

Calumet Public School
District 132 Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
October 18, 2007

President Stover called the Board meeting of the Calumet Public School Board of Education to order at **6:00 p.m.**

Roll call:

Members present: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace and Ernestine Stover.

Members absent: Dominic Gangley, Karen Ivey and Abe Wilson.

Pledge of allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited in English and Spanish by 2 Burr Oak School students.

Superintendent's Report

Celebrating Achievement:

Attendance Award

The attendance award for the month of September was as follows:

Burr Oak Academy 95.1% and Calumet School 95.3%. The award was presented to Burr Oak School at 98.4%.

Presentation by Burr Oak School

Mr. Becker presented a small group of musicians from Burr Oak School. They sang a song with a little mathematics embedded into music.

Ms. French's 4th grader presented a science experience on seeds.

Ms. Thomas's 5th graders presented a presentation on animal, human and plant cells.

Recognition of Board Members

The first week of October there was an event held to recognize board members who had reached a certain level of status in board membership. Board president Ernestine Stover and Vice president Barbara Thomas received an award at the event.

Instructional Plans

Jackie Burditt stated that the district would start a Saturday school and it will be called Star Academy. The students were involved in giving the program a name. A student from Calumet Tony Dickerson named the program. Star stands for Smart Thinkers Are Rising. The student was presented with an award for naming the program.

The 21st Century is focusing on Academic Achievement. This year the district included Healthy Mind Healthy Body component. The students went on a field trip to Apple Holler on Saturday, October 13, 2007. There were 98 students and 28 adults who participated in the event. In addition to the 21st Century program the district has 24 after school and Saturday programs that are in the works. Mr. Tim Taylor attended a training session for 21st Century. At the training session the 21st Century was praised highly by the people from ISBE as well as the Learning Point associates who provided the training. They indicated to Mr. Taylor that his 21st Century program is the only one that groups the students for instruction, and that tracks the performance of the students from the beginning to the end of the program. It was also mentioned that it is the only program that is able to show undisputable results at the end.

The district has addressed all the compliance issues of the bilingual program. The handbook was sent to the Illinois State Board of Education, and it will be reviewed for approval. On November 6, 2007 the Bilingual Parent meeting and the Parent's Night Out meeting will be combined into one meeting. The topic for the Parent's Night Out meeting is Bilingual Education at District 132.

The district has been promised to receive a little over 3 million dollars in grants. The title 3 grant was increased this year by \$2,148.00. The Bilingual Education grant was increased by \$29,000 plus. The Title 1 grant went up a little over \$200,000 for this year. There has been STI Training all this week at Burr Oak School. STI is the program that the district will use as the database system to keep student records. This program will allow the district to generate reports regarding demographics. All the teachers will be trained in the classroom portion of STI. The teachers will be doing attendance through STI in their classrooms. The district will be able to track attendance down to the minute, which allows them to better track the average daily attendance. They will be able to track staff credentials and keep those up to date more efficiently and accurately. The school recognition applications were competed and have been submitted to the Regional Office of Education.

IASB Presentation

Barbara Toney presented her report. (See attached power point report.)

Financial Plan

Ms. Beck stated that the Special Education Department had reviewed the billing of the out of district student tuition. Beacon Therapeutics had been billing the district for a year. The Special Education Department was able to identify that there was one student who did not belong to our district. This resulted in a refund of approximately \$30,000. Part of that cost is being offset for the summer school session bill. The district is getting a refund of about \$11,000.00 to be returned to the district. The district was facing in one particular overview a potential loss of \$330,000 due to maintenance of effort review. The district had to request a waiver through the Illinois State Board of Education and the district was successful in getting a waiver. That effort saved the Title 1 grant from being reduced by over \$300,000. The audit being performed by Legacy Professional is near completion. The district is not being cited for a lot of out of compliance issues, but the district needs to tighten up on the internal controls with student activity. Burr Oak Academy is initiating its first school fund raiser through a series of sale items through the Kathryn Beich Program. The school generated over \$13,000 in sales in which the district will realize 50% of those proceeds.

Facilities Improvements

Ms. Beck stated that during the flooding situation the district has been doing a lot of tile insulation and most of that work is complete. The music room was the last room on the agenda. The tiles do have to come up and will be replaced as part of the approvals of the flood insurance. The work will begin on November 1st through November 2nd. There will be notification to the parents and students letting them know that the abatement work is being done. The work will be contained to just that one room. This will be the last phase of completing all of the tile insulation work.

