

MINUTES
CARTHAGE ESD #317
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 16, 2012

The regular meeting of the Carthage E.S.D. #317 Board of Education was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Board President Jamie Pettit. Roll Call: Mrs. Stoverink, present; Mrs. Huston, present; Mr. Pettit, present; Mr. Ufkes, absent; Mrs. Fritz, present; Mr. Menn, present; Mrs. Markley, present.

There were no additional agenda items or individuals wishing to address the board on stated agenda items.

Administrative Reports:

Mrs. Hardy shared that at the Superintendents' meeting in Springfield it was reported that districts may not receive four of their remaining general state aid payments. If Medicaid is not cut by \$2.7 billion dollars the state will be taking funding from schools.

The FY12 general state aid allotment is being prorated at 95% which, for our district, is \$60,000 less than was budgeted for the revenue. If we are cut back as projected, it will cost the district about \$200,000 next year. If the state cuts all the way to \$750 million, we could lose \$341,000.

Mrs. Hardy also reported that all taxing bodies are up in arms because Governor Quinn has proposed taking corporate personal property tax to pay its portion of the TRS increase. In our district, the impact could mean an additional \$73,000 reduction. Additionally for FY13, the hospital's outstanding tax exempt status request results in the district setting aside approximately \$84,000 in property tax revenue that would have to be paid back if a ruling is made in their favor.

It appears that transportation funding will be cut by half. The proposal is still out there to remove the mandate to transport students. Districts can start charging parents for transportation if they choose. The county superintendents are getting together next week for a brainstorming session.

Mrs. Hardy emphasized to the board that it is going to be very difficult to set our budget and EAV given the uncertainty of when ISBE will pass its budget.

Mrs. Hardy attended a TIF district meeting and has received three audits if anyone would like to see them. TIF monies received to date: FY09-\$3,197; FY10-\$869; FY11-\$836; FY12-\$2,627.

One item discussed during the meeting was the impact of businesses relocating within Carthage. Existing properties that are vacated will decrease in value because of sitting empty and the EAV that increases in the new location will not realize an increase in revenue for the district because of being located within the TIF district.

Diane discussed AIMSWeb scores. Kindergarten was 100% above target with nonsense word recognition. First grade scored in the 80%'s and second grade was in the mid 70%'s. 69 people attended the kindergarten rodeo this year. Numbers for next year for the primary school are 1st-45; 2nd-42; 3rd-48 and 4th-47. So far there are only two new students at the middle school.

Diane shared that in general our test scores are very solid. The 5th grade is a little low but still not bad and it is recognized that that is a transition year moving from the primary to the middle school. She is going to look at whether fluency at the primary school is actually an indicator for success. She is not concerned yet but would like to have better testing tools and realizes that testing is very costly.

We will have student recognition next month for state track and Scholastic Bowl.

Diane distributed CAC/exploratory class discussions since 2008. This will be an agenda item next month.

Question was raised again about the number of kindergarteners coming and when a decision will be made as far as the staff numbers. This item was discussed last month in executive session. It was decided that it's a little too early to predict because the numbers do tend to fluctuate. The mobility rate is rising rapidly as far as the number of families moving in and out.

It was moved by Mrs. Huston and seconded by Mrs. Markley to approve the consent agenda with amended minutes. Roll Call: Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs.

Huston, yes; Mr. Pettit, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mr. Menn, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Mrs. Stoverink pointed out that it was Mrs. Huston, not Mrs. Stoverink as stated in the minutes, that attended the meeting in Macomb.

Mrs. Hardy reviewed the fee schedule and pointed out that we should really look at the lunch program. As of 4/30/12 we are losing \$47,632 in this program. There is, however, \$9,536 outstanding from IWHS right now. We won't have a true picture of the situation until after the end of the year when all bills are in. She did point out also that the program expenses increased this year because an aide was moved into lunch supervision thus increasing expenses by \$14,000. Additionally, the IMRF contribution increased by \$5,500. This is due to the rate we were assessed, it is not something we can control. Food supplies only increased by \$2,500.

