

MINUTES of the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 9 held in the Performing Arts Center at Granite City Senior High School, 3101 Madison Avenue, Granite City, Illinois, on February 12, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

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

EMPLOYEES PRESENT: HARRY A. BRIGGS, PH.D., SKIP BIRDSOONG, DR. DENNIS BURNETT, LYNETTE BURNETT, PATRICK CURRY, BRAD EAVENSON, DOROTHY FALTER, JIM GREENWALD, DON HARRIS, BILL HARRISON, GLORIA HARRISON, PAULA HUBBARD, STEPHANIE JONES, DAVID KEEL, DEBRA KIBORT, PAULA KWIATKOWSKI, NANCY LEVAULT, MARK LULL, JOHN MANOOGIAN, STACIE MILLER, TERRY MITCHELL, TIM MORAN, KRISTEN NOVACICH, JIM PARKER, WYATT ROBERDS, JASON SCHAEFFER, JACK SCHOOLEY, TOM SCHOOLEY, RON STERN, ZACK SUHRE, JASON VAUGHN, MARY VOSS, CURT WATTERS, LORI WILSON, AND BARBARA BILBREY.

OTHERS PRESENT: TONYA BEASLEY, REV. CHRIS BELL, DR. & MRS. MARK EAVENSON, KATHY HAGNAUER, JEFF HAMILTON, MATT JONES, JIM MERKEL, MARK WILSON, AND MANY CITIZENS.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Board President, Ralph Burnett. Roll was called. All members, with the exception of Member Whitaker, 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 Performing Arts Center until after the Board moved to Item IV, *Public Comment*. Rev. Chris Bell of Suburban Baptist Church offered the *Invocation*.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

PRESENTATION OF GIFT FROM DR. & MRS. MARK EAVENSON – Dr. & Mrs. Mark Eavenson presented a check in the amount of \$30,000, which has been earmarked for the G.C.H.S Performing Arts Center, and will be used toward the replacement of carpeting and the front of the stage and for installation of a new sprinkler system for the marching band field. Accepting the check on behalf of the district were the following: Board Member Beverley Scroggins; Fine Arts Department Chairman, John Manoogian; and Band Director, Wyatt Roberds. Dr. Eavenson is a 1975 graduate of Granite City High School.

REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD/JEFF HAMILTON – Jeff Hamilton addressed the Board. Mr. Hamilton is the father of a 6th Grade band student and two other children, who are graduates of Granite City High School and former band students. Mr. Hamilton was concerned about next year's junior high band program and whether his daughter would have the same opportunities as her older sisters had. He asked if students who participate in the Coolidge band program next year will have band rehearsals and sectionals during the regular school day rather than after school.

Superintendent Briggs replied that he believes that our band program is one of our better programs. He assured Mr. Hamilton that the administration is working very hard to make sure the program stays the top program that it is today.

REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD/TONYA M. BEASLEY – Tonya Beasley addressed the Board. Tonya is the mother of a 7th Grade band student. Her questions were as follows:

- 1) With the restructuring/operating procedures of the 7th and 8th Grade Band Program, would it become a varsity/junior varsity type program?
- 2) Would band be offered to students as early as the 4th Grade level?
- 3) What is the number of projected band students at each school?

Superintendent Briggs stated that he and Wyatt Roberds, Band Director, have had lengthy discussions with regard to next year's Band Program. He said that Coolidge Junior High students will be on a regiment similar to that of the high school. He commented that the school district does not anticipate much of a change in terms of practice time. In addition, he said that Grigsby will be on an elementary schedule.

Mrs. Beasley thanked the Board and administration and said she had great confidence in the Board Members and School District #9 and feels that what they are doing is very positive.

3. **MINUTES** (167 & a-f) Motion by Member McKeachan, seconded by Member Scroggins, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held on January 22, 2013 as presented on 167 & a-f. Members voting—Scroggins, “aye”; McKeachan, “aye”; Yates, “aye”; Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Whitaker.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA** (168-171) Motion by Member McKeachan, seconded by Member Daily, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the items listed on the *Consent Agenda* as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT/NOVEMBER 2012-JANUARY 2013 (168 & a-e) To accept the Treasurer's Report for November 2012-January 2013 as presented on 168 & a-e and file for audit.

BILL LIST (169 & a-bf) To approve the bill list on 169 & a-bf and authorize the payment of all items.

REQUESTS FROM VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS (170) To approve Requests “a” through “c” as outlined on 170.

GIFT (170) To accept the gift outlined on 170 with thanks and appreciation.