Fall Harvest Festival

President Stover stated that this is the 2nd year for the Fall Harvest Festival. The Festival will be held at Burr Oak School and Burr Oak Academy on Tuesday, October 30, 2007 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This year the district will be showing Happy Feet at Burr Oak School. At Burr Oak

Academy the district will have games and serve hot dogs, chips, and drinks. The district is asking for a donation of \$1.00 and they are also asking that the children bring 1 canned good that will be donated to a shelter or food pantry. The 21st Century will still go on that evening. This will be an incentive for them.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

The parent/teacher conferences will be held on November 2, 2007. The district will be sending home to all parents a guide for parents about parent/teacher conferences. This guide has excellent ideas from the parent being the child's first and most important teacher, to questions asked about Saxon, behavior, policies, planning the visit and ending with questions to ask yourself as a parent.

Ms. Beck mentioned that the district is facing a potential return of \$612,000 in an audit exception pertaining to the groups. The district has now scheduled a meeting with Robert Wolf and Linda Mitchell who is the chief financial officer of the Illinois State Board of Education. The district will meet with them in order to present the district's case to let them know that the district should be able to defend and justify the accounting for \$612,000. This hearing will take place on Monday October 22, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. in the board room.

Public Comments and Questions

Dr. Tate stated that she would like to thank everyone involved in the Fall Harvest Festival for allowing the 8th graders to participate in giving. Dr. Tate stated that she has been trying to change the student's focus from themselves to the community. Dr. Tate had each classroom commit to 100% bringing a bag of candy. The students needed to focus on doing something for somebody else, it was their high expectation.

President Stover asked for a motion to go into closed session at **7:00 p.m.** to discuss information regarding appointment, employment, or dismissal of an employee or officer, contracts, grievances, negotiations, litigation, the sale of real estate, student discipline, Superintendent's evaluation or Board/Superintendent's goals.

It was moved by Grace Wallace and seconded by William Connor.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Gangley, Karen Ivey, and Abe Wilson.

Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Motion Carried.

President Stover asked for a motion to reconvene into open session at **8:55 p.m.**

It was moved by Grace Wallace and William Connor.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Gangley, Karen Ivey, and Abe Wilson.

Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Motion Carried.

President Stover asked for a motion to accept the following items under the consent agenda item #10, 12, 13, 14 except for item 11.5.

It was moved by William Connor and seconded by Barbara Thomas.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Gangley, Karen Ivey, and Abe Wilson.

Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes

September 20, 2007 – Regular Board Meeting

Personnel Items

The Personnel list consisted of 2 certified personnel, 3 classified personnel, 4 resignations and 1 rescission.

Approval of September Bills and Payroll

Total Accounts Payable \$419,746.13

Total Payroll \$443,230.64

President Stover asked for a motion not to accept item #11.5 rescission under Personnel items.

It was moved by Grace Wallace and seconded by William Connor.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Gangley, Karen Ivey, and Abe Wilson.

Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Motion Carried.

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the changes in Administrative Contracts as presented.

It was moved by William Connor and seconded by Grace Wallace.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Gangley, Karen Ivey, and Abe Wilson.

Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Motion Carried.

President Stover asked for a motion to approve that the 2006-2007 Illinois School Report Cards be made available to the public no later than October 31, 2007.

It was moved by William Connor and seconded by Barbara Thomas.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Gangley, Karen Ivey, and Abe Wilson.

Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Motion Carried.

President Stover asked for a motion to approve that the Board of Education approve attendance at the “Lighting the Way” IASB-IASA-IASBO Joint Annual Conference in Chicago, November 15-18 2007 for the following Board members:

William Connor, Karen Ivey, Ernestine Stover, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace and Abe Wilson.

It was moved by William Connor and seconded by Grace Wallace.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Gangley, Karen Ivey, and Abe Wilson.
Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays.
Motion Carried.

Old Business

Facilities Committee Update: William Connor
There was no report given.

Finance Committee Update: Ernestine Stover
There was no report given.

Policy Committee Update: Karen Ivey
There was no report given.

Political Committee Update: Abe Wilson
There was no report given.

New Business - Tax Levy

Ms. Beck stated that the Tax Levy will be prepared in November. Ms. Beck will be consulting with Rob Grossi for assistance. Rob Grossi will review the Tax Levy prior to submitting it to the Board for approval.

Adjournment

President Stover asked for a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting at **9:00 p.m.**
It was moved by William Connor and seconded by Grace Wallace.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

President, Board President

Secretary, Board Secretary