

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

DATE/TIME: May 28, 2013

4:30 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, Susan Nicholas and others

President Hodges called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

| <u>TOPIC</u> | <u>DISCUSSION</u> | <u>ACTION</u> |
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| 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: Perkins, Graham, Hodges, Oakes, Jackson, Buttz, Spannaus Nay: None Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Absent</p> | <p>Board moved to Closed Executive Session at 4:30 PM.</p> |
| Return to Open Session | <p>President Hodges asked for a motion to return to Open Session. Ms. Graham moved, seconded by Mrs. Perkins. 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> | <p>Board returned to Open Session at 6:35 PM.</p> |
| Pledge of Allegiance | <p>President Hodges led the Pledge of Allegiance.</p> | |
| Approval of Agenda, May 28, 2013 | <p>Superintendent Davis recommended the Board approve the agenda for May 28, 2013, as presented. Mr. Spannaus moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by Mr. Jackson. All were in favor.</p> | <p>Agenda was approved as presented.</p> |

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION | ACTION |
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| Special Presentations and District Highlights | <p>The Board of Education and Superintendent Davis congratulated the Eisenhower and MacArthur High School graduating seniors from the Life Skills and Essential Skills Program! The following students were recognized at the graduation banquet held on May 17, 2013:</p> | Information only. |

Eisenhower High School: Keosha Phillips

MacArthur High School: Amber Coalan, Camera Jeffro, Travis Jones, Cassandra North

The Board of Education and Superintendent Davis congratulated the 3rd Annual Decatur Public Schools Art Fair Students!!! The 3rd Annual District Art Fair was held at the Madden Arts Center on April 26, 2013 for Elementary School students and May 3, 2013 for Middle and High School students. The students' art work was beautifully crafted with their own personal touch and style. A great big thank you to all of the District Art Faculty who worked to make this event a great success. The following Art Teachers and Students were a part of the successful event:

Merry Lanker, Art Teacher

Alex Mathis, Kindergarten student at Enterprise Elementary School

Olivia Tirey, 3rd grade student at Muffley Elementary School

Abigail Tate, 4th grade student at Muffley Elementary School

Zamarrion Jackson, 5th grade student at Durfee Technology Magnet School

Terri Ellis, Art Teacher

Coy Baxter, 7th grade student at Hope Academy Magnet School

Kyanae Toombs, 7th grade student at Hope Academy Magnet School

Casey Wilen, Art Teacher

Michael Holmberg, Sophomore at MacArthur High School

Sunshine Card, Senior at MacArthur High School

Hartley Marston, Senior at MacArthur High School

The Board of Education and Superintendent Davis congratulated the Stephen Decatur Middle School Running Reds 8th Grade Student Brady Moore! Brady has been to the State Track Meet in both his 7th and 8th grade years and during this time, he has excelled at throwing the shot put. Brady's hard work and diligence paid off in the 2013 season. Brady placed second in the State with a distance of 47 feet and 3 inches!!!

Assistant Principal Deloris Brown, Athletic Director Phillip Winecke and Coaches David Phillips and Laura Turner

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION | ACTION |
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| Special Presentations and District Highlights | <p>The Board of Education and Superintendent Davis congratulated the Hope Academy Hawks! The Hope Academy Hawks Track and Field Team made great gains this year and sent several athletes to the state finals in East Peoria on May 4 and 5, 2013.</p> | Information only. |

Byron Theus qualified for the 7th grade boys IESA state finals and ranked 13th in the 100 Meter Dash and 31st in the 200 Meter Dash. Byron exceeded these expectations by finishing 2nd place in the state of Illinois in both events by running a 12.85 second 100 Meter Dash and a 26.07 second 200 Meter Dash.

The 8th grade girl's 4 x 100 Meter Relay Team also qualified for the IESA state finals in East, Peoria. The 8th grade girls track team was made up of two 8th graders - Qaniyah Brown and Cycelya Williams and two 7th graders - Taylor Dixon and Shaniah Smith. This team was ranked 16th in the state and well exceeded their rank by finishing in 4th place in the state. Principal Cynthia Houston, Athletic Director Dustin Dees, and Coaches Caleb Ball and Brandon Jelks.

