

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 January 22, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

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

EMPLOYEES PRESENT: HARRY A. BRIGGS, PH.D., SKIP BIRDSONG, DR. DENNIS BURNETT, LYNETTE BURNETT, KIKI COCHRAN, BRAD EAVENSON, CINDY GAGICH, JIM GREENWALD, DON HARRIS, PAULA HUBBARD, DAVID KEEL, DEBRA KIBORT, PAULA KWIATKOWSKI, NANCY LEVAULT, MARK LULL, STACIE MILLER, TIM MORAN, KRISTEN NOVACICH, JIM PARKER, TOM SCHOOLEY, LISA SMITH, RON STERN, ZACK SUHRE, MARY VOSS, BARBARA VRABEC, AND BARBARA BILBREY.

OTHERS PRESENT: GEORGE COCHRAN, SEAN COCHRAN, ILEAN CULVER, TARA DAVIS, TIFFANY HICKS, KRISTINA HOELSCHER, JIM MERKEL, LYDIA OLSON, REV. TIM PATE, ANGELA SMITH, BLAKE SMITH, CHRIS SMITH, LAUREN SMITH, WENDY HAMSTRA-SMITH, AND AMANDA WOOLLAND.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Board President, Ralph Burnett. Member Beverley Scroggins was asked to serve as Secretary Pro Tem. Roll was called. All members, with the exception of Members Dillard and 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 Board Conference Room until after the Board moved to Item IV, *Public Comment*. Rev. Tim Pate of Nameoki United Methodist Church offered the *Invocation*.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – There were no public comments.

RECOGNITION OF LISA SMITH (WILSON) AND KIKI COCHRAN (NIEDRINGHAUS) AS NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS – Lisa Smith, Title I teacher at Wilson Elementary, and Kiki Cochran, Title I teacher at Niedringhaus Elementary, were recognized for achieving the distinction of “National Board Certified Teacher” through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. National Board Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based, peer-reviewed assessment of a teacher’s pedagogical skills and content knowledge and takes one to three years to complete. Teachers who become National Board Certified are highly effective and strengthen student achievement and demonstrate the powerful impact that accomplished teachers have daily in their classrooms. Member Carolyn Yates presented “Certificates of Recognition” to Lisa Smith and Kiki Cochran, and pictures were taken. Both teachers thanked the Board and administration for the financial support in this endeavor and for providing them with the opportunity to teach in District #9.

- 3. **MINUTES** (156 & a-h) Motion by Member McKechan, seconded by Member Daily, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held on January 8, 2013 as presented on 156 & a-h. Members voting—Scroggins, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye, Daily, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Members Whitaker and Dillard.
- 4. **CONSENT AGENDA** (157-159) Superintendent Briggs called attention to the gift of 200 hams presented on 158, which were donated during the Christmas season to Granite City School District families by Mayor Ed Hagnauer and Granite City Township Supervisor Bob Shipley.

Motion by Member Scroggins, seconded by Member Yates, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the items listed on the *Consent Agenda* as follows:

BILL LIST (157 & a-am) To approve the bill list on 157 & a-am and authorize the payment of all items.

REQUESTS FROM VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS (158) To approve Requests “a” and “b” as outlined on 158.

GIFTS (158) To accept the gifts outlined on 158 with thanks and appreciation.

COOLIDGE BAND/BUSCH STADIUM TRIP (158) To grant permission to the Coolidge Middle School Band to attend the annual Busch Stadium Summer Camp Band Performance on August 9, 2013 with times to be determined as outlined on 158.

LOCAL AND LONG DISTANCE PHONE CONTRACT (159) To award AT & T a three-year contract for local and long distance phone service for the 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016 school years based on the RFP criteria as outlined on 159.

WIRELESS PHONE CONTRACT (159) To award Sprint a three-year contract for local and long distance phone service for the 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016 school years based on the RFP criteria as outlined on 159.

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

- 5. **RESIGNATION** (160) Motion by Member McKechan, seconded by Member Daily, upon the recommendation of the administration, to accept the following resignation:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Raechel Haas	Resource/Mitchell	Resignation	Conclusion of 2012-2013 School Year

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

6. EXTRA-CURRICULAR APPOINTMENTS

COACHING ASSIGNMENTS (160) Motion by Member Scroggins, seconded by Member Burnett, upon the recommendation of the administration, to appoint the following individuals to the extra-curricular coaching assignments effective for the 2013-2014 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Carl Luehmann	Head Football Coach/High School
Jeff Hayes	Head Boys' Soccer Coach/High School
Rich Skirball, Jr.	Head Cross Country Coach/High School
Jeff Ridenour	Head Boys' Golf Coach/High School
Karen Greenwald	Head Girls' Golf Coach/High School
Jamie Mihu	Head Cheerleading Coach-Varsity Football/High School

