

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

DATE/TIME: June 25, 2013

5:00 PM

LOCATION: Keil Administration Building
3rd Floor Conference Room

PRESENT: Brian K. Hodges, President
Dan Oakes
TJ Jackson Jr.

Sherri Perkins, Vice President
Fred Spannaus
Alida Graham

ABSENT: BA Buttz

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

President Hodges called the meeting to order at 5:00 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: Perkins, Spannaus, Hodges, Graham, Oakes, Jackson Nay: None Absent: Buttz Roll Call Vote: 6 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Board moved to Closed Executive Session at 5:00 PM.</p>
Return to Open Session	<p>President Hodges motioned to return to Open Session, 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 6:25 PM.</p>
Pledge of Allegiance	<p>President Hodges led the Pledge of Allegiance.</p>	
Approval of Agenda, June 25, 2013	<p>Superintendent Davis recommended the Board approve the agenda for June 25, 2013, as presented. Mr. Oakes moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by Mr. Jackson. All were in favor.</p>	<p>Agenda was approved as presented.</p>

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Special Presentations and District Highlights	None at this time.	Information only.
Public Participation	<p>President Hodges noted that Public Participation is for anyone who would like to share information regarding the District and the limit is 3 minutes.</p> <p>Tim Wilderman (parent and community member) spoke to the Board Members regarding an online petition that he ran for 30 days and received 52 signatures from parents and students, who voiced their opinion on uniforms.</p> <p>Beckah Novak (1st grade teacher at Dennis Lab School) spoke to the Board Members regarding the Middle School Expansion Program recommendation at Dennis.</p> <p>Kim Kramer (Dennis Lab School parent) spoke to the Board Members regarding the Middle School Expansion Program recommendation at Dennis.</p> <p>Paula Busboom (President of Decatur Federation of Teaching Assistants-DFTA Local 4324) spoke to the Board Members regarding the administrative budget cut that was proposed to the previous Board of Education in the excess of \$100,000.00 as the new budget year begins July 1, 2013.</p> <p>Suzanne Kreps (President of Decatur Education Association-DEA) spoke to the Board Members regarding a heat policy because several school buildings do not have air conditioning. Mrs. Kreps also noted that she likes the uniforms and in the first two to three weeks, the tone must be set.</p> <p>Molly Ballinger (Dennis Lab School parent) spoke to the Board Members regarding the Middle School Expansion Program recommendation at Dennis and the project-based learning.</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: Closed, June 10, 2013 and Regular/Closed, June 11, 2013 B. Financial Conditions Report C. Treasurer’s Report D. Decatur Memorial Hospital Sports Medicine Services Contract E. Student Pictures for 2013-2014 School Year F. District Safety Hazards Annual Approval G. Ten-Year Health/Life Safety Report H. Strategic Learning Initiatives (SLI) Contract I. Renewal of Study Island Software License 	Motion carried. All Consent Items were approved as presented.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	J. Renewal of Apex Learning Software License	
	K. Integrity Technology Solutions Agreement: Licensing and Billing	
	L. Integrity Technology Solutions Maintenance Agreement: Disaster Recover/Backup and Email Archiving	
	M. Parlant Technologies (Parentlink) Agreement	
	N. Dell Computer Service Agreement: Backup and Email Archiving Server Hardware	
	O. IBM Annual Renewal Agreement	
	P. SunGard Public Sector (Pentamation) Renewal: Cognos Maintenance and Phone Support with Sungard	
	Q. SunGard Public Sector (Pentamation) Renewal: Finance and eSchool Plus Hardware and Software Support	

Mr. Oakes moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by Mrs. Perkins.

President Hodges asked Director of Information and Technology Jim Altig to explain Parentlink to the listening audience. Mr. Altig stated that Parentlink is the student, parent and community notification that also includes a District App for Smart phones, which allows parent, students and community members to access grades, attendance, discipline and view community and sporting events within the District. Also at the beginning of the school year, each student and parent will have a user name and password in order to access the Parentlink. The Parentlink is huge for Community Engagement.

