

MINUTES  
CARTHAGE E.S.D. #317 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 20, 2013

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, present; Mrs. Markley, present; Mrs. Stoverink, present; Mrs. Huston, present.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Vicki Hardy, board recording secretary Shannon Twaddle, Principal Diane Pepple, Mayor Jim Nightingale, Illini West referendum committee member Amy Graham, school board candidate Ryan Blue and several members of the Carthage 7<sup>th</sup> grade Blueboys that placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at state.

It was moved by Mrs. Stoverink and seconded by Mrs. Markley to add discussion item VIII, E Support of Illini West April 9, 2013 referendum. Roll Call: Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mr. Menn, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Members of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys' basketball team were presented certificates of recognition for placing third at the state tournament. Although Coach Hickenbottom was unable to be at the meeting, he sent his congratulations to the boys stating he is very proud of the boys and the way they represent the community.

Ms. Hendricks and three of her sixth graders provided a power point presentation of one of the Egyptian days projects.

Mayor Jim Nightingale addressed the board concerning the April 9