The Board of Education and Superintendent Davis congratulated the Johns Hill Eagles Track Team! The Johns Hill Eagles Track athletes competed in the IESA (Illinois Elementary School Association) State Track Meet held at Eastside Centre in East Peoria on May 10 and 11, 2013. The following athletes qualified in these events:

7th Graders:

- Iliyah Dawson – 4 x 100 Meter Relay
- Katina Martin – 100 Meter Dash, 200 Meter Dash, 4 x 100 Meter Relay, 4 x 400 Meter Relay
- Tina Martin – 100 Meter Dash, 200 Meter Dash, 4 x100 Meter Relay, 4 x 400 Meter Relay
- Chloe Scharfenberg – 400 Meter Run, 4 x100 Meter Relay, 4 x 400 Meter Relay
- Savannah Shaffer – 4 x100 Meter Relay (alternate), 4 x 400 Meter Relay

8th Graders:

- Rosie Ganley – 800 Meter Run
- George Walker – 400 Meter Run

Principal Rob Prange, Athletic Director Kim Schafer and Coaches Mike Landacre and Annette Ross

The five 7th grade girls scored 52 points as a team and narrowly beat out the second place team by 3 points to claim the **2013 7th Grade Girls IESA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP!!!**

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION | ACTION |
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| <p>Special Presentations and District Highlights</p> | <p>Tina Martin also set two records at the State meet. She broke the 100 and 200 Meter Dash records and now holds the All Time Record in the 100 Meter Dash!</p> <p>The Board of Education and Superintendent Davis recognized the Team Quest Pull-Out Program! Gifted Pull-Out is a program where all identified students in grades 3-8 are pulled out of their classrooms once a week for 30 minutes. Students participated in challenges that promoted critical thinking, engineering skills and team work. The district held a Team Quest competition where one team from each building participated in engineering, math, art and music challenges.</p> <p>Team Quest advanced to the Regional competition that was held at the Sangamon County Fairgrounds in January.</p> <p>The following students advanced to the Regional’s competition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dennis Lab School 3rd and 4th Graders: Caleb Sternberg, Emma Chavira, Ethan Gardner, and Miruna Eynon • French Academy 4th Graders: Caleb Henry, Jayden Mitchell, Kirra Long and Oliver Creighton • Thomas Jefferson Middle School 7th and 8th Graders: Bailey Tate, Chauncey Wulf and Hayleigh Lutz • Johns Hill Magnet School 7th Grader: Sarah Bunker • Garfield Montessori 5th and 6th Graders: Charlie Blackburn, Jacob Powell, Trinity Mata and Mikhaila Couch <p>Johns Hill Magnet School and Garfield Montessori advanced to the finals (after regional’s) which were held in Chester, Illinois at the end of May.</p> <p>The following students advanced to the Finals competition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johns Hill Magnet School 4th Graders: Delaney Kwasny-Black, Katie Forbes and Becca Allgeier • Garfield Montessori 5th and 6th Graders: Charlie Blackburn, Jacob Powell, Trinity Mata and Mikhaila Couch <p>The Board of Education and Superintendent Davis recognized the Scholars and Mentors Students. Scholars and Mentors is a program that involves juniors and seniors from each high school in a self-directed independent study, guided by District staff and community volunteers. This program is designed for students who want to pursue an in-depth study of a topic outside the traditional high school curriculum. Participants will visit area businesses to learn about the many career opportunities in our area. Research for the chosen topics is conducted both on and off campus. Bi-monthly contact with District staff ensures progress and development of their project. Presentations are given at the end of each semester.</p> | <p>Information only.</p> |