Mr. Altig noted that Sungard is our annual maintenance and support for our student and financial information systems. The eSchool student system was updated last year and the financial information system will be updated this year.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Buttz

Roll Call Vote: 6 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Absent

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>Mrs. Perkins moved to approve the recommendation seconded by Mr. Jackson.</p>	<p>Motion carried. All personnel items were approved as presented.</p>
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Ms. Graham asked has the District been able to hire some of the staff that was cut for budgetary reasons in March 2013.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p>Superintendent Davis replied the District has been able to bring back some individuals that were rified and/or displaced, per the contractual process and hired new individuals based on the program needs and the interview team at the school. Director of Human Resources Jonnie Clark replied that we re-hire based on the individual’s certification that is required for that particular position.</p> <p>Hearing no discussion, President Hodges called for a Roll Call Vote: Aye: Spannaus, Perkins, Jackson, Graham, Oakes, Hodges Nay: None Absent: Buttz Roll Call Vote: 6 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Absent</p>	
<p>Furniture Bid for Eisenhower High School</p>	<p>Superintendent Davis recommended the Board approve the Furniture Bid for Eisenhower High School as presented.</p> <p>Mrs. Perkins moved to approve the recommendation seconded by Mr. Jackson.</p> <p>Director of Buildings and Grounds Mike Sotiroff and BLDD Registered Interior Designer Katie Jones presented a power point on the bid package furnishings for the high school projects.</p> <p>Mr. Spannaus stated that the finance committee has reviewed the bids and is in support of this recommendation.</p> <p>President Hodges stated that he wanted the entire Board to see the furnishings and asked what will be in the average size classrooms? Ms. Jones replied mobile tables (on wheels with flip tops) and chairs, a teacher’s station with an instructor’s stool and open shelves. Mr. Sotiroff stated that after visiting other state-of-the-art high schools in other states, the District needed to provide maximum flexibility for classroom space.</p> <p>Mr. Jackson asked about the old furniture. Mr. Sotiroff replied a lot has previously been auctioned off, some, that can be used, will be stored and Director of Purchasing and Transportation is setting up a second auction in July.</p> <p>Ms. Graham asked how would the classrooms at EHS impact staff as it relates to instruction. Superintendent Davis replied that teachers may have to relocate to another classroom, depending on the particular subject and the space will be feasible for that to take place. The shelving will allow them to store supplies as well as a cabinetry that can be locked in the classroom and in the teachers’ lounge. Teachers will not have to move every hour. And, the concept is to have a college atmosphere.</p> <p>President Hodges asked if the bids were less than the budgeted amount.</p>	<p>Motion carried. Furniture Bid for EHS was approved as presented.</p>

TOPIC DISCUSSION ACTION

Mr. Sotiroff replied that there was a million and a half set aside for furnishings and the bids came in at \$934,000. There will also be other items to purchase.

Mr. Sotiroff stated that EHS and MHS furnishings will be the same with different colors for the lounge.

President Hodges asked for the Board of Education to tour Eisenhower High School in the near future.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Buttz

Roll Call Vote: 6 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Absent

Middle School Additions of 7th and 8th Grades at Dennis Lab School

Superintendent Davis recommended the Board approve the Middle School Additions at Dennis Laboratory Schools as presented, which includes an expansion of the middle school program for the next three school years as follows:

- 2013/2014 School Year – addition of 1 Section of 7th Grade
- 2014/2015 School Year – additions of 1 Section of 7th Grade and 1 Section of 8th Grade
- 2015/2016 School Year – addition of 1 Section of 8th Grade

Motion carried. The Middle School Additions at Dennis Lab School for the next three school years were approved as presented.

Mrs. Perkins moved to approve the recommendation seconded by Mr. Oakes.

Dennis Lab School Principal Matt Andrews and 6th grade teacher Keith Creighton presented a power point on the middle school expansion.

Mr. Jackson stated that he visited Dennis Lab School and was impressed with the enthusiasm from the teachers and the students.

