

**DECATUR DISTRICT 61 BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

DATE/TIME: May 14, 2013

5:00 PM

LOCATION: Keil Administration Building
3rd Floor Conference Room

PRESENT: Brian K. Hodges, President
Dan Oakes
TJ Jackson Jr.
BA Buttz
Sherri Perkins, Vice President
Fred Spannaus
Alida Graham

STAFF: Superintendent Gloria J. Davis
Board Secretary Melissa Bradford
Attorneys Everett Nicholas and Colette McCarty and others

President Hodges called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
Call for Closed Executive Session	<p>President Hodges moved to go into Closed Executive Session, seconded by Mrs. Perkins to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, possible litigation and collective negotiating matters between the Board and representatives of it employees.</p> <p>Hearing no questions, President Hodges called for a roll call vote: Aye: Buttz, Perkins, Spannaus, Hodges, Graham, Oakes, Jackson Nay: None Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Absent</p>	Board moved to Closed Executive Session at 5:04 PM.
Return to Open Session	<p>President Hodges moved to return to Open Session, seconded by Mr. Jackson. All were in favor.</p> <p>The Board of Education has been in closed executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, possible litigation and collective negotiating matters between the Board and representatives of it employees. No action was taken during closed executive session.</p>	Board returned to Open Session at 6:40 PM.
Pledge of Allegiance	President Hodges led the Pledge of Allegiance.	
Approval of Agenda, May 14, 2013	Superintendent Davis recommended the Board approve the agenda for May 14, 2013, as presented. Mr. Oakes moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by Mr. Jackson. All were in favor.	Agenda was approved as presented.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Special Presentations and District Highlights	<p>The Board of Education and Superintendent Davis congratulated the MacArthur High School Physics II Students! Thanks to a grant provided by the Decatur Public Schools Foundation, on March 30, 2013 Sam Funk, Dakwan Scruggs three students from MacArthur High School became the first in Central Illinois to send a video camera in a capsule to near space, record the journey and recover the capsule after it has returned to the ground. Although the target altitude of 20 miles was not reached, the video clips and still photos from the recovered capsule were more than satisfying to consider the project a complete success. Those who launched the balloon were MHS Physics II Teacher Kevin Aten and MHS Seniors Maggie Curlin, Sam Funk and Dakwan Scruggs.</p> <p>Jeffrey Perkins, Founder of the Caring Black Men (CBM) Organization presented an end of the school year (2012-2013) report.</p> <p>President Hodges congratulated Angeline Peck, South Shores Elementary School Teacher, for being named May 2013 Rotary Teacher of the Month.</p>	Information only.
Public Participation	<p>Tim Wilderman (parent) congratulated the new Board of Education and spoke regarding discipline in Thomas Jefferson and the high schools and the high school uniforms.</p> <p>Heather Carter (parent) spoke to the Board of Education regarding her request for her son to remain at Phoenix Academy through the 2013-2014 school year.</p> <p>Jan Martinie (community member) congratulated the new Board of Education and spoke regarding her history with Decatur Public Schools.</p> <p>Jo Anne Martin (community member) congratulated the new Board of Education and spoke on making Decatur Public Schools a model school District for the State of Illinois.</p> <p>Suzanne Kreps, President of The Decatur Education Association, highlighted Dennis and Muffley Elementary Schools. Mrs. Kreps also spoke to the Board regarding the process regarding involuntary transfers and the new theme and calendar decisions for Hope Academy Magnet School.</p>	Information only.
Consent Items	<p>Superintendent Davis recommended the Board approve all of the Consent Items as presented which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Minutes: April 23, 2013, Regular/Closed, May 2, 2013 Sine Die and Reorganization Meeting B. Monthly Bills 	<p>Motion carried.</p> <p>All Consent Items were approved as presented.</p>

