

**MT. PULASKI COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #23  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
MONDAY MARCH 20, 2006  
6:00 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION  
7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING**

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Executive Session (Employment, Non-Renewal, Evaluation of Personnel, Administrative Evaluations, Bus Transportation Contract, Student Discipline)
- IV. Recognition of the Public
- V. Adoption of Consent Agenda
  - A. Approve February 27, 2006 Minutes
  - B. Approve Payment of Bills
  - C. Dismissal Notices: Reading Improvement Teacher, Special Ed. Aides
- VI. Reports
  - A. Barbara Maske and Karen Allspach – University of Illinois “TIMES” Grant
  - B. Abe Lincoln Dinner Meeting – March 2- Lincoln HS
  - C. High School Addition Update
  - D. Post Prom Committee and Fundraiser
- VII. Unfinished Business
  - A. Transfer of Elkhart Grades 6-7-8 to MPGS (2007-2008) (Board Action)
  - B. ISAT Testing
- VIII. New Business
  - A. Graduation Dates
  - B. Tentative School Calendar 2006-2007 (Approval in April)
  - C. Re-employment of Non-Tenure Teachers for 2006-2007 Grant Tenure Status for Fifth Year Teachers (Board Action)
  - D. Abate \$600,000 from Working Cash Fund to Operations and Maintenance Fund
  - E. Re-Employment of Administrators (Board Action)
  - F. 2006-07 Kindergarten Enrollment
- IX. Items of Information
- X. Adjournment

MT. PULASKI COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #23  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MT. PULASKI UNIT OFFICE  
MARCH 20, 2006

President Meister called the meeting to order on March 20, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Unit Office. Roll call was taken. Answering present: Tina Smith, Jeff Haley, David Meister, Mike Toohey, Julian Wubben, Laurie Rhodes, and Joe Olson. Superintendent Phil Shelton and Principals Gene Newton, Russell Galusha, and Scott Doerr were also present.

Motion by Julian Wubben, second by Jeff Haley to enter Executive Session at 6:01 p.m. for the purpose of employment, non-renewal, evaluation of personnel, administrative evaluations, bus transportation contract, and student discipline. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Tina Smith, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Joe Olson, second by Julian Wubben to exit Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Tina Smith, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:00 p.m. in the MPGS Learning Center.

Motion by Julian Wubben, second by Joe Olson to not re-employ non-tenured MPHS Ag teacher and FFA sponsor Amy Chernowsky for the 2006-2007 school year. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Tina Smith, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Laurie Rhodes to accept Shelley Kieffer's resignation as MPGS cheerleading sponsor contingent on finding a replacement. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Tina Smith, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Julian Wubben, second by Jeff Haley to adopt Consent Agenda Items A, B, and C:

- A: Approve February 27, 2006 Minutes
- B: Approve Payment of Bills
- C: \*Annual Reduction in Force Dismissal Notices: Brooke Squires, Jaime Robinson, Deb Ewins, Krista Weber  
\*(Will rehire based on grant funding and student enrollment)

Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Julian Wubben, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. Answering nay: Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, and Tina Smith. Motion carried.

Barbara Maske, MPGS English teacher, and Karen Allspach, MPGS Science teacher, reported to the Board on their involvement with the University of Illinois TIMES (Technology-Intensive Mathematics and Science) project. Four MPGS teachers are participating in these workshops which run from September through June. Technology lessons developed during the workshops are then implemented in their classrooms. The teachers receive a stipend, and the District is reimbursed for the cost of the substitute teachers. They felt these were very

helpful workshops and appreciated the opportunity to be able to attend. President Meister thanked them for their initiative, and told them to keep up the good work.

Superintendent Phil Shelton and Board members David Meister, Mike Toohey, Jeff Haley, Laurie Rhodes, and Joe Olson attended the March 2<sup>nd</sup> IASB Abe Lincoln dinner meeting. Representative Rich Brauer was the main speaker.

Superintendent Shelton said the work on the high school addition is proceeding on schedule according to the contractor.

Terri Meister reported to the Board on the upcoming Post Prom activities and fundraisers. She said this is the eighteenth year for the Post Prom, which is currently held at the American Legion. She asked that parents encourage their kids to attend. President Meister thanked Terri, Cheryl McCue, and the American Legion Auxilliary for all their work now and in the past. He also thanked all those who have given donations towards the cost of the Post Prom.

Discussion began between Board members on the transfer of the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades from Elkhart Grade School to Mt. Pulaski Grade School for the 2007-2008 school year.

President Meister reviewed some facts regarding the Elkhart schools. In 1974 the first step was taken in the consolidation with Mt. Pulaski. In 1995 the issue was revisited again with an enrollment of 135. In 2001 there was a zero kindergarten enrollment. That class, which would now be the fourth grade, is still at zero. A co-op with first baseball and then basketball with Mt. Pulaski Grade School was necessary. There has been a 42% decrease in enrollment, 135 to 78; compared to only a 5% decrease at Mt. Pulaski Grade School. Financial, extra-curricular, and cost per student figures are what they are. The District is presently deficit spending due to decreasing farmland assessments. Our Superintendent had the foresight to make \$200,000 worth of cuts in the budget, and there is not much left to cut. He said he believes the plan to relocate 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades to Mt. Pulaski Grade School for the 2007-2008 school year will benefit the whole District.