Ms. Graham stated that she has always supported the K-8 structure and the model. Ms. Graham stated it was past practice for this type of change to come before the Board of Education for approval because of the financial impact. The District cut over 7 million dollars in staff and positions in March 2013 and most were from the middle and high schools. Ms. Graham stated she is very concerned with the impact towards our students due to the cuts and, want to make sure the District is not spending monies in areas that should go to other students who are suffering.

TOPIC _____ DISCUSSION _____ ACTION _____

What is the formula for adding or subtracting teachers because the Dennis proposal was specifying a certain number of teachers without a guarantee that the school has the number of students to justify the addition(s)?

Superintendent Davis replied that we look at enrollment across the District and adjust staffing, as needed. Deputy Superintendent Mann replied that the staff formula is in our board policy and, Principal Andrews was not adding staff for next year in advance. Deputy Mann will inform Principal Andrews of the number of teachers he can hire based on the number of students returning and schools do not get staff allotment until after registration, which is generally in February. The concern may be that Dennis Lab School has and is continuing to bring in families to the west-side of town. Dennis Lab School is a neighborhood project and maintains the diversity.

Superintendent Davis noted that Dennis is a neighborhood concept and if you do not live in the boundary, you cannot attend.

Mrs. Perkins noted that she supports and thanked the community and parents.

Mr. Spannaus noted that this is an easy vote and sends a message to the community that we expect and reward success.

Mr. Oakes noted that he supports and we must look at the huge benefit.

President Hodges noted that the issue was policy and procedure and the Board wanted to look at the financial side as it relates to staffing. Millikin University, Dennis Lab School and the neighborhood have been working well together.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: Buttz

Roll Call Vote: 6 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Absent

**Supt.'s Report
Superintendent
Search Firms
Ray and
Associates**

Gary Ray and Associates introduced themselves and presented information on their Superintendent Search Firm.

Information only.

