

MT. PULASKI COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #23  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MT. PULASKI UNIT OFFICE  
AUGUST 21, 2006

President Meister called the meeting to order on August 21, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Unit Office. Roll call was taken. Answering present: Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, David Meister, Julian Wubben, and Laurie Rhodes. Joe Olson arrived late. Superintendent Phil Shelton and Principals Scott Doerr, Russell Galusha, and Gene Newton were also present.

Doug Martin, newly appointed School Board member, took the official oath of office.

Motion by Laurie Rhodes, second by Jeff Haley to enter Executive Session at 6:05 p.m. for the purpose of employment, resignation, compensation, evaluation of personnel, Elkhart TIF agreement, transportation contract, and litigation. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Julian Wubben, second by Joe Olson to exit Executive Session at 6:56 p.m. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:08 p.m. in the MPGS Social Studies room.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Jeff Haley to accept the resignation of Tina Shiers as MPGS Secretary. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Joe Olson to accept the resignation of Jenna Kloba as MPHS softball coach. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Jeff Haley to accept the retirement letter submitted by Joy Hild, MPGS elementary teacher, effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Laurie Rhodes to hire Shelly Pearson as MPGS secretary for the 2006-2007 school year effective August 8, 2006. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Joe Olson to hire Holly Barksdale as part-time Reading Improvement substitute teacher for the 2006-2007 school year. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

---

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

Dan Durchholz once again addressed the Board. He began by thanking David Meister and Jeff Clements for their work on the State Fair trams. He talked about the need for communication and the potential growth of Elkhart.

Motion by Julian Wubben, second by Joe Olson to adopt the Consent Agenda items.

A: Approve July 17, 2006 Minutes

B: Approve Payment of Bills

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

Superintendent Phil Shelton reported the high school addition is very close to being wrapped up and finished. One major thing yet to be finished is the floor base in the hallway which should be completed next week. The cafeteria is ready to go with the health inspection having been done and approved. High school custodians David Gibbs and Bill Anders worked over the weekend to get the floors waxed and buffed and ready to go. He commended them for their work. The new parking area was striped and marked. The project cost should be right at the contract amount with no further change orders expected. He said this project was a team operation, and the end result will be very positive.

David Meister and Jeff Clements organized tram workers for the State Fair. David said Jeff, who has the patience of a saint, did the bulk of calling when they were 120 people short of what was needed. Jeff said they netted about \$27,000 this year.

Jill Urish, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade Title I teacher at Chester East Lincoln, spoke to the Board about the benefits of Edline.com, a software program that allows parents to view their child's grades and academic progress. The cost for this program at Chester East for 300 students is \$1,200 a year with an additional cost of \$300 for the grade quick software.

Superintendent Shelton reported the installation of computers has started on the recent computer lease.

The District received the reimbursement check today from the Workcamps Foundation for the cost of food, supplies, and salaries for cooks and custodians for the summer workcamp held at MPGS. Superintendent Shelton said this was a good positive thing for the area.

Principal Scott Doerr reported that a committee will be formed to revise the student agenda handbooks for submission by next Spring.

Motion by Laurie Rhodes, second by Julian Wubben to adopt the School District Policy revisions as presented. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Julian Wubben to adopt the School District Wellness Policy as presented. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

The tentative budget for fiscal year 2007 was presented to the Board and will be on view in the Unit Office for thirty days prior to its adoption at the September Board meeting. It reflects a balanced budget in the Education fund and positive estimated ending fund balances. However, a new State Board regulation in effect will force the District to file a deficit reduction plan with the adoption of the budget. This is because \$490,000 transferred from the Working Cash fund to the Operations and Maintenance fund to pay for high school construction costs is not shown as direct revenue even though it is included in the estimated June 30, 2007 fund balance total. This results in direct revenues being less than direct expenditures by an amount greater than one-third of the ending fund balance.

Superintendent Shelton reported that the cost to operate Elkhart Grade School for the 2005-2006 school year was \$931,152, which includes the \$110,637 expense of the roof replacement. The average yearly cost would be in the \$800,000 range. Julian Wubben noted that the Mt. Pulaski Grade School can absorb the Elkhart Grade School students without any changes to the building. Laurie Rhodes said the Board came up with somewhat of a strategic plan with the junior high transfer, and they should proceed with caution as far as making any further changes. Jeff Haley said to wait two more years before further changes are made would cost the District \$1.6 million dollars in relation to what was spent last year. He said having a school ten miles away from Elkhart shouldn't detract from its future growth. Mike Toohey said he would hate to see the point where we are balancing the budget at a cost to the education of the rest of the students in the District. It comes down to fiscal responsibility. Julian Wubben said this Board and past Boards have proceeded with caution with the same arguments. The savings of \$800,000 to \$900,000 a year needs to be talked about. He asked Superintendent Shelton if the District has gotten the TIF District money yet. The answer was no. This is a monthly question with the same answer. Julian Wubben then read a portion of the Elkhart TIF Agreement which states that the Village shall make payments to the School Board from the TIF District's special tax allocation fund within a reasonable time after the Village's receipt of the real estate tax increment generated in the TIF District.

Superintendent Shelton reported on the Illinois Energy Consortium sponsored by the IASB. It allows school districts to buy electricity and natural gas through the IEC organization. A downside to this is you don't have the priority of first line customers, and you need to be careful before you get too involved with this.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Julian Wubben to approve the Resolution to Abate \$490,000 from the Working Cash fund to the Operations and Maintenance fund for high school construction costs. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.


Julian Wubben said a committee needs to review Executive Session minutes. Joe Olson and Mike Toohey volunteered for this job.

Julian Wubben asked Superintendent Shelton the status of the written notification by the School District's attorney to the village of Elkhart prior to October. Superintendent Shelton replied this is in the progress.

Motion by David Meister, second by Mike Toohey to adjourn to the high school new cafeteria and reconvene at 8:30 p.m. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Julian Wubben, Joe Olson, Laurie Rhodes, Jeff Haley, Mike Toohey, Doug Martin, and David Meister. No nay. Motion carried.

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

Submitted By

  
Catherine J. Skull  
Board Recording Secretary