

MINUTES of the Public Hearing of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 9 held in the Board Conference Room at the Board of Education Administrative Offices, 1947 Adams Street, Granite City, Illinois, on March 26, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: WALT WHITAKER, JERRY McKECHAN, CAROLYN YATES, MEGHAN DAILY, RON DILLARD, AND RALPH BURNETT.

EMPLOYEES PRESENT: HARRY A. BRIGGS, PH.D., DENISE ALBRECHT, AIMEE BAILEY, HEATHER BARRIOS, SKIP BIRDSONG, DR. DENNIS BURNETT, BRAD EAVENSON, CARLA ELLIOTT, CINDY GAGICH, DON HARRIS, MARGARET HARRIS, GLORIA HARRISON, PAULA HUBBARD, JODIE JACKELS, STEPHENIE JONES, DAVID KEEL, KRISTEN LAWS, CHAD LOFINK, KELLY LONG, BARBIE McCORMICK, AMY MAYES, STACIE MILLER, KRISTEN NOVACICH, JIM PARKER, RACHEL RIBBING, SAMANTHA RYDGIG, KAREN SCHWENDEMAN, ERICA STARK, RON STERN, ZACK SUHRE, STACEY UNFRIED, JANET VAUGHN, BARBARA VRABEC, CURT WATTERS, TRACY WHITECOTTON, LORI WILSON, AND BARBARA BILBREY.

OTHERS PRESENT: REV MIKE ADEN, OFFICER C. BURFORD, MATT JONES, JIM MERKEL, ROD SCOTT, ANDREW UNFRIED, MICHAEL WATKINS, AND JULIE WOFFORD.

1. The Public Hearing on Reduction in Force was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Board President, Ralph Burnett. Roll was called. All members, with the exception of Member Scroggins, were present and a quorum was declared.
2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT ON PROPOSED REDUCTION IN FORCE** – Superintendent Briggs made the following report:
“We are proposing this reduction in force due to economic conditions beyond our control. Since 2011-12 our school district has seen an alarming reduction in our local and state revenues. While we have attempted to respond to this crisis it has not been enough. The situation is so fluid that school districts throughout this state are scrambling to stay ahead of impending financial disaster. The Niedringhaus closure, coupled with some attrition, was thought to be enough to reduce our budget deficit next year and, hopefully, balance our budget in 2015. We did not expect the level of reductions we have seen in recent weeks. Unexpectedly, Federal sequestering of Title I and IDEA funds (\$400,000 reduction) along with a 6% reduction in local EAV (\$1.7 million reduction) have contributed to this reduction in force.

Further, the Governor, in his recent budget address, proposed a proration of 82% for GSA (\$1.3 million reduction). While we planned for some reductions in our budget plan, we did not anticipate reductions of this magnitude (\$2.4 million). Unfortunately, it has caused a rethinking of our plan and the RIFing of nine certified staff. Where will it stop? I don't know. But, I can assuredly say if this school district continues to be hit by the revenue reductions we've seen over the past two years, we won't be able to reduce our expenditures enough and eventually will go broke. I commend this Board on their courage. It is a difficult time to be a School Board Member in any district much less Granite City. I suggest to everyone here tonight and those who may read this comment that you voice your displeasure with our state government and suggest they make public education the number one priority of our society. Without your voice, this loss will not stop.

President Ralph Burnett opened the Public Hearing on Reduction in Force and asked if there was any public comment.

Member McKeachan asked if the administration believed that there was any chance that any of the individuals RIF'd would be recalled. Superintendent Briggs responded and indicated that he had a meeting with the individuals in question on Thursday and did discuss these and other issues with them. He indicated that he was very hopeful that these individuals will be recalled in the near future.

Member McKeachan said that he was around in 1983, the last time individuals were RIF'd, and he understands the impact this has on people. Superintendent Briggs commented that, If at all possible, these individuals will be working, once again, in the Granite City School District.

Member McKeachan asked how many people have put in for retirement between now and the end of June and whether it is anticipated that more individuals will take advantage of retirement. President Burnett responded and indicated that this information is not yet available.