Mrs. Hardy explained that the new government guidelines will not impact us because we supplement our program with local monies.

Possible fee options were discussed and will be acted on next month. Included in that discussion was raising lunch by .25; raising breakfast to 1.00 and look at milk prices once bids have been received.

The Boy Scouts have requested to use the old band trailer on a camping trip to Saukenauk. The reason for their request is that new regulations prohibit them from parking any type of vehicle that runs on fuel back where the kids are camping. Diane stated that this would cause a scheduling conflict with computer recycling, but that it would be doable. It was the consensus of the board to leave the decision to the administrators, but it is to be made very clear that this is not to be a precedence setting situation.

The track resurfacing was last done in 2007. It was suggested that we get in touch with Warsaw to see if the schedule could be coordinated to have ours done at the same time they do to try to get a discount. There has also been discussion on resurfacing the parking lot. It was reiterated that, according to the lease agreement, IWHS will pay up to \$5,000 for parking lot maintenance without requiring additional prior approval.

There was a lease committee meeting last night comprised of Mrs. Hardy, Mrs. Schilson, R.D. Trout, Tracey Anders, Jamie Pettit and Robert Menn. The discussion covered topics such as:

1. The percentage IWHS is billed for the lunch program is running really close and will not require adjustment.
2. The shared band teacher shall be billed at 3/7 rather than 2/7 as is currently being done.
3. It was asked whether the lawn mower is a contractual position and answered that yes it is.
4. It was asked whether we would be interested in going in on a snow blade if IWHS were to purchase one. The consensus was to continue as is being done.
5. Also discussed was the work order process and IWHS is now going to start doing work orders also. The need for permission to do any alterations to the buildings was also discussed. Mrs. Hardy pointed out that she received two requests from them today. The first request was made by the Class of 2012 as they would like to put a sign in the grass next to the principal's office that says "Welcome to Illini West from the Class of 2012". It was pointed out that that is the main artery for the district's utilities. No digging is to take place prior to calling Julie. The second request was to have new motors put in four exhaust fans with an estimated cost of \$860. It was requested that we split the cost 50/50 but Mrs. Hardy is opposed to that because that amount is not in the lease agreement anywhere. It was the consensus of the board to proceed with the project so long as our cost does not exceed 34.5%.

Diane reviewed the proposed handbook changes and changes to the Crisis Management Plan. Approval of these changes will be action items next month.

It was moved by Mrs. Stoverink and seconded by Mr. Menn to approve the School Code Mandate Waiver application as presented. Roll Call: Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes; Mr. Pettit, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mr. Menn, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

It was moved by Mrs. Markley and seconded by Mrs. Stoverink to approve the purchase of the Glencoe Common Core math series and the Triumphs intervention materials as presented. Roll Call: Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes; Mr. Pettit, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mr. Menn, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

It was noted that the aforementioned purchase shall include all upgrades for seven years.

It was moved by Mr. Pettit and seconded by Mrs. Markley to waive the \$100 annual fee for the WOW Park for this year. Roll Call: Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes; Mr. Pettit, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mr. Menn, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

It was moved by Mrs. Stoverink and seconded by Mr. Menn to enter into executive session at 9:37 for the purpose of discussing personnel. Roll Call: Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes; Mr. Pettit, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mr. Menn, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

It was moved by Mr. Menn and seconded by Mrs. Fritz to approve the resignation of Karen Wear effective at the end of the 2012-2013 school year with many thanks for her 37 years of service. Roll Call: Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes; Mr. Pettit, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mr. Menn, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

It was moved by Mrs. Markley and seconded by Mrs. Stoverink to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 p.m. Roll Call: Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes; Mr. Pettit, no; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mr. Menn, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes. Motion carried 5 – 1.