

MINUTES
CARTHAGE E.S.D. #317 BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 18, 2012

The regular meeting of the Carthage E.S.D. #317 Board of Education was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Board President Jamie Pettit. Roll Call: Mr. Pettit, present; Mr. Ufkes, present; Mrs. Fritz, present; Mr. Menn, absent; Mrs. Markley, present; Mrs. Stoverink, present; Mrs. Huston, present.

It was moved by Mrs. Markley and seconded by Mrs. Huston to add agenda item VII/ B. Kindergarten Class Sizes and agenda item IV, A. Personnel. Roll Call: Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

It was moved by Mr. Pettit and seconded by Mr. Ufkes to amend the previous motion to add agenda item IV, Executive Session, subheading A. Personnel. Roll Call: Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Recognition of individuals wishing to speak on stated agenda items: Cara Sanderson and Allison Desotel were present to speak on item VII, B.

Admin reports:

Mrs. Hardy reported that the state dropped 1.5 general state aid payments which resulted in a \$41,000 loss for last year. They have told us to budget at 89% for this year. The West Central Illinois Special Ed Co-op has advised that tuition will be going up 25%. Last year we spent \$384,000. This year we are looking at a deficit of \$347,000 in the education fund. Mrs. Hardy also clarified that the article in the Quincy paper showing area schools' fund balances was not correct as it showed us having \$4,000,000 when we are actually at \$1,900,000. At the currently projected rate, the district will be totally broke in four years. This is the worst budget that she has had to bring to the board.

It was pointed out that a few years ago when the state didn't make all of its payments they were made up. That is not going to happen this time as the number of payments has been decreased from 24 to 22.

Diane reported that the new PowerSchool is up and running and she got the new schools built today. It is wonderful and smoking fast.

It was moved by Mrs. Stoverink and seconded by Mrs. Fritz to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll Call: Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

It was the consensus of the board to meet at 6:30 p.m. on August 15th at the primary doors for a building walk-through.

In discussing Kindergarten numbers for the fall, it was explained that we have been at 54 students since kindergarten roundup so that number seems to be where we're sticking but sometimes there have been last minute additions/subtractions. There is no law that states a maximum number of students per classroom. 27 students, however, is a tough number as far as division. It was advised that the administration have a recommended plan for the board next month.

Cara Sanderson addressed the board regarding Kindergarten class sizes. She expressed concern that a kindergarten class size of 27 could compromise the quality of education. She asked if there is a specific number that the board would need to reach in order to add another section and was advised that there is no hard and fast number and the administration is keeping an eye on the number but will not have concrete information until after registration.

Alison DeSotel was also present to speak on Kindergarten class sizes. One of her questions was whether or not the teachers have any say in the class size to which it was responded that teachers may express their concerns thru the chain of command beginning with the principal who then shares with the superintendent as it is ultimately the decision of the board. Other items of concern were whether or not the classroom is going to be big enough and the proper use of a one on one aide.

Mrs. Hardy replied that the rooms have a capacity of 46 according to the architect drawings however it is obvious that is not feasible. Diane said the tables are in place so the parents could stop by and look at the placement if they wish. The extra tables have been put in place and it is not as tight as she had thought.

It was emphasized that we are concerned with students success, not just test scores.

It was moved by Mrs. Markley and seconded by Mrs. Stoverink to approve the addition of the boys' and girls' cross country to the list of IESA approved activities. Roll Call: Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Tom White shared that IW's Coach Hughs is willing to help out as cross country coach at no cost to the elementary district as it does benefit his program.

It was asked that they keep us informed of the students progress and or results.

It was moved by Mr. Ufkes and seconded by Mr. Pettit to accept the low escalator milk bid from prairie farms for the 2012-2013 school year. Roll Call: Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

It was moved by Mrs. Stoverink and seconded by Mr. Ufkes to approve the second reading and adoption of policies 2:25-AP2; 2:250-E2; 3:40; 4:45-AP; 4:60; 4:60-AP1; 4:120; 5:280; 6:120-AP1,E1; 6:180; 6:235;6:290; 7:50; 7:50-AP; 7:140-AP; 7:220; 7:220-AP; 7:340; 7:340-AP1; 7:340-AP1, 7:340-AP2; 7:340-AP2, E1 as presented with noted changes. Roll Call: Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

It was moved by Mrs. Fritz and seconded by Mrs. Markley to approve the deletion of Policy 6:120-E. Roll Call: Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

It was moved by Mrs. Huston and seconded by Mrs. Stoverink to approve Policy 6:235 as presented. Roll Call: Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

The board discussed the WL Miller proposal for parking lot renovations. It was suggested that we look into doing the work in phases so as not to incur a large expense all at one time. Mrs. Hardy informed the board that we have been doing some patching on our own with hot patch.

It was moved by Mr. Pettit and seconded by Mrs. Markley to approve high school parking lot repairs with a total project cost up to \$10,000 pending negotiations with the vendor. Roll Call: Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Mrs. Hardy has discussed this with Mrs. Schilson and she is to discuss with her board tonight also.

It was moved by Mr. Ufkes and seconded by Mrs. Markley to approve the preliminary budget as presented. Roll Call: Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Mrs. Stoverink asked why the budgeted supply accounts were increased when they were not fully expended last year. Mrs. Hardy explained that there were costs charged to the wrong account and Diane said that last year we were a pilot school for the math program so there will be costs associated with that that we did not have last year.

COMMUNICATION

The board discussed various types of communication whether with the public or interdistrict and reviewed handouts of current publication including the district brochure and the strategic plan as well as e-mails that Mrs. Hardy has sent to the staff. It was requested that the staff e-mails be included in the board's Friday note.

Also reviewed were board policies pertaining to communication including 8:20; 8:20-ap1; 820e; 2140e as reminders of the guidelines that are in place.

In discussing press releases and news information, it was suggested that items be reviewed by the administration prior to release.

A district-wide newsletter, the Blue Review, used to be done but it became difficult for staff to come up with things to write about. Currently, however, a weekly newsletter is done at each building.

While paper media is not necessarily the most current way of communicating, it probably shouldn't be eliminated because of the older community members who may not be comfortable with electronic media.

It was also pointed out the Diane's volunteer recognition that has been done the last two years is an excellent mode of communication.

It was moved by Mrs. Stoverink and seconded by Mr. Ufkes to approve the resignation of Ross Voss at the end of the 2011-2012 school year. Roll Call: Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

It was moved by Mrs. Markley and seconded by Mrs. Fritz to approve the employment of Cindy McKinney as middle school math teacher at the certified contract rate for the 2012-2013 school year. Roll Call: Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

It was moved by Mrs. Markley and seconded by Mrs. Stoverink to adjourn the meeting at 10:42 p.m. Roll Call: Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.