

Lexington Community Unit #7 School District
Lexington, Illinois

Regular Board Meeting
December 18, 2008

President Steve Brown called the regular meeting to order in the district office at 7:00 p.m. Roll was called with the following members present: Steve Brown, Mike Kelley, Marsha Killian, Bruce Klein, Lori Leake and Andy Schuler. Also present were Curt Nettles, Superintendent; Sean Berry, Junior High / High School Principal; Dale Heidbreder, Elementary School Principal; Toni Wilken, recording secretary; and three visitors, Julie Thomas, John and Jill Mohr.

Junior high / high school teacher, Julie Thomas, spoke to the board about a new mentoring program for freshmen. This program is still in the planning stages with a pilot program running this year. (Julie left the meeting upon finishing her presentation.)

President Steve Brown opened the Tax Levy Hearing at 7:27 p.m. Superintendent Curt Nettles presented the 2008 levy, payable in 2009, showing an increase of 8% over the previous year. However, it is estimated that the actual extension will only show an increase of 3.2%. There was no public input on the levy. Bruce Klein moved to close the levy hearing at 7:31 p.m. Seconded by Andy Schuler. Roll call vote:

Brown	- yes	Klein	- yes
Kelley	- yes	Leake	- yes
Killian	- yes	Schuler	- yes

Motion carried unanimously.

At 7:32 p.m. president Steve Brown announced that the next agenda item for the Board of Education was a public hearing to receive comments on the proposal to sell \$4,100,000 School Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds to do approved health / life safety projects. John and Jill Mohr were present at the hearing. Mr. Mohr asked questions of the board and offered suggestions for alternative funding sources.

[See the four-page insert following this page.]

Marsha Killian moved to approve the Consent Agenda items:

- A.) November 18, 2008, regular session minutes.
- B.) Lexington December 18, 2008, regular bills, the payroll liabilities and necessary additional payments made in November, 2008, and, ratify Tri-County Special Education Association's bills.
- C.) Treasurer's Report; Financial Statement; and, Investment Schedule and authorize the superintendent to direct the treasurer to conduct further investment transactions at the superintendent's discretion.
- D.) Board policy updates first reading 4.120, 4.115 (new), 5.100, 5.120, 5.165 (new), 5.220, 6.040, 6.050, 6.070, 6.115 (new), 7.010, 7.020, 7.050.
- E.) Appointment of Toni Wilken as board secretary designee to accept board candidates' petitions for the April 7, 2009, election.

F.) Annual agreement with Lexington Park District.

G.) Plan document with Gatekeeper for Tri-County Special Education Association.

Seconded by Mike Kelley. Roll call vote:

Kelley	- yes	Leake	- yes
Killian	- yes	Schuler	- yes
Klein	- yes	Brown	- yes

Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Curt Nettles reported on the following:

- Evaluations of the superintendent and principals will be conducted and discussed in January.
- The addition of a junior high softball program is being considered.
- State finances are affecting the school district. Approximately \$167,000 in state payments is delayed. The district's cash flow could become critical at some point this school year.
- The district's new network server has been installed. Optimal security is a priority.
- Mr. Nettles has received input from several individuals, regarding a recent letter to the editor of the Lexingtonian written by a high school parent, discussing the district's Athletic Code. All respondents have requested that the board not change the Athletic Code.
- The Illinois State Board of Education is in the final phase of approval of the district's Health / Life Safety projects. It is expected that the majority will be approved.

Elementary Principal Dale Heidbreder reported on the following:

- Commended Jan Heuer and Trish Pestka and all who organized the Iditarod event.
- Commended Eleanor Hess on the success of the elementary music performance.
- Mr. Heidbreder was gratified by the local organizations in the community who provided assistance to needy families at the holiday season.
- Recommended Jenny Heitzmann to fill a maternity leave vacancy in the spring, and also fill a full-year vacancy next year for a teacher's leave of absence.
- Mr. Heidbreder applied for a grant to defray the cost of recycling and as a result, the district will receive \$1,000.

Junior High / High School Principal Sean Berry reported on the following:

- Expressed support for the freshman-mentoring program presented by Julie Thomas.
- If a snow day is called for the next day, Friday, December 19, the last day of school before break, final exams for that day would be given on January 5, 2009, the first day back after break.
- The junior high / high school concert was held December 6.
- The Heart of Illinois Conference schools will hold a joint Teacher Institute on January 23.

Mike Kelley moved to employ Jenny Heitzmann to fill the sixth grade leave of absence for 2009-10. Seconded by Andy Schuler.

Killian	- yes	Schuler	- yes
Klein	- yes	Brown	- yes
Leake	- yes	Kelley	- yes

Motion carried unanimously.

It was the consensus of the board that a special planning meeting, traditionally held in January, be scheduled later, perhaps in February or March, with a date to be determined.

Lori Leake moved that the closed session minutes for the previous six months remain closed. Seconded by Andy Schuler. Motion carried unanimously.

Bruce Klein moved to adopt the 2008 tax levy, payable in 2009 as presented. Seconded by Lori Leake. Roll call vote:

Klein	- yes	Brown	- yes
Leake	- yes	Kelley	- yes
Schuler	- yes	Killian	- yes

Motion carried unanimously. Levy resolution attached hereto.

The board discussed the health / life safety bond issue. Consideration was given to issuing only \$2,000,000 to cover the costs of the most pressing projects rather than issue the full \$4,100,000 all at once. Action will be taken at a future board meeting.

Lori Leake moved to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. Seconded by Mike Kelley. Motion carried unanimously.

Steven K. Brown, President

Bruce A. Klein, Secretary