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION | ACTION |
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| Special Presentations and District Highlights | <p>On Friday May 17th, the students in the Scholars and Mentors program presented their projects. Students presented on a variety of topics including elementary education, engineering, finance, jazz music/professor and a host of careers in the medical profession. Students used Prezi, power point and hands on activities to inform their peers of what they had learned throughout the course of the semester.</p> <p>Scholars and Mentors Projects – Spring 2013 <u>Eisenhower High School:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allison Kerper: Medical Occupations – Orthopedic Surgery, Dermatology and Oncology • Alex Smith: Veterinary Medicine <p><u>MacArthur High School:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nathan Allyn: Criminal Justice/Psychology • Miranda Brown: Neuropsychology • Maggie Curlin: Pharmaceutical Sales • Sam Funk: Business/Finance • Quran Green: Elementary Education • Tamera Holmes: Early Childhood Education • Brian Jennings: Journalism • Benie Kalala: CNA/RNA • Brosnan McClendon: CRNA • Ashaneka Newberry: Veterinary Medicine • DaKwan Scruggs: Radiologist • Alicia Thompson: Marketing • Donald Thompson: Dentistry • Brett White: Professor/Music Major • Jacob White: Chemical engineering <p>There was a small reception in the 3rd floor conference room for the Team Quest Regional and Final Students and the Scholar and Mentor Students.</p> | Information only. |
| Public Participation | No one requested to speak. | 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: Regular/Closed, May 14, 2013 B. Financial Conditions Report C. Treasurer’s Report D. Bids: Harris Elementary School Circle Drive Project E. School Maintenance Grant Program Application | Motion carried. All Consent Items were approved as presented. |

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION | ACTION |
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| | <p>F. Health Life/Safety Amendments: Durfee Technology Magnet School and Johns Hill Magnet School</p> <p>G. Disposal Agreement</p> <p>H. Retirement June 2014: Superintendent Gloria J. Davis</p> | |
| | <p>Mrs. Perkins moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by Mr. Spannaus. Hearing no discussion, President Hodges called for a Roll Call Vote:</p> <p>Aye: Graham, Oakes, Buttz, Spannaus, Hodges, Jackson, Perkins</p> <p>Nay: None</p> <p>Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Absent</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>Motion carried. All personnel items were approved as presented.</p> |
| | <p>Mrs. Perkins moved to approve the recommendation seconded by Mr. Jackson. Hearing no discussion, President Hodges called for a Roll Call Vote:</p> <p>Aye: Perkins, Graham, Hodges, Oakes, Jackson, Buttz, Spannaus</p> <p>Nay: None</p> <p>Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Absent</p> | |
| Administrative Appointment Assistant Director for MPSPED | <p>Superintendent Davis recommended the Board approve the appointment of Josiane Jacobs for the position of Assistant Director for Macon-Piatt Special Education at a base salary of \$85,941.00, Level 16, Step 13, with an effective date of July 1, 2013.</p> | <p>Motion carried. Josiane Jacobs was appointed as the Assistant Director for MPSPED as presented.</p> |
| | <p>Mrs. Perkins moved to approve the recommendation seconded by Mr. Oakes. Hearing no discussion, President Hodges called for a Roll Call Vote:</p> <p>Aye: Buttz, Jackson, Hodges, Perkins, Spannaus, Oakes, Graham</p> <p>Nay: None</p> <p>Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Absent</p> | |
| Administrative Appointment Special Education Administrator | <p>Superintendent Davis recommended the Board approve the appointment of Margaret Young for the position of Special Education Administrator for Macon-Piatt Special Education at a base salary of \$59,091.00, Level 12, Step 6, with an effective date of July 29, 2013.</p> | <p>Motion carried. Margaret Young was appointed as a Special Ed Administrator as presented.</p> |
| | <p>Mrs. Perkins moved to approve the recommendation seconded by Mr. Jackson. Hearing no discussion, President Hodges called for a Roll Call Vote:</p> <p>Aye: Oakes, Spannaus, Graham, Perkins, Jackson, Buttz, Hodges</p> <p>Nay: None</p> <p>Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Absent</p> | |

