secretary

PLEDGE OF  
ALLEGIANCE

Ms. O'Brien called for and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

AGENDA

Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Daniel DiPlacido, mayor of Rock Hill, spoke about the proposed TIF to build a firehouse. He indicated he does not support the efforts of the Rock Hill Board of Aldermen to take money from school children and that the firehouse should be funded with a bond issue. Ms. O'Brien thanked him for his comments, and Dr. Riss expressed her appreciation for the support being provided by the Rock Hill Police Department in connection with school security.

Mr. Dave Buck, Hixson parent, spoke about the importance of teacher passion in achieving student success.

UPDATED  
CORRESPONDENCE  
LOG

Ms. O'Brien pointed out the Communications Log. There were no questions or comments.

## RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Riss noted a special recognition of Cindy Neu, assistant principal of Avery Elementary, who was selected as St. Louis Suburban Assistant Principal of the Year. Dr. Neu was nominated by her peers for this award and will be honored in March at Tan-Tar-A.

Mr. Loher noted the efforts of building administrators in dealing with the effect on students of the Newtown school shooting. He indicated principals have done a wonderful job providing appropriate support to their schools.

Mrs. Clendennen agreed with Mr. Loher.

Mr. Smith said he echoed Mr. Loher's words, and noted that the district is already ahead of the curve in the area of school security.

Mr. Kearney mentioned the district arts programs during the holiday season, including the jazz band performance and the A-Men. He also noted the Alliance for Interracial Dignity event scheduled for Thursday.

Mr. Addison also commented on the district arts programs including the A-Women. He also recognized the drama production of Zoo, which won first place at state and will go to the nationals in New York, as well as earning high school student Nathan Eswine a scholarship.

Mrs. Dugan noted that the ALICE video was shared with high school parents by Dr. Clark on October 11, 2012. She also noted the success of the robotics program and the wide range of activities and clubs available to students at the high school.

Ms. O'Brien mentioned 2012 graduate Hannah Davidson, who recently visited with a group of high school students at an event at Washington University. The film "Colorblind" was created by Hannah and two other students during a trip to Memphis with their teacher Julie Burchett to research the civil rights movement and was shown to the students at the Washington University event. Following the film Hannah answered questions from the audience.

Dr. Riss pointed out an article in a publication concerning the board-administrator dialogue held in August and noted the Heart of the Community Green Award to be presented to the district, the work of the coaches over winter break, and the artwork on display which is from Hixson.

#### BOARD LIAISON ACTIVITIES

BOARD CANDIDATE FILING AND ORIENTATION DISCUSSION Ms. O'Brien noted that two people have filed as board candidates, and filing closes on January 15 at 5:00 p.m.

Board members requested that a copy of the district budget, information about state funding, and a list of the board committees be added to the orientation binder. Orientation will take place on February 25 at Hixson Middle School starting at 5:30 p.m.

BOARD SELF-EVALUATION PROCESS Ms. O'Brien noted that the board's self evaluation will take place on March 25 and be facilitated by John Urkevich. Board members will submit their self-evaluation forms by February 11.

FOUNDATION UPDATE Mrs. Dugan mentioned that the Foundation's event Food for Thought will be held on February 10 at Cyrano's.

POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT Ms. O'Brien pointed out the notes from the BOE Policy Subcommittee and the new Tax Compliance Policy and Procedure. There were no questions or comments. Approval of the policy revisions is on the consent agenda.

ROCK HILL TIF UPDATE Dr. Moore opened a discussion of plans to respond to the Rock Hill TIF proposal. She indicated there is a public hearing this Wednesday where a statement of the lack of the district's support for the TIF will be shared. She stated that the issue is not the need for a firehouse but how to finance it. Board members then discussed the TIF proposal and the need to make a more formal statement of lack of support for the TIF at the upcoming Board of Aldermen and TIF commission meetings.

BAGELS WITH THE BOARD DISCUSSION Board members provided feedback from the Bagels with the Board meetings which took place during the fall semester:

A different format is needed for the Walter Ambrose Family Center. Because of the schedule at this facility, only a couple of staff members attended. Dr. Riss will contact Marty Baker to arrive at a plan that will allow more staff members to participate.