Superintendent Briggs commented that it has been extremely difficult this year because the situation has been fluid and there is no way of knowing what types of revenues are going to be in our budget for next year. He indicated that he has talked to our legislators, and they are not in favor of an 82% pro ration but there is no guarantee that this will stop. He said that he did not know that the Governor was going to cut our IDEA and Title I funds. He commented that it is unfortunate that we have to lay individuals off, but it is something we have to do because it is our duty to protect the school district. When asked if the lay-offs will this have an impact on class size, he responded that a plan will be available on April 30th at which time we will have a better picture of whether or not this will increase class size. He said that this is something we are going to look at and the administration is aware that we need to keep those class sizes as low as possible.

President Burnett said that the goal of the district is to keep class size low, keep people working, and keep our academics going in the right direction.

Board President Burnett asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion by Member McKechan, seconded by Member Yates, to adjourn the Public Hearing on Reduction in Force at 5:14 p.m. and open the regular meeting of the Board of Education. Members voting—Whitaker, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye”; Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.

MINUTES of the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 9 held in the Board Conference Room at the Board of Education Administrative Offices, 1947 Adams Street, Granite City, Illinois, on March 26, 2013 at 5:15 p.m.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Board President, Ralph Burnett. Roll was called. All members, with the exception of Member Scroggins, were present and a quorum was declared. President Burnett asked those present to stand for the reciting of the *Pledge of Allegiance* followed by the *Invocation*. He stated that citizens or parents with children in attendance, who did not wish to participate in the *Invocation*, could wait outside the Board Conference Room until after the Board moved to Item IV, *Public Comment*. Rev. Mike Aden of the Solid Rock Free Methodist Community Church offered the *Invocation*.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – There were no public comments.
3. **MINUTES** (203 & a-e) Motion by Member McKechan, seconded by Member Daily, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held on March 12, 2013 as presented on 203 & a-e. Members voting—McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye”; Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; Whitaker, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.
4. **CONSENT AGENDA** (204-207) Motion by Member Yates, seconded by Member Daily, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the items listed on the *Consent Agenda* as follows:
 - TREASURER’S REPORT/FEBRUARY 2013** (204 & a) To accept the Treasurer’s Report for February 2013 as presented on 204 & a and file for audit.
 - BILL LIST** (205 & a-ac) To approve the bill list on 205 & a-ac and authorize the payment of all items.
 - MAT, MOP, AND TOWEL SERVICE** (206) To award the bid for mat, mop, and towel service with deliveries made twice a month at each school as marked in the tabulation on 206 to Aramark as a source of supply for a three-year period (2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-16 school years) on the basis of low bid to specifications at a cost of \$39,173.76.
 - REQUESTS FROM VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS** (207) To approve Requests “a” and “b” as outlined on 207.
 - GIFTS** (207) To accept the gifts outlined on 207 with thanks and appreciation.

SUMMER BAND CAMP (207) To grant permission to hold the Granite City Summer Band Camp from August 5-9, 2013 from 8:00-11:00 a.m. as outlined on 207.

Members voting—McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye, Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; Whitaker, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.

- 5. **RESCIND ACTIONS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS ON RETIREMENTS (208)** Motion by Member Dillard, seconded by Member Daily, upon the recommendation of the administration, to rescind actions of previous meetings on the following retirements:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Barbara Bilbrey	Executive Secretary/Board Office	October 31, 2013
Norma Kacera	Secretary/Board Office	June 30, 2014

Members voting—Yates, “aye, Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; Whitaker, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.

- 6. **RETIREMENTS (208)** Motion by Member McKechan, seconded by Member Yates, upon the recommendation of the administration, to accept the following retirements:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Norma Kacera	Secretary/Board Office	Retirement	June 30, 2013
Martha Steiner	Special Education/Grigsby	Retirement	Conclusion of 2012-2013 School Year
Barbara Bilbrey	Ex. Secretary/Board Office	Retirement	December 31, 2013

Members voting—Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; Whitaker, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye, and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.

- 7. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE (208)** Motion by Member Daily, seconded by Member Burnett, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the following leave of absence:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Taunya Thweatt	Cafeteria/Worthen	Deduct	April 29-May 3, 2013

Members voting—Dillard, “aye”; Whitaker, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye, Daily, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.

