

Lexington Community Unit #7 School District
Lexington, Illinois

Regular Board Meeting
December 17, 2009

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, Ben Kahle, Marsha Killian, Bruce Klein, Andy Schuler, and Randy Winterland. Also present were: Curt Nettles, Superintendent; Sean Berry, Junior High / High School Principal; Dale Heidbreder, Elementary School Principal; Toni Wilken, recording secretary; and one visitor (Curt Billingsley).

President Steve Brown opened the tax levy hearing. Superintendent Curt Nettles reviewed the estimated levy. President Brown closed the hearing.

In public participation, visitor Curt Billingsley mentioned he is a member of "Leadership McLean County," an organization that promotes volunteerism and community action. In that capacity, he was observing a school board meeting.

Andy Schuler moved to approve the Consent Agenda:

- A.) November 17, 2009, regular session minutes.
- B.) Lexington December 17, 2009, regular bills, the payroll liabilities and necessary additional payments made in November, 2009, and ratify Tri-County Special Education Association's bills for November, 2009.
- C.) November, 2009, 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.) Policy updates: 2.040, 2.100, 3.030, 4.040, 4.080, 4.200, 4.210, 5.120, 5.155, 5.070, 5.070-AP2 (new), 7.140
- E.) Review of closed session minutes and determination to keep them closed.

Seconded by Mike Kelley. Roll call vote:

Brown	- yes	Klein	- yes
Kahle	- yes	Schuler	- yes
Kelley	- yes	Winterland	- yes
Killian			

Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Curt Nettles reported on the following, in addition to his written report:

- Regarding district finances, all monthly state aid payments have been received from the state board, but categorical revenue has not. The state board owes the district approximately \$180,000.
- Regarding facilities, water leaks around roof vents have been experienced. Hoods are being explored to cover the vents.
- The Heart of Illinois Conference superintendents will give a joint presentation on school finances at Heyworth on January 17, 2010.
- The district's architect and associates will meet with district administrators and head custodian in January, and then will present their recommendations at the January board meeting.

- Regarding *Race to the Top*, an education reform plan sponsored by the federal government, states are being asked to join the federal government in this process by submitting applications to join the program and receive funding. The timeline to complete the application process is very short, and the Illinois State Board of Education is asking local school districts to sign memoranda of understanding to declare partnership in the process. Sup. Nettles recommended the district not sign the memorandum due to lack of information to make a proper decision about participation.
- The state board has indicated that they will once again use stabilization funds from the federal government to assist with monthly state aid payments.

Elementary School Principal Dale Heidbreder reported on the following, in addition to his written report:

- A \$1,500 grant was awarded to the district from the Regional Office of Education to assist with starting a formal mentoring program for new teachers.
- Mr. Heidbreder is looking to secure funding through the ROE for gifted education training.
- Congratulations to teacher Mary Beth Holmes for receiving a grant of \$500 from the Illinois Retired Teachers' Association to obtain reading materials.
- Mr. Heidbreder praised elementary music teacher Eleanor Hess for the holiday music program presented by the elementary students.
- Mr. Heidbreder updated the board on *Response-to-Intervention* monitoring of student progress and the success of various types of intervention being used.

Junior High / High School Principal Sean Berry reported on the following, in addition to his written report:

- Mr. Berry has attended an informational meeting about credit recovery for high school students.
- An incentive program for high school students to opt out of final semester exams was implemented. The opt-out was based on students scoring at the "exceeds standards" level on the Prairie State Achievement Exam taken last spring.
- Freshmen were recently given the EXPLORE test and sophomores were given the PLAN test. Both are precursors to the ACT. The resulting data will show student achievement and act as a predictor for student success on the ACT which they will be given as juniors. EXPLORE will also be given to eighth graders.
- Seven high school seniors were recently named Illinois State Scholars.
- The Key Club is sponsoring a blood drive on December 18.
- The junior high LEARN organization donated clothes to the needy.
- Congratulations to the football Minutemen in their very successful season, finishing as state runner-up.
- Well-done also to the cheerleading squad for their recent #1 placement in competition.

Bruce Klein moved to adopt the 2009 Tax Levy. Seconded by Randy Winterland. Roll call vote:

Kahle	- yes	Schuler	- yes
Kelley	- yes	Winterland	- yes
Killian	- yes	Brown	- yes
Klein	- yes		

Motion carried unanimously. Copy of levy included herewith.

Marsha Killian moved to set Saturday, January 9, 7:00 a.m., for a special board meeting / work session only. Seconded by Ben Kahle. Motion carried unanimously.

Board members received forms to complete for the superintendent's evaluation.

Mr. Nettles related to the board that the Citizens Advisory Council recommended the current board member election format remain as it is. There is very little interest in going to an at-large format.

Ben Kahle moved to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. Seconded by Marsha Killian. Motion carried unanimously.

Steven K. Brown, President

Marsha M. Killian, Secretary