ANNUAL MIDDLE SCHOOL AND GCHS BASKETBALL GAME (170) To grant permission to Raffi Karibian to host the annual middle school and GCHS girls and boys basketball game on June 1-2, 2013 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. at GCHS as presented on 170, with custodial fees to be covered by the organization.

TRIP REQUESTS

SCIENCE CLUB (171) To grant permission to the GCHS Science Club to take a camping trip to Camp Sunnen in Potosi, Missouri, from April 26-28, 2013 as outlined on 171.

G.C.H.S. BAND (171) To grant permission to the GCHS Band to take their Spring Band Tour to New York during spring break from March 21-26, 2013 as outlined on 171.

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

- 5. **RESCIND ACTION OF PREVIOUS MEETING ON RETIREMENT** (172) Motion by Member Daily, seconded by Member Yates, upon the recommendation of the administration, to rescind action of a previous meeting on the following retirement:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Dennis Burnett	Director of Finance	June 30, 2014

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

- 6. **RETIREMENT** (172) Motion by Member McKechan, seconded by Member Daily, upon the recommendation of the administration, to accept the following retirement:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Dennis Burnett	Director of Finance	Retirement	June 30, 2013

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

- 7. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE** (172) Motion by Member Dillard, 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>
Sheila Alexander	Science/High School	Maternity	7/29/2013 – 1/2/2014

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

- 8. **EXTENSIONS TO LEAVES OF ABSENCE** (172a) Motion by Member McKechan, seconded by Member Daily, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the following extensions to leaves of absence:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Karen Trask	Interpreter/Prather	Medical	11/5/2012 – 4/2/2013
Sharon Jones	Cafeteria/Grigsby	Medical	2/1/2013 – 3/30/2013

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

- 9. **CERTIFIED AND CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES** (172a) Motion by Member Dillard, seconded by Member Yates, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the following individuals as certified and classified substitutes for the 2012-2013 school year:

CERTIFIED

Cody Anderson
Emil Jeeninga
Phillip Wells

CLASSIFIED

Katherine Mike
Staci Smith
David Dortch

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

10. **RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$12,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BONDS, SERIES 2013, OF COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 9, MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE WORKING CASH FUND OF SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING CLAIMS AGAINST SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF A DIRECT ANNUAL TAX SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS** (173 & a-az) Ralph Burnett, Board President, announced that the Board of Education would consider the adoption of a resolution providing for the issue of the district’s general obligation working cash fund bonds to be issued by the district pursuant to Article 20 of the School Code and general obligation funding bonds to be issued by the district pursuant to Article 19 of the School Code and the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest thereon.

Board President, Ralph Burnett, presented, and the Board Secretary, Ron Dillard, read by title the Resolution Providing For the Issue of Not to Exceed \$12,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2013, of Community Unit School District Number 9, Madison County, Illinois, for the Purpose of Increasing the Working Cash Fund of Said School District and for the Purpose of Paying Claims Against Said School District, and Providing for the Levy of a Direct Annual Tax Sufficient to Pay the Principal and Interest on Said Bonds, a copy of which was provided to each Member of the Board of Education prior to the February 12th meeting and to everyone in attendance at the February 12th meeting who requested a copy.

President Burnett opened discussion. There were no comments or questions.

Motion by Member Dillard, seconded by Member McKechan, to adopt the Resolution Providing for the Issue of Not to Exceed \$12,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2013, of Community Unit School District Number 9, Madison County, Illinois, for the Purpose of Increasing the Working Cash Fund of Said School District and for the Purpose of Paying Claims Against Said School District, and Providing for the Levy of a Direct Annual Tax Sufficient to Pay the Principal and Interest on Said Bonds and authorize the necessary signatures. Members voting—Scroggins, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye, Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Whitaker.

11. **DISTRICT RE-ORGANIZATION PLAN** (174 & a-l) Superintendent Briggs stated that an informational meeting had been held on Wednesday, January 30, in the GCHS Performing Arts Center, at which time the District Reorganization Plan was reviewed in detail. He noted that many citizens were in attendance that evening.

Following the presentation, the administration entertained questions from those present and answers were provided. Superintendent Briggs called attention to the District Re-Organization Plan that has been provided on Pages 174a-l in tonight's Agenda. The plan includes closing Niedringhaus Elementary School at the end of the 2012-2013 school year; changing Grigsby Middle school to an Intermediate School for Grades 5 and 6; changing Coolidge Middle school to a Junior High School for Grades 7 and 8; and realigning all elementary schools to K-4 building, which will result in a total reduction of \$4,901,905.00 by the 2014-2015 school year. Superintendent Briggs stated that while the Board and administration does not look forward to closing Niedringhaus School, it is certainly necessary in order to maintain the integrity of the school district and move forward. He stated that, as noted previously, the financial difficulties that the district is experiencing is not the fault of the district but are the result of cuts in the state's budget.