- 8. **ELIMINATION OF PERMANENT SUBSTITUTES (208a)** Motion by Member McKechan, seconded by Member Daily, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the elimination of permanent substitutes for the 2013-2014 school year. Members voting—Whitaker, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye, Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.

- 9. **FOURTH-YEAR PROBATIONARY TEACHERS (208a)** Motion by Member Dillard, seconded by Member Daily, upon the recommendation of the administration, to grant tenure to the following individuals at the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year:

- Paula Hubbard, Director of Special Education
- Kyle Briggs, P.E./Maryville
- Andrew Crider/ English/High School

Jeff Hayes, Counselor/High School
Jacob Janek, Drivers' Educ./High School
Debra Mills, Special Education/High School
Misty Monroe, 5th Grade LD/Frohardt
Ann Peters, Parent Infant Educator/Early Childhood
Richard Skirball, Jr., Special Education/High School
Greg Vaughn, Language Arts/Coolidge
Amy Simpson, Language Arts/Coolidge
Kelly Long, Vocal Music/Coolidge

Members voting—McKechan, "aye"; Yates, "aye, Daily, "aye"; Dillard, "aye"; Whitaker, "aye"; and Burnett, "aye"; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.

10. **RESOLUTION ON HONORABLE DISMISSAL OF TEACHERS** (208b-e) Motion by Member Burnett, seconded by Member Daily, upon the recommendation of the administration, to adopt the Resolution on the Honorable Dismissal of Teachers as presented on 208b-e and authorize the necessary signatures and approve the list of nine honorably dismissed teachers, listed under separate cover. Members voting—McKechan, "aye"; Yates, "aye, Daily, "aye"; Dillard, "aye"; Whitaker, "aye"; and Burnett, "aye"; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.
11. **RESOLUTION ON HONORABLE DISMISSAL OF EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL EMPLOYEES** (208f-i) Motion by Member Burnett, seconded by Member Daily, upon the recommendation of the administration, to adopt the Resolution on the Honorable Dismissal of Educational Support Personnel Employees as presented on 208f-i and authorize the necessary signatures and approve the list of four honorably dismissed educational support personnel employees, listed under separate cover. Members voting—Yates, "aye, Daily, "aye"; Dillard, "aye"; Whitaker, "aye"; McKechan, "aye"; and Burnett, "aye"; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.
12. **CHANGE IN BOARD MEETING DATE AND SETTING OF APRIL 30, 2013 MEETING** (209) Motion by Member Dillard, seconded by Member Yates, to cancel the Board of Education meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2013 and re-schedule the meeting for Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. and schedule a second meeting for April on Tuesday, April 30, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. at the Board of Education Administrative Offices, 1947 Adams, Granite City, Illinois. Members voting—Daily, "aye"; Dillard, "aye"; Whitaker, "aye"; McKechan, "aye"; Yates, "aye, and Burnett, "aye"; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.
13. **SUMMER FOODSERVICE PROGRM** (209) Motion by Member McKechan, seconded by Member Daily, to approve participation in the Summer School Foodservice Program as outlined on 209. Members voting—Dillard, "aye"; Whitaker, "aye"; McKechan, "aye"; Yates, "aye, Daily, "aye"; and Burnett, "aye"; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.

14. **RUNNING START AGREEMENT (210)** Superintendent Briggs stated that this was one of the cost-cutting measures previously approved by the Board. It was noted that new information from SWIC proposes to allow the present cohort of students (juniors from GCHS and first year cohort students at SWIC) to attend at a rate of \$3,000 per student rather than \$4,000 as previously charged. This agreement will allow new cohorts, starting with students from the GCHS sophomore class, to participate and enroll in the Running Start Program starting in the 2013-2014 school year and will be of no cost to the district but will be available to students with tuition charges being the responsibility of the parents. President Burnett said that the Board is in agreement that they like the program and are glad we can continue the program.

Motion by Member Burnett, seconded by Member Daily, to approve the Running Start Agreement with Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) as outlined on 210. Members voting—Whitaker, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye, Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.