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

REVISED 4TH QUARTER ELEMENTARY DUTY ASSIGNMENTS (160a) Motion by Member McKechan, seconded by Member Scroggins, upon the recommendation of the administration, to appoint the following individuals to the extra-curricular 4th quarter elementary duty assignments (as revised) effective for the 2012-2013 school year:

<u>Frohardt</u>	<u>Maryville</u>	<u>Mitchell</u>	<u>Niedringhaus</u>
Janine Sherman	Janice Fernandez	Sharon Reader	Debbie Garland
Debbie Vorce	Kelly Gutierrez	William Cochran	Tom Miller
Karla Schank	Mike Vorce	Amanda Wilson	Ginger Wittmann
Teresa Meador	Tom Miller	Beth Logan	Lisa Raftopolous

<u>Prather</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>Worthen</u>
Staci Melvin	Angelique Dorris	Christy Marana
Cindy Heintz	John Niebur	Billy Niepert
Cathy Neidhardt	Leah McFarland	Janet Harlan
Barb Lambert	Terri Millikin	DeAnn Siville

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

7. ADMINISTRATIVE SALARY PLACEMENT/HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL (160b)

Motion by Member Yates, seconded by Member Daily, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the salary placement for the High School Principal at Category 3/Step 21 effective for the 2013-2014 school year. Members voting—McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye, Daily, “aye”; Scroggins, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Members Whitaker and Dillard.

8. FREEZE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SALARIES FOR 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR

(160b) Superintendent Briggs commented that the school district is experiencing financial difficulties through no fault of its own; and as a cost reduction measure, the administration is asking the Board to freeze all administrative salaries for the 2013-2014 school year and authorize no movement on the salary schedule.

Motion by Member Burnett, seconded by Member Daily, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve a salary freeze of all administrative salaries for the 2013-2014 school year and authorize no movement on the salary schedule. Members voting—Yates, “aye”; Daily, “aye”; Scroggins, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Members Whitaker and Dillard.

9. **ESTABLISHMENT OF CONVENIENCE ACCOUNTS**

G.C.H.S. RECYCLING FUND (161) Motion by Member McKechan, seconded by Member Burnett, to adopt the resolution for the creation of the G.C.H.S. Recycling Fund convenience account as presented on 161 and authorize the necessary signatures. Members voting—Daily, “aye”; Scroggins, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Members Whitaker and Dillard.

GRANITE CITY C.U.S.D. #9 5K (161a) Motion by Member Daily, seconded by Member Burnett, to adopt the resolution for the creation of the Granite City C.U.S.D. #9 5K convenience account as presented on 161a and authorize the necessary signatures. Members voting—Scroggins, “aye”; McKechan, “aye”; Yates, “aye”; Daily, “aye”; and Burnett, “aye”; motion carried. Absent Members Whitaker and Dillard.

10. **LETTER TO LEGISLATORS (162)** Superintendent Briggs read the following letter and recommended that it be signed by all Board Members and sent to all of our legislators:

We, the members of the Granite City C.U.S.D. 9 Board of Education, would like to impress upon you how the state’s financial crisis continues to have a detrimental effect on our district, our staff, and most importantly, our students.

The intent of General State Aid (G.S.A.) is to equalize funding for school districts, meaning all districts, utilizing local and state funds, should have similar funding. It helps to decrease the gap between those districts with a high Equalized Assessed Valuation (E.A.V.) per student and those districts with a low Equalized Assessed Valuation per student. The higher a district’s E.A.V. is, the more revenue the district can generate in local tax revenue. G.S.A. is then divided by a formula to give more to those districts who have less local revenue. The goal is to afford all districts with the opportunity to provide a comparable, quality education.

In the past two years, we have witnessed G.S.A. being pro-rated. There are three reasons why G.S.A. has been pro-rated. First, G.S.A. has declined from 4.6 billion dollars to 4.2 billion dollars—a reduction of 400 million dollars. Second, PTELL required forty-six million dollars from funds available for G.S.A. in 2000 but now requires six-hundred and twenty-nine million dollars. Third, pro-rating G.S.A., instead of reducing it, causes many to believe schools are receiving the same amount when that is not accurate.

A pro-rated G.S.A. widens the gap between the wealthiest districts and the poorest districts. Since the wealthiest districts receive little to no G.S.A., they do not feel the impact as significantly as the poorest districts who literally cannot survive without G.S.A. The first year that G.S.A. was pro-rated, it cost our district one million dollars in revenue, equal to approximately twenty teachers.

Last year, the pro-ration cost us an additional two million dollars in revenue, and it is projected that we could lose an additional four million dollars next year. If this projection is accurate, this would mean a seven-million dollar reduction in funding over a three-year period. We cannot operate an educational program that meets state mandates with a reduction of one-hundred and forty staff.