The high school provided a tour of the Robotics facility. Feedback from high school staff was generally positive, but HVAC problems were mentioned.

The meeting at Clark was productive with give and take. Concerns mentioned include space, test scores, and the need for technology aides to start sooner before the beginning of school.

Bristol staff members noted their wish to be off the day before Thanksgiving, their supportive PTO, and their entire school book discussion and the expense of getting a copy of a book for every family.

Spring Bagels with the Board events are being scheduled.

#### REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF

**UPDATE ON TAX COLLECTION RATE AND BUDGET REPORT** Dr. Moore provided an update on property tax collections. At this point the district is on track to collect the property taxes estimated in the 2012-2013 budget, but there are factors that could impact collections such as delinquent taxes which are on pace to be pretty high.

Dr. Moore then shared the first set of recommended budget adjustments for the 2012-2013 school year. Revenue from community education is up because of facility rentals, and state and federal funding is projected to increase. Expenditure adjustments include an increase in unemployment. The adjustments outlined in the budget reflect an overall increase of \$721,253 to the projected surplus, for a current operating budget surplus of \$1,198,627. Approval of the budget adjustments is included on the consent agenda.

**UPDATE ON SHORT TERM SPACE NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATION** Dr. Moore then provided an update on the 2010 bond issue budget and next steps. After completion of Phase I of the 2010 bond issue expenditures, the remaining fund balance is \$2,295,645.00. With the sale of all of the remaining \$6.5 million unsold bonds combined with the remaining fund balance from Phase I, the district will have a working budget of \$8,795,645.00 to address additional facility needs. Plans include completion of roofing work on the high school, HVAC work in the east wing of the building, Certificate of Participation payoff, and security measures and contingency. Bids will be presented to the board in February for the roofing and HVAC work with a projected start time for both projects of late spring 2013. Dr. Moore proposed the purchase of four modular classroom units to be used at Avery, Clark, and Edgar Road to relieve overcrowding. After discussion placement and use of the modular classroom units, the board approved seeking bids for the units.

**UNDERSTANDING THE NEW APR** Dr. Simpson delivered a presentation on the new MSIP 5 Annual Performance Report. He explained the new data measures to be used including Academic Achievement, Subgroup Achievement, College and Career Readiness, Attendance, and Graduation Rate; the possible number of points and levels to be earned for each measure, and the district's APR strengths and focus areas. Dr. Simpson shared steps being taken to enhance learning, including curriculum work, The Art and Science of Teaching, increased expectations of teachers, analysis of standardized testing results, support of elementary teachers' math content knowledge, social justice, and support for the social and emotional needs of children.

Board members then discussed the significance of the percentages achieved, where do test scores as a whole fit into the district mission, the accuracy of the data from DESE, and the need for continued monitoring of the achievement gap.

#### ACTION ITEMS

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Loher moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, approval of the consent agenda including:

- 006a Minutes for the December 10, 2012, Regular Meeting
- Payment of Bills
- 006b Monthly Expenditure Report: November \$4,002,903.79
- 006c Activity Account: November \$244,550.35
- 006d Cash Flow Summary Report
- 006e Approve Personnel Report
- 006f Approve Policy Subcommittee Recommendations
- 006g Approve Tax Compliance Policy and Procedure
- 006h Approve 2012-2013 Budget Adjustments

The motion carried, 7-0.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no additional public comments

#### MOTION TO RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Loher moved, seconded by Mrs. Dugan, that the board recess into closed session for the purpose of discussing litigation [Sec.610.201(1) RS MO.] and personnel [Sec. 610.021(3) RS Mo]. Ms. O'Brien, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; Mr. Addison, yes; Mrs. Clendennen, yes; Mrs. Dugan, yes; Mr. Kearney, yes, and Mr. Loher, yes. The motion carried 7-0.

#### RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

The open meeting was reconvened at 10:25 p.m.

#### BOARD CALENDAR REVIEW

Board members reviewed their calendar and discussed attendance at the Heart of the Community Awards Banquet and the CSD Winter Conference.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Clendennen moved, seconded by Mr. Addison, to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m. The motion carried 7-0.

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President

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Secretary