President Burnett commended the administration and Board for their hard work. He stated that in the Fall of 2012 all Board Members had been assigned a committee to study and propose cost reductions/savings in specific areas with the findings to be completed by the end of October 2012. He said all committees met regularly, looked at various ways to save money, and made recommendations, which was not an easy thing to do but was in the best interest of the school district.

Superintendent Briggs recommended that the District Reorganization Plan, as presented on 174a-l, be approved.

Motion by Member Burnett, seconded by Member Scroggins, to approve the District Re-Organization Plan as presented on 174a-l, which includes closing Niedringhaus Elementary School at the end of the 2012-2013 school year; changing Grigsby Middle School to an Intermediate School for Grades 5 and 6; changing Coolidge Middle School to a Junior High School for Grades 7 and 8; and realigning all elementary schools to K-4 buildings, which will result in a total reduction of \$4,901,950.00 by the 2014-2015 school year. Members voting—Yates, “aye, Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; Scroggins, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Whitaker.

12. **ACTIONS OF THE REGION I BOARD** (175) This item was tabled.

13. **MISSISSIPPI VALLEY INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATIVE** (175 & a) Member McKechan asked if there were any alternatives. Superintendent Briggs stated that the district has been a member of MISSVIC for the past 26 years. He said that although there are other cooperatives, the administration has found this one to be the most cost-effective. He asked Board Members to keep in mind there is a pool of school districts involved in this and that the fee is based on the number of participants.

Motion by Member Scroggins, seconded by Member Daily, to adopt the Resolution to Continue the Mississippi Valley Intergovernmental Cooperative for the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016 as presented on 175a and authorize the necessary signatures. Members voting—Yates, “aye, Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; Scroggins, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Whitaker.

14. **REPORTS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**

Committee Reports – Superintendent Briggs reported that recently the district received notification from the State Board of Education that there was a loss in reimbursement for Special Education. He stated that after a thorough investigation, it was found that there was an error on the part of the State Board of Education in terms of changes that had been made by Region I. He reported that Special Education is not losing any money. He asked that if the Board Members have any questions, at any time, they should contact him directly so that he can resolve any issues they may have.

Freedom of Information Act Report (176) It was reported that there were three requests under the Freedom of Information Act during the period January 18 through February 7, 2013. It was noted that a request was received on January 28, 2013 from Jamie Forsythe, a reporter for the Belleville News-Democrat, 120 S. Illinois St., Belleville, Illinois, for a copy of the G.C.H.S. Principal's employment contract.

The second request was also from Jamie Forsythe, a reporter for the Belleville News-Democrat for a copy of the G.C.H.S. Vice Principal's employment contract.

The third request was from the Granite City Federation of Teachers Local 743, IFT/AFT, AFL-CIO for a list of all Granite City School District #9 employees and their salaries and a list of all Region I employees and their salaries, who are not in a bargaining unit, including but not limited to, administrators, executive secretaries and technology employees. They asked that we provide the list for each of the last ten (10) years. In addition, they requested the total number of Local 743 bargaining unit members employed per year for each of the last ten (10) years.

It was noted that these requests were handled by the administration.

Expulsions (177) Motion by Member Dillard, seconded by Member Yates, to expel two Granite City High School students for infractions of the student "Code of Conduct" for one calendar year from the date of the Board of Education meeting (February 12, 2013) and one Grigsby Middle School student for infractions of the student "Code of Conduct" for two calendar years from the date of the Board of Education meeting (February 12, 2013). Members voting—Dillard, "aye"; Scroggins, "aye"; McKechean, "aye"; Yates, "aye"; Daily, "aye"; and Burnett, "aye"; motion carried. Absent Member Whitaker.

Activity Fund Statements for November 2012 (178 & a-e)

15. **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 filed...is probable or imminent.

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

The Board was called into executive session at 5:35 p.m.

Executive session closed and the meeting resumed at 6:38 p.m.

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

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES/JANUARY 22, 2013** (179) Motion by Member McKechan, seconded by Member Scroggins, to approve the executive session minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held on January 22, 2013 as presented. Members voting—Scroggins, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye”; Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Whitaker.
17. **SETTING THE AGENDA FOR THE FEBRUARY 26, 2013 MEETING** – There were no items.
18. **ADJOURNMENT** – Motion by Member Daily, seconded by Member Yates, to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Members voting—Scroggins, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye”; Daily, “aye”; Dillard, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Member Whitaker.

President

Secretary