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
C. Job Descriptions: Pre-Kindergarten Secretary, Secretary to Assistant Director of Special Education/Receptionist, Secretary to Special Education Administrators and District Receptionist-Microfilm Clerk	<p>Mrs. Perkins moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by Mr. Jackson.</p> <p>Hearing no discussion, President Hodges called for a Roll Call Vote: Aye: Hodges, Buttz, Oakes, Graham, Spannaus, Perkins, Jackson Nay: None Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Motion carried. All personnel items were approved as presented.</p>
Roll Call Action Items	<p>Superintendent Davis recommended the Board approve all Personnel Items listed in the Memo from Jonnie Clark, Director of Human Resources.</p> <p>Mr. Spannaus moved to approve the recommendation seconded by Ms. Graham. Hearing no discussion, President Hodges called for a Roll Call Vote: Aye: Graham, Oakes, Buttz, Spannaus, Hodges, Jackson, Perkins Nay: None Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Absent</p>	
Resolution Designating Interest Earnings	<p>Superintendent Davis recommended the Board approve the FY 2013-2014 Resolution to Designate Interest Earnings in the Bond and Interest Fund and in the Capital Projects Fund as presented.</p> <p>Mrs. Perkins moved to approve the recommendation seconded by Mr. Spannaus.</p> <p>Director of Business Affairs Dr. Covault stated that this Resolution gives the District the authority to transfer the interest earnings into the recommended funds, if needed.</p> <p>Hearing no discussion, President Hodges called for a Roll Call Vote: Aye: Spannaus, Perkins, Graham, Jackson, Buttz, Oakes, Hodges Nay: None Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Motion carried. The Resolution to Designate Interest Earnings was approved as presented.</p>
Comcast Fiber Agreement Amendment	<p>Superintendent Davis recommended the Board approve the Amendment to the existing Comcast Agreement at an additional monthly cost of \$6,479.00 and authorize the Director of Purchasing to issue a change order to the existing purchase order and sign and execute the Amendment as presented.</p>	<p>Motion carried. The Comcast Fiber Agreement Amendment was approved as presented.</p>

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p>Mrs. Perkins moved to approve the recommendation seconded by Mr. Oakes.</p>	
	<p>Director of Information and Technology Jim Altig stated that this is an addendum to the original agreement. This increases the District's internet speed due to the technology implementations. This recommendation will continue through the duration of the contract, which is July 2015.</p>	
	<p>Mr. Altig also noted that E-Rate is a federally funded grant money program that is based on the District's free and reduced numbers. The District receives reimbursements through this program.</p>	
	<p>Hearing no discussion, President Hodges called for a Roll Call Vote: Aye: Perkins, Graham, Hodges, Oakes, Jackson, Buttz, Spannaus Nay: None Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Absent</p>	
<p>2013-2014 School District Traditional Calendar</p>	<p>Superintendent Davis recommended the Board approve the 2013-2014 School District Traditional Calendar as presented.</p>	<p>Motion carried. The 2013-2014 School District Traditional Calendar was approved as presented.</p>
	<p>Mrs. Perkins moved to approve the recommendation, seconded Mr. Jackson.</p>	
	<p>Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator Jenny Mullins presented on this item.</p>	
	<p>Ms. Graham asked if there was a plan for the Tech Academy students regarding the changes to the District's 2013-2014 calendar. Ms. Mullins stated that she has been in contact with Director of Heartland Tech Academy Jodi Ferriell and she is aware of the draft proposal. And, once it has been finalized, discussion will continue with the Heartland Tech Academy.</p>	
	<p>Mr. Buttz asked if there was a plan B just in case Eisenhower High School is not finished. Superintendent Davis noted that we have an agreement with the construction companies as it relates to the move-in date. Director of Buildings and Grounds Mike Sotiroff noted that there are weekly meetings in order to make sure the project remains on schedule and will meet the November 30, 2013 deadline. Superintendent Davis also noted that the students will remain in their current buildings if Eisenhower is not completed by November 30, 2013.</p>	
	<p>Mr. Spannaus asked if we cannot move into Eisenhower High School by the deadline, what will we do with the calendar. Ms. Mullins noted that the calendar can be changed and communication will go out to everyone.</p>	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p>Superintendent Davis noted that they are planning for the Board Members to tour Eisenhower High School this summer.</p> <p>President Hodges asked when will communication go to the students, families and the public regarding the calendar. Ms. Mullins replied upon Board approval.</p> <p>Hearing no discussion, President Hodges called for a Roll Call Vote: Aye: Hodges, Spannaus, Graham, Buttz, Jackson, Oakes, Perkins Nay: None Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Absent</p>	
<p>2013-2014 Hope Academy Transition to Traditional Calendar</p>	<p>Superintendent Davis recommended the Board approve the 2013-2014 Hope Academy Transition to Traditional Calendar as presented.</p> <p>Mr. Oakes moved to approve the recommendation, seconded Mr. Jackson.</p> <p>Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator Jenny Mullins presented on this item.</p> <p>Superintendent Davis noted that the Hope Academy staff received communication stating that the transition to Traditional Calendar was contingent upon Board of Education approval.</p> <p>Mr. Jackson asked had the District thought about implementing reading programs with the cost savings. Ms. Mullins stated that Hope Academy will be considered in the plan as it relates to improving academic achievement.</p> <p>Mr. Spannaus asked for the building capacity at Hope. Director of Buildings and Grounds Mike Sotiroff stated that it was designed for up to 600 and the current enrollment is approximately 400 and next year's enrollment is projected at 500, but a final number will come in July. All of the families from Brush College that are currently living in Hope boundaries will be attending.</p> <p>Mr. Spannaus asked if the teachers favored the Balanced Calendar in the initial implementation. President Hodges stated that the academic achievement and SOAR program never met the District's expectations since the implementation.</p> <p>Ms. Graham noted that the intercession savings of \$17,000 was already included in the budget cuts that were approved previously. Ms. Graham asked if the staff and transportation savings were an additional cost due to the 100 students coming from Brush College.</p>	<p>The 2013-2014 Hope Academy Transition to Traditional Calendar was tabled at this board meeting.</p>