Julian Wubben said he hasn't said he agrees with a K-5 building at Elkhart and doesn't totally agree with this motion, but he will support it.

Jeff Haley said financially we should talk about the whole school. However, this is a compromise to see if the subdivision can grow.

Tina Smith said the cost per student would increase if we transfer 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. She said she doesn't understand.

David Meister said the alternative is to close the school.

Julian Wubben said reorganization needs to be done to survive. As a Board you have to adjust to survive, evaluate small classes, combining grades if necessary. Decisions must be made.

Mike Toohey stressed socialization and economic reasons. The compromise for now is to start with this. He doesn't want to go three years down the road with a K-8 building at Elkhart and jeopardize the educational programs in every building. He said if we don't make cuts now, that will happen. If we don't do something to address the issue, our savings will be depleted.

Julian Wubben said as far as future planning, we have tried to plan ahead. However, late State and Federal funding payments does not help. Also, 80% of the budget is salary and benefits. All you can do is react.

Mike Toohey said you can discuss this to death, and it's not going to change the facts. The numbers are what they are. We can't spend ourselves into a hole. Phil's budget comes in close each year under these circumstances.

Superintendent Shelton said \$70,000 each year is a conservative savings figure.

Laurie Rhodes said she knows she has to do what is best for this District and take the emotions out of it. Anyone who does the math knows that a teacher with a class of ten compared to a teacher with a class of twenty is going to cost more. She said we do an excellent job of educating our children in this District.

Jeff Haley said the bottom line is we would all like to have our schools still open; however, it's not efficient to do business that way. The Board is demonstrating they can compromise. There is no guarantee. Rather than closing the building, this gives Elkhart the opportunity to grow. This is a District-wide situation. In ten years we could all be looking at busing to another District.

Tina Smith asked why the transfer has to be done now instead of waiting, and the exact increase in numbers it would take to keep the building open in the future.

Laurie Rhodes said there's not a magic number.

Mike Toohey said we can't predict what will happen.

Joe Olson said Elkhart has been on the chopping block since the high school was closed. He said the School District has sacrificed quite a bit of money with the formation of the TIF district in Elkhart.

Jeff Haley said he hopes Elkhart does have significant growth. The Board is trying to do the best it can. As a Chestnut resident, Chestnut hasn't lost its identity because their school was closed, and Elkhart will still be Elkhart if this move happens. He said we have to come together as a District.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Julian Wubben to transfer the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades from Elkhart Grade School to Mt. Pulaski Grade School effective the start of the 2007-2008 school year. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. Answering nay: Tina Smith. Motion carried.

ISAT testing is progressing in the grade schools. Principal Gene Newton said the last couple of weeks have been an organizational nightmare with test boxes empty or only half full as well as arriving late. Testing at both schools should be completed this week.

Superintendent Shelton said with possible State level competition in softball, baseball, and track at MPHS, the Saturday graduation should be in the evening instead of the afternoon. Principal Russell Galusha agreed that later on a Saturday would give people more time that drive a distance.

Motion by Julian Wubben, second by Laurie Rhodes to set 2006 graduation dates and times as follows:

MPHS	Saturday, May 27 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.
MPGS	Friday, May 26 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.
EGS	Thursday, May 25 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.

Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Tina Smith, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Superintendent Shelton said the tentative school calendar for next year is very similar to this year. The faculty will have the opportunity to review it before adoption at the April Board meeting.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Julian Wubben to re-employ the following non-tenure teachers for the 2006-2007 school year: Ralph Allen, Karen Allspach, Jessica Bartlett, Leslie Becker, Rachel Bradley, Jason Brown, Ryan Diebert, Shelley Kieffer, Jena Kloba, Sheila Myers, Amy Nation, John Niebrugge, Sara Phillips, Kristin Reynolds, Brandon Stone, Angela Taylor, and Jordan Newton-Gonzalez. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Tina Smith, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Julian Wubben to grant tenure status for the 2006-2007 school year for the following: Gene Newton, Brent Grisham, Donna Koehler, Barbara Lindley, Barbara Maske, and Jonathan Rees. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Tina Smith, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Jeff Haley, second by Laurie Rhodes to approve the Resolution to Abate \$600,000 from the Working Cash fund to the Operations and Maintenance fund for MPHS construction costs. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Tina Smith, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Julian Wubben to re-employ MPHS Principal Russell Galusha, MPGS Principal Gene Newton, and EGS Principal Scott Doerr for the 2006-2007 school year. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Tina Smith, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Superintendent Shelton said the projected kindergarten enrollment for next Fall is 32 at MPGS and 6 at EGS.

Motion by Tina Smith, second by Julian Wubben to enter Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. for the purpose of administrative evaluation. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Tina Smith, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Julian Wubben, second by Mike Toohey to exit Executive Session at 8:42 p.m. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Tina Smith, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Julian Wubben, second by Jeff Haley to approve Executive Session minutes as reviewed tonight in Executive Session. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Mike Toohey, Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Tina Smith, Jeff Haley, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Tina Smith, second by Julian Wubben to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Voice vote. All aye. No nay. Motion carried.

Submitted By

  
Board Recording Secretary