15. **MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER TEEN REACH PROGRAM (210)** It was noted that approximately 40-60 students participate in this program. Motion by Member Daily, seconded by Member Yates, to approve the Middle School Summer Teen Reach Program as outlined on 210. Members voting—McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye, Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; Whitaker, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.

16. **SACK LUNCH AND EARLY DISMISSAL OF TESTING STUDENTS (211)** Motion by Member Dillard, seconded by Member Yates, to approve the proposal for the sack lunch and early dismissal of testing students as outlined on 211. Members voting—McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye, Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; Whitaker, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.

17. **2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR LENGTH OF DAY AND START/END TIMES (212)** Director of Academic Accountability/Assessment, Don Harris, called attention to the start/end times on page 212. He noted that the 5-6 building start time needed to be modified to 8:50 a.m. rather than 8:55 a.m., which will add 5 minutes to the school day at that level. He said that this was the best configuration that we have found to add the least amount of buses. Superintendent Briggs said that adding a single bus increases transportation costs \$30,000 per year. Superintendent Briggs commended Don Harris, Ron Stern, and Trina Tsigolaroff for their hard work in preparing this proposal.

Motion by Member Dillard, seconded by Member McKechan, to approve the following 2013-2014 school year length of day and start/end times for each attendance center:

<u>Building</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>End Time</u>
K-5 (6:15 hour)	8:20 a.m.	2:35 p.m.
5-6 (6:20 hour)	8:50 a.m.	3:10 p.m.
7-8 (6:20 hour)	9:05 a.m.	3:25 p.m.
9-12 (7:10 hour)	8:00 a.m.	3:10 p.m.

Members voting—Yates, “aye, Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; Whitaker, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.

18. **ACTIONS OF THE REGION I BOARD (213)** Motion by Member McKechan, seconded by Member Yates, to ratify the action of the Region I Board in regard to Omitted Service Credit (IMRF benefits) for the Occupational Therapists/Physical Therapists. Members voting—Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; Whitaker, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye, and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.

19. **REPORTS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**

Committee Reports – There were no committee reports.

Freedom of Information Act Report (214) It was reported that there were no requests under the Freedom of Information Act during the period March 8, 2013 through March 21, 2013.

Disciplinary Appeal/Hearing (214 & a-e)

Expulsions (215 & a-b) Member Dillard, seconded by Member Daily, to expel six Granite City High School students, one Coolidge Middle School student, and one Coordinated Youth and Human Services/Grigsby Middle School student for infractions of the student “Code of Conduct” for one calendar year from the date of the Board of Education meeting (March 26, 2013). Members voting—Whitaker, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye, Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.

Activity Fund Statements/January 2013 (216 & a-e)

20. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Motion by Member Dillard, seconded by Member Daily, to go into executive session for the exceptions noted under 5 ILCS 120/2 Open Meetings:
- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body;
 - Student disciplinary matters;
 - Collective bargaining matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives; and
 - Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been files...is probable or imminent.
- Members voting—Whitaker, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye, Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.

The Board was called into executive session at 5:42 p.m.

Executive session closed and the meeting resumed at 6:03 p.m.

Motion by Member McKechan, seconded by Member Daily, to close executive session and resume the public meeting. Members voting—Whitaker, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye, Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.

21. **DISCIPLINARY APPEAL/HEARING** (214 & a-e) Motion by Member Dillard, seconded by Member Daily, to uphold the five-day suspension on the student named under separate cover and to not overturn the decision of the GCHS administration. Members voting—Whitaker, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye”, Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.
22. **EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES/MARCH 12, 2013** (217) Motion by Member McKechan, seconded by Member Yates, to approve the executive minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held on March 12, 2013 as presented. Members voting—Whitaker, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye”, Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.
23. **SETTING THE AGENDA FOR THE APRIL 16, 2013 MEETING** – There were no items. Member Ron Dillard stated that Member Whitaker had indicated to him that tonight would be his last meeting but he had told him that he needed to be present at the April 16th meeting. Superintendent Briggs stated that the Board would not reorganize until April 30th because canvass election results would not be available until that time.
24. **ADJOURNMENT** – Motion by Member McKechan, seconded by Member Daily, to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Members voting—Whitaker, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye”, Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Scroggins.

President

Secretary