TOPIC DISCUSSION ACTION

Ms. Mullins stated that we would have to add staff to accommodate the new enrollment if more classes were added. The transportation is because Hope Academy is in session when other students are not and the District still pays.

Ms. Graham questioned if there would be a cost savings by changing the calendar from Balanced to Traditional. Ms. Graham thinks it is too late to make this type of change for the 2013-2014 school year and the majority of staff and parents are asking to keep the Balanced Calendar. And, there is no data saying that the Balanced and/or the Tradition Calendars were due to lack of student achievement at Hope Academy. It was to provide another option that would be attractive to some students and families. Ms. Graham recommended that the calendar be re-visiting during the following school year and allow the theme process to continue.

Mr. Buttz noted that he was the principal of the largest elementary school in Decatur (756 students) with no assistant principal. Secondly, sixty-three percent of the staff voted for Balanced Calendar. Lastly, it is a student-teacher building of choice and the concept is not meeting expectations. Five hundred and fifty students are doable with one administrator. Mr. Buttz was not oppose to the thematic change, but opposed to the timing and training.

Superintendent Davis noted that the timing was due to the numerous meetings, which allowed staff and parents to be involved and the theme implementation does not start until 2014-2015 school year.

Ms. Mullins noted that she was meeting with the staff to discuss their series of site visits as it relates to STEM and STEAM.

Deputy Superintendent Mann noted that we will share the data from the surveys.

Mr. Buttz asked how many Brush students registered at Hope Academy. Ms. Mann stated that 95 – 98% of students are registered for next year at Hope and 40 – 60 students are registered at Harris Elementary, thus far.

Superintendent Davis noted that the Brush parents do not want the Balanced Calendar.

Mr. Spannaus asked for the parent survey data and Deputy Superintendent Mann stated that they will provide that for the Board Members.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
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Mr. Spannaus asked if the move to Traditional Calendar was due to academics or finances. Ms. Mullins stated that it is a combination of both, the expectations never came to fruition and it did not impair academic progress, but did not reach the District's expectations.

Ms. Graham asked if the Brush parents were given an option to choose their school. Deputy Superintendent Mann stated no they were not given that choice. There were new boundaries within the old Brush boundary and a portion is within Harris and a portion is within Hope. And, the parents are concerned for different personal reasons because they were on the Traditional Calendar.

Mr. Oakes stated that the closure is no different from what has been done in the past and we need to listen to what the parents are saying.

There were no student surveys, just parents and staff.

Mr. Buttz would consider a yes vote, but would need more information and would like to review the surveys.

Mr. Oakes asked for the ramifications if the Board waited two weeks to make a decision. Ms. Mullins stated that we would have to provide notice and lots of communication to our families.

Mr. Jackson wants to make sure the environment is conducive to learning at Hope Academy.

Mrs. Perkins moved to table the vote on the 2013-2014 Hope Academy Transition to Traditional Calendar as presented, seconded Ms. Graham.

Hearing no discussion, President Hodges called for a Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Buttz, Perkins, Graham, Jackson, Spannaus, Oakes, Hodges

Nay: None

Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Absent

No Action was taken on the Motion to approve the 2013-2014 Hope Academy Transition to Traditional Calendar as presented.

Supt.'s Report Director of Student Services Dr. Rochelle Clark presented a first reading Information only.
First Reading of on the following policies:

Board

Governance

Policies

- **Policies, Section 7 – Students**

- 7:30-Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer
- 7:30-Extracurricular Athletics

TOPIC _____ DISCUSSION _____ ACTION _____

Superintendent Davis noted that the procedure is to bring the policies for a first reading and discussion then bring them back at the next board meeting for a vote.

Mr. Buttz thanked Dr. Clark for bringing the information in a timely manner.

Board Discussion Items President Hodges noted that the Administration will send a more detailed description of each committee that is listed on the board agendas in the Week in Review this Friday. This description will give us a better understanding of each committee. Information only.