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION | ACTION |
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| <p>Board Governance Policies 2nd Reading</p> | <p>Superintendent Davis recommended the Board approve the Second Reading of the following Board Governance Policies as presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy, Section 7-Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 7:30-Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer • Policy, Section 7-Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 7:300-Extracurricular Athletics | <p>Motion carried. The Second Reading of the Board Governance Policies were approved as presented.</p> |
| | <p>Mrs. Perkins moved to approve the recommendation seconded by Mr. Spannaus. 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</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>Mrs. Perkins moved to approve the recommendation, seconded Mr. Oakes.</p> <p>President of Unicom Arc Rod Wright presented a summary power point on the online survey results regarding Hope Academy transitioning to the traditional calendar.</p> <p>Mr. Spannaus asked if the survey defined the term distinctive program. Mr. Wright replied it was not defined.</p> <p>Mr. Spannaus noted that there was strong support for the year-round calendar. Mr. Wright replied that child care versus academic program was considered as it relates to the year-round calendar.</p> <p>Mrs. Perkins asked if year-round calendar was stated in the question.</p> <p>Mr. Wright read the question and it was as follows: How much of a factor were the following reasons for sending your child to Hope Academy? Was each a very important factor, somewhat important, not at all important? The statement was it offers a year-round academic calendar.</p> <p>Mr. Wright read the questions regarding distinctive program as follows: It offers a distinctive program including art, Spanish language instruction and music, therefore, the question did not mention year-round calendar in that question.</p> | <p>Motion carried. The 2013-2014 Hope Academy Transition to Traditional Calendar was approved as presented.</p> |

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| <p>2013-2014 Hope Academy Transition to Traditional Calendar</p> | <p>Mrs. Perkins stated that there were two statements in the survey. One was specific for the distinctive program and the other was specific to the year-round calendar.</p> <p>Mr. Jackson asked if there were any questions referring to discipline (likes or dislikes). Mr. Wright replied no.</p> <p>Mr. Wright reiterated that the Brush College parents are unhappy with losing their school and, they do not want the year-round calendar.</p> <p>Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator Jenny Mullins presented a power point on this item.</p> <p>Mr. Oakes asked if there was any documentation showing that the balanced calendar is more academically successful than the traditional calendar. Ms. Mullins replied there is no research.</p> <p>Ms. Graham asked does Hope Academy always participate in the lottery and did they participate last spring. Ms. Mullins replied yes.</p> <p>Ms. Graham asked since Hope Academy is now a district school zone and based on where you live, you are required to attend. Does this remove them from lottery? Ms. Mullins replied it does not and that Hope Academy has always had an attendance boundary in addition to having a lottery.</p> <p>Ms. Graham asked how the Brush College families get assigned in the districted portion since they were not there previously. Deputy Superintendent Mann replied that the lottery was before the board voted on the closing of Brush College Elementary.</p> <p>Ms. Graham stated that two-thirds of the Brush students were assigned to attend Hope Academy next year and would not have lived inside of the Wabash Crossing area. Deputy Superintendent Mann replied that Hope Academy is a magnet school that is open to any student in the District and typically do not have a waiting list. There are approximately sixty-eight families that live in the new boundary that was formally Brush College, which was split into Hope Academy and Harris Elementary. Director of Purchasing and Transportation Randy Dotson stated that the neighborhoods were kept together as it relates to those attending Hope and those attending Harris.</p> <p>Superintendent Davis noted that there were not a lot of students from Wabash Crossing currently at Hope Academy.</p> | |

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION | ACTION |
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| <p>2013-2014 Hope Academy Transition to Traditional Calendar</p> | <p>Mrs. Perkins asked if the Board votes to stay at the traditional (balanced) calendar, the SOAR program will be reinstated at an annual savings of \$88,000. Ms. Mullins replied that if the Board votes to remain with the balanced calendar, there will be a recommendation to reinstate the SOAR program.</p> <p>Mr. Buttz asked as it relates to the bus savings, what are the savings due to the closing of Brush College. Mr. Dotson replied as they looked at the families, there will not be a lot of savings due to the number of Brush College buses. The savings for traditional calendar was based on the 44% return from the State, which we may not receive next year.</p> <p>Mr. Buttz asked what was the expense for busing at Brush College. Mr. Dotson replied at four buses at \$30,000 per bus = \$120,000.</p> <p>Mr. Buttz asked if the traditional or balanced calendar better served STEM or STEAM thematic concept. Ms. Mullins replied since we do not have one in the District, the sites that were visited were all traditional calendars.</p> <p>Mr. Spannaus asked if the student enrollment, whether balanced or traditional, was a savings factor. Ms. Mullins replied that it would not be a savings because the building is utilized as if it was full capacity.</p> <p>Mr. Oakes do we anticipate losing students due to babysitter addresses if we maintained a balanced calendar due to the responses of the Brush families. Mr. Dotson replied no and if they were to move into Hope and they are a mile and a half away, transportation would be provided.</p> <p>President Hodges stated that this is a hard decision and many factors have been considered (academics, financial, parents). What can we do that is best for our students and the District? If we stay with the balanced calendar, the SOAR program has to be strong.</p> <p>Ms. Graham stated that she was opposed to moving Hope Academy to a traditional calendar. The staff and parents at Hope were interested in the balanced calendar. The Brush parents do not want their students at Hope or Harris and the questions were whether to stay in DPS or move elsewhere. The calendar change should have been discussed in February or March.</p> <p>President Hodges reiterated that the vote is to move Hope Academy to a traditional calendar.</p> | |

