

MINUTES  
CARTHAGE E.S.D. #317 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 20, 2012

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

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

Jack Edholm, a freshman at Illini West High School, would like to construct an obstacle course on the primary school playground as an Eagle Scout project. He provided a handout as well as a verbal presentation on his ideas for the project. His father, Scott, was also in attendance and would be overseeing the project. We will take action on this next month. It was also noted that approval by the Eagle Scout council would also be required before the project could begin.

Mrs. Fritz entered the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Russ Rumbold, an auditor from Gorenz and Associates, provided a report to the board on this year's audit. Mr. Rumbold stated that the district is in good shape to face the uncertain futures that educators are dealing with. We do have strong fund balances, a stable if not increasing EAV and no debt margin which are all good things. General State Aid continues to be a concern, but one that every district is facing.

It was asked if the IMRF/Social Security fund could be used for the anticipated increase in TRS contribution. Mr. Rumbold replied that, as it stands, no, that fund cannot be used for that purpose. If the legislature should add a levy for that purpose it may be that it would be added to that fund. He did go on to state that the hospital refund should be shown as a reserve fund expense. We could design a report that would show reserve fund balance(s) but those figures would only show up on the balance sheet.

Administrative Reports:

Mrs. Hardy shared that we received a distribution from the TIF district of approximately \$112 bringing the total for the year to approximately \$3,500. We have received notification that ISBE will be doing an off-site audit of several of our grant files. Luckily she just learned at the superintendents' conference how to prepare for Title I. She received an e-mail from the Red Cross looking for facilities to use as temporary shelters in Carthage since they no longer have an office here. They are also contacting other entities such as the hospital in search of a location. Any facility selected would be subject to assessment by the Red Cross. It was the consensus of our board to allow Mrs. Hardy to contact them and let them know that it is okay to go ahead and assess our buildings.

Diane reported that there are a lot of things going on in the community. She is meeting with Ada Bair next week to discuss ways the hospital and school could work together on various projects. Preliminarily they have touched on physicals, eye exams, etc. that it is sometimes difficult for parents to get done. They are also looking at some type of program that will assist in providing food to low income families over the weekend.

She also shared that the primary students collected 2,108 items for the food pantry. This is the first year they have done this and had a great turnout.

The speech students performed well at state. We will recognize them at next month's meeting. Math night was very successful with 42 students in attendance. There were stations set up with different examples of Everyday Math. Holly Whitaker, a former McGraw-Hill employee, presented at math night

and provided a lot of good information to the parents thanks to her familiarity with the Everyday Math program.

Diane attended the Illinois Principals' Association conference and came back with two or three good ideas. While at the conference she attended sessions on community issues as well as health issues and thought the conference very worthwhile.

It was moved by Mrs. Stoverink and seconded by Mr. Menn to approve the consent agenda with noted correction to the minutes. Roll Call: Mr. Menn, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes; Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

The board discussed the proposed Eagle Scout project that was presented earlier in the evening. Diane shared that the student has met with her and the PTO and also discussed logistics with Mr. Edris in working out the details of the project.

Mrs. Hardy and the board members recently attended the Joint Annual Conference in Chicago and each reported on the breakout sessions that he/she attended. Some of the topics included pensions and TRS, board leadership, education reform act including evaluations and bargaining impact, special education law, legislative changes, rural issues, school maintenance, behaviors at athletic events, bullying and technology.

The possibility of having a joint board meeting with other local districts and inviting our senators and representatives was also discussed.

The board reviewed the CAC (Curriculum Advisory Council) minutes from the September and November meetings. Since October's meeting was a working meeting there were no minutes. Diane expounded upon the committee's activities and handed out a list of various ideas for exploratories that have been discussed. Additionally she shared a handout on how to track core standards and plans to work on that during the next SIP day. She reported that Chris Talley appears to be about ready to go with the FIRST Lego team as he has had some donations from the Foundation as well as community members. He is hoping to start this spring.

Diane shared and reviewed several charts evidencing the results of last years' ISAT tests.

It was moved by Mr. Ufkes and seconded by Mr. Menn to approve the FY12 audit as presented. Roll Call: Mr. Menn, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes; Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

It was moved by Mrs. Markley and seconded by Mrs. Stoverink to authorize the FIRST LEGO League Team and its sponsor to utilize Carthage Elementary District #317 facilities, as available, after school hours to conduct business so long as it is at no cost to the district. Roll Call: Mr. Menn, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes; Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

It was moved by Mr. Menn and seconded by Mrs. Markley to enter into executive session at 10:45 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel. Roll Call: Mr. Menn, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes; Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

It was moved by Mrs. Fritz and seconded by Mrs. Markley to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 p.m. Roll Call: Mr. Menn, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes; Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.