Ms. Graham asked about the Durfee parking lot. Director of Purchasing and Transportation stated that there have been concerns, they have been monitoring and the staff has been doing an excellent job with the buses.

Announcements The Board of Education sends condolences to the families of: Information only.

Katherine Lorraine “Kate” Taylor, who passed away Thursday, April 25, 2013. Mrs. Taylor is the grandmother of Steve Sanders, Information and Technology Technician for Decatur Public Schools.

Alice Pagel, who passed away Thursday, May 2, 2013. Mrs. Pagel is the mother of Robin Bruce, Junior Community Secretary at MacArthur High School.

Lawrence A. Coopriider, who passed away Friday, May 10, 2013. Mr. Coopriider is the brother of RCC Trustee David Coopriider, who is a former ROE Superintendent of Schools and former employee in Decatur Public Schools.

John Irwin, who passed away Saturday, May 11, 2013. Mr. Irwin is the father of Marcia Uchtorff, Executive Administrative Assistant in Human Resources for Decatur Public Schools.

Important Dates May Information only.

- 6 – 17 Advanced Placement Exams – High School Students
- 23 Retirement Tribute for District 61 Employees
 - Eisenhower High School Galleria
 - Reception: 5:45 - 6:30 PM
 - Program: 6:30 PM
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Eisenhower High School Exam Dates

- 21 Senior Semester Exams – B Day
- 22 Senior Semester Exams – A Day
- 23 Graduation Rehearsal – Civic Center at 10:00 AM
- 24 Senior Exam Make-Up Day

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	24 Freshman, Sophomore and Junior Exams – A Day	Information only.
	28 Freshman, Sophomore and Junior Exams – B Day	

MacArthur High School Exam Dates

- 21 Senior Semester Exams – B Day
- 22 Senior Semester Exams – A Day
- 23 Graduation Rehearsal – Civic Center at 8:00 AM
- 24 Freshman, Sophomore and Junior Exams – A Day
- 28 Freshman, Sophomore and Junior Exams – B Day
- 29 Make-Up Day for All Grade Level Exams
- 26 High School Graduation at the Decatur Civic Center
 - MHS at 2:00 PM
 - EHS at 6:00 PM
- 27 Memorial Day Holiday – No School and All District Offices are Closed!
- 28 Last Day of Student Attendance for Traditional District Calendar
- 29 Report Card Day for the Traditional District Calendar Students

- June**
- 7 Last Day of Student Attendance for Balanced Calendar – Hope Academy
 - 10 Report Card Day for the Balanced Calendar Students – Hope Academy

2013 DPS Summer School Sessions and Dates

Kindergarten Preparedness Program: Students Entering Kindergarten Fall 2013

- June 3 through July 12 (Monday – Friday), 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Location(s): Pershing

Camp Connections: Students Currently Enrolled in Grades K through 5th

- June 3 through July 12 (Monday – Friday), 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM
- Location(s): Baum, Enterprise, Franklin and Stevenson

SMASH Camp: Gifted and High Honor Students Currently Enrolled in Grades 6th through 8th

- June 3 through July 12 (Monday – Friday), 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM
- Location(s): Millikin University

SMASH Jr.: Gifted and High Honor Students Currently Enrolled in Grades 2nd through 5th

- June 3 through July 12 (Monday – Friday), 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM
- Location(s): Muffley Elementary School

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p>Camp Discovery: Students Currently Enrolled in Grades 6th through 8th Who Need Course Recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- June 3 through July 12 (Monday – Friday), 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM- Location(s): Eisenhower High School (former SDMS) and Thomas Jefferson	Information only.
	<p>High School Summer School: APEX</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- June 3 through July 3 (Monday – Thursday), 8:10 AM to 12:10 PM- Location(s): Eisenhower and MacArthur High Schools	
	<p>High School Internship Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- April 1 through May 24 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday), 3:15 PM to 4:45 PM- Location(s): Eisenhower High School (former SDMS)	
	<p>NO STUDENT ATTENDANCE ON JULY 4 & 5, 2013 FOR SUMMER SCHOOL!</p>	
	<p>***PLEASE NOTE: Brush College Elementary School will be holding an Open House this Sunday, May 19, 2013 from 2:00PM to 4:00 PM for the community to walk through the building prior to its closing. There will be a slide show of the school history and they will be digging up the time capsule. Past students and staff are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will also be served.</p>	
	<p><u>NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, May 28, 2013 in the 1st Floor Board of Education Room.</p>	
	<p>President Hodges noted that all Board Members will attend both graduations.</p>	
Adjournment	<p>Ms. Graham moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Perkins. All were in favor.</p>	<p>Board adjourned at 9:00 PM.</p>