Mr. Jackson stated that the Board of Education is interested in community involvement and would like an open forum where community members could talk to the candidates. Ray and Associations replied that previously, there was an open forum that involved community members and business leaders. And, they will make recommendations when it comes down to the final candidates, but it is up to the Board of Education to determine how they would like to proceed. There will also be discussions with different groups that will be presented to the BOE in a document form for their information.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p>Mrs. Perkins asked if the BOE was kept aware every step of the process and would there be a central contact person. Ray and Associates replied yes and the contact person will be constantly updated on the series of events during this process.</p> <p>Mrs. Perkins stated that they are looking at an aggressive timeline (due to the retirement of Superintendent Davis in June 2014) and is it feasible. Ray and Associates replied yes and there is an advantage because you know of the retirement. However, you want to make sure you involve those that need to be involved. Once the timeline and the stakeholders are established, they can recruit aggressively.</p> <p>Mrs. Perkins asked if the pool of candidates would be a diverse. Ray and Associates replied yes and they would have a diverse team as well.</p> <p>President Hodges stated that they want the public to be involved in the early process as it relates to their expectations and the final candidates to be a part of an open forum. Are these a part of the original cost or are they additional? Ray and Associates replied that everything is included.</p>	Information only.
Hazard, Young and Attea and Associates	<p>Bill Attea and Associates introduced themselves and presented information on their Superintendent Search Firm.</p> <p>Mrs. Perkins stated that the Board of Education has an aggressive timeline and asked if they were comfortable with it. Attea and Associates replied they will design the search according to the timeline and you are a team and should be here during the most critical components of the search (planning meeting, leadership profile report, development of the criteria, training on how to interview and review of candidates). They are flexible and will meet the BOE needs and calendar availability.</p> <p>President Hodges stated that the BOE is very interested in involving our community members, parents and staff at the beginning in order to understand what they want and, an open forum at the end when the search is down to two or three candidates. Attea and Associates replied that they will do it for the BOE, but would advise against it because your best candidates are not going to come before an audience if they are not sure they will be selected. The quality of superintendents that can be recruited with a confidential search is very significant. The disadvantages outweigh the advantages when it comes down to involving the community with the final candidates. They recommend a very intensive and in-depth engagement of the public and stakeholders upfront. The question to the public is would you rather have the best candidates or be engaged.</p>	Information only.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p>Mrs. Perkins asked if they could assure the BOE that there will be a diverse pool of candidates. Attea and Associates replied yes and guaranteed a diverse only slate of candidates unless the BOE restrict them on legal grounds.</p> <p>Mr. Spannaus asked about the BOE’s timeline for making a decision on a search firm. Mrs. Perkins replied the BOE does not have a timeline at this time and it will be discussed.</p>	Information only.
<p>Hope Academy Theme Update</p>	<p>Jenny Mullins, Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator, Cynthia Houston, Principal at Hope Academy and Kate Burke, Sarah Pritts and Jobeth Young, Teaching Staff at Hope Academy presented an update on the Hope Academy Theme.</p> <p>Mr. Spannaus asked is this proposal for approval. Superintendent Davis replied the presentation is the first step, which gives the Board Members the opportunity to ask questions and then, it will be brought back at a future meeting for approval.</p> <p>Mr. Spannaus asked if Hope is asking for a year to plan towards this vision or to start implementation in September 2013. Principal Houston replied that Hope is asking for the year to plan.</p> <p>Mr. Spannaus stated that the outcomes are global and will be challenging to be measurable in order to determine whether you are moving towards the goal as it relates to helping the students. Hope may be moving in too many directions at once and may have trouble on focusing on the one or two things that can be done well.</p> <p>President Hodges asked if Hope was talking about doing STEM or Project Based Learning. Superintendent Davis replied they are focusing on Project Based Learning and the components fit around this concept.</p> <p>Ms. Graham stated Hope has a strong staff and whatever they take on will be successful. They are bringing together a number of different models that will make it appropriate for Hope’s student population and look forward to the outcome.</p>	Information only.
<p>Transportation Update</p>	<p>Randy Dotson, Director of Purchasing and Transportation presented a transportation update.</p> <p>Randy noted that Norman Mars, from First Student will be moving on to Springfield School District. Mr. Mars thanked Decatur School District and offered his continued support.</p>	Information only.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
First Reading of Board Governance Policies	<p>Lisa Mann, Deputy Superintendent presented a first reading on the following policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy, Section 6-Instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 6:190-Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities ○ 6:300-Graduation Requirements <p>President Hodges stated that the graduation requirements will decrease for the next few years. Deputy Mann replied one per year.</p> <p>President Hodges asked if the eligibility would change for athletes due to the less number of classes. Deputy Mann replied that currently students would have to pass six out of eight classes, but since there are not eight classes next year they would have to pass five out of seven as it relates to eligibility.</p>	Information only.
Board Discussion Items	None at this time.	Information only.
Announcements	The Board of Education sends condolences to the families of:	
	<p>Helen Slaybaugh, who passed away Wednesday, May 29, 2013. Mrs. Slaybaugh is the mother of Cloyd Bolt, Maintenance Foreman and Floyd Bolt, Maintenance Employee in the Buildings and Grounds Department in Decatur Public Schools.</p> <p>Nettie Joyce Thomas Hedden, who passed away Thursday, June 13, 2013. Mrs. Hedden is the mother of Melinda J. Harrington, retired Executive Administrative Assistant I to the Superintendent and the Board of Education and the grandmother-in-law to Stephanie Harrington, Lead Secretary at South Shores Elementary School.</p> <p>Frank Larue, who passed away Wednesday, June 19, 2013. Mr. Larue is the brother-in-law to Dr. Rochelle Clark, Director of Student Services.</p>	
Important Dates	<p>July</p> <p>4 Independence Day Holiday – No Student Attendance for Summer School and District Offices are Closed</p> <p>5 No Student Attendance for Summer School and District Offices are Open</p>	Information only.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<u>NEXT MEETING</u> The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, July 16, 2013 in the 1 st Floor Board of Education Room.	Board adjourned at 9:20 PM.

****Please Note: There is only one Board Meeting in the month of July.**

Adjournment Ms. Graham moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Perkins.
All were in favor.

Sherri Perkins, Vice President

Melissa Bradford, Board Secretary