Eventually, pro-rating G.S.A. will reduce the educational opportunities available to students in poorer districts. Class size will increase, programs will be cut, extra-curricular activities will be reduced, salaries will be frozen, staff will be eliminated, and fund balances will disappear. Fund balances are critical to the successful operation of a district as they are used to pay salaries and bills when revenue is not being received.

In 2007, our Educational Fund had a balance of 9.6 million dollars. At the end of this school year, we will not only have spent the balance, but we also had to borrow 9.7 million dollars to sustain us for this year and next year. This amount is just to maintain our current educational programs and to ensure we are meeting the mandates imposed upon us by the state. Our Educational Fund revenues have gone from 54.7 million dollars in 2011 to a projected amount of 46.7 million dollars in 2013. Our expenditures have actually decreased, from 54.8 million dollars in 2011 to 54.2 million dollars this year.

Our first request is that you stop pro-rating G.S.A. and fully fund it, then work to find a way of cutting state revenue that impacts all districts equally.

Our second request is that you fully fund the transportation formula, as cutting transportation puts an additional strain on districts that are required to provide more transportation than others.

Our third request is that you lessen state mandates.

We are but one of many districts who are not only losing millions of dollars in state revenue but are also experiencing a major decline in local revenue due to a decline in our E.A.V. We project that the decline in our E.A.V. will cost our district another 1.2 million dollars next year. In addition, costs for special services are increasing at a much faster rate than the state and federal funding for these programs provide.

We want to thank you for not only understanding our plight but for fighting for our students every day.

We also want to thank our unions for understanding our financial situation; their support is evidenced by the last contracts we have negotiated.

Sincerely,

Granite City School District #9
Board of Education

Ralph Burnett, Jr.
President

Jerry McKechan
Vice President

Ron Dillard
Secretary

Meghan Daily
Treasurer

Beverley Scroggins
Member

Walt Whitaker
Member

Carolyn Yates
Member

Harry A. Briggs
Superintendent

Motion by Member Scroggins, seconded by Member McKechan, to approve the letter to legislators as presented, authorize necessary signatures, and direct the administration to send it to all legislators. Members voting--McKechan, "aye"; Yates, "aye, Daily, "aye"; Scroggins, "aye"; and Burnett, "aye"; motion carried. Absent Members Whitaker and Dillard.

Superintendent Briggs gave an update on additional information that is transpiring. He said, "As you know back in November, we created a list of estimated cost savings. We have done many of those requests to save approximately \$1.9 million this school year. We are on track to do that." He noted that a GCSD #9 parent informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 30, 2013, at the GCHS Performing Arts Center from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. to review possible district restructuring plans for the elementary and middle schools.

11. **REPORTS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**

Committee Reports – There were no Committee Reports.

Freedom of Information Act Report (163) It was reported that there were no requests under the Freedom of Information Act during the period January 4 through January 17, 2013.

Activity Fund Statements for September and October 2012 (164 & a-k)

12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Motion by Member Daily, seconded by Member McKechan, 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;
- 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--Yates, "aye, Daily, "aye"; Scroggins, "aye"; McKechan, "aye"; and Burnett, "aye"; motion carried. Absent Members Whitaker and Dillard.

The Board was called into executive session at 5:22 p.m.

Executive session closed and the meeting resumed at 6:15 p.m.

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

13. Superintendent Briggs noted that the administration is looking at some reconfiguration of attendance centers and at the possibility of closing one elementary building.

GCHS Principal, Jim Greenwald, reported that academic structure and scheduling related to Grigsby becoming a Grade 5 & 6 attendance center and Coolidge a junior high setting for Grades 7 and 8 were discussed at a recent re-organization committee meeting. He stated that they will propose that the 5-6 level be a self-contained setting. He informed the Board that the committee will continue to meet and that they will also be discussing meeting the needs of the Special Education students population in the district.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES/JANUARY 8, 2013** (165) Motion by Member Scroggins, seconded by Member McKechan, to approve the executive session minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held on January 8, 2013 as presented. Members voting--Scroggins, "aye"; McKechan, "aye"; Yates, "aye", Daily, "aye"; and Burnett, "aye"; motion carried. Absent Members Whitaker and Dillard.
15. **SETTING THE AGENDA FOR THE FEBRUARY 12, 2013 MEETING** – There were no items.
16. **ADJOURNMENT** – Motion by Member McKechan, seconded by Member Daily, to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m. Members voting--Scroggins, "aye"; McKechan, "aye"; Yates, "aye", Daily, "aye"; and Burnett, "aye"; motion carried. Absent Members Whitaker and Dillard.

President

Secretary