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION | ACTION |
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| | <p>Hearing no discussion, President Hodges called for a Roll Call Vote: Aye: Oakes, Spannaus, Jackson, Perkins Nay: Hodges, Graham, Buttz Roll Call Vote: 4 Aye, 3 Nay, 0 Absent</p> | |
| | <p>Mr. Spannaus stated that this was a difficult decision. President Hodges stated that he was fine with the vote because he was 50/50 either way.</p> | |
| | <p>Superintendent Davis recommended the Board approve the Standing Committees and Assignments as presented.</p> | |
| Board Standing Committees | <p>Superintendent Davis noted that if there were three names, someone has to be an alternate and the Board Members will decide.</p> <p>Mrs. Perkins moved to approve the recommendation, seconded Mr. Oakes. 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 Board Standing Committees were approved as presented.</p> |
| Supt.'s Report SYAC - End of the Year | <p>The Superintendent's Youth Advisory Council (SYAC) presented an end of the year report and the logo recommendations for Eisenhower and MacArthur High Schools.</p> | <p>Information only.</p> |
| Installation of a Memorial at MHS | <p>Director of Buildings and Grounds Mike Sotiroff and Community and Booster Club Member Duane McCoskey presented a recommendation to place a memorial inside the future Grand Street entrance of MacArthur High School to honor Lieutenant Loren D. Hagen.</p> | <p>Information only.</p> |
| High School Grading Policy | <p>Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator Jenny Mullins presented a High School Grading Policy report.</p> | <p>Information only.</p> |
| Encore Task Force Reports | <p>Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator Jenny Mullins presented reports on the Encore Task Forces, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English as a Second Language • Foreign Language • Art • Music • Industrial Technology • Family Consumer Science • Business | <p>Information only.</p> |

| <u>TOPIC</u> | <u>DISCUSSION</u> | <u>ACTION</u> |
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| Board Discussion Items | None at this time. | Information only. |

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| Announcements | The Board of Education sends condolences to the families of: | Information only. |
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Metta Elizabeth Quinlan, who passed away Wednesday, May 15, 2013. Mrs. Quinlan was a former Enterprise Elementary School Teacher from Decatur Public Schools.

Marilyn M. Long, who passed away Thursday, May 16, 2013. Mrs. Long retired as a Registered (School) Nurse (RN) from Decatur Public Schools. Mrs. Long is the mother of Karen Wade, Special Education Teacher at Thomas Jefferson and the mother-in-law of Larry Wade, retired Teacher from Decatur Public Schools.

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| Important Dates | May 28 Last Day of Student Attendance for Traditional District Calendar | Information only. |
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| | 29 Report Card Day for the Traditional District Calendar Students | |
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| June | 7 Last Day of Student Attendance for Balanced Calendar – Hope Academy | |
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| | 10 Report Card Day for the Balanced Calendar Students – Hope Academy | |
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NEXT MEETING

A Special Closed Session meeting has been called for Thursday, May 30, 2013 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM for the specific purpose to discuss the employment, compensation and performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. No action will be taken at this special meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, June 11, 2013 in the 1st Floor Board of Education Room.

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| Adjournment | Mr. Buttz moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Jackson. All were in favor. | Board adjourned at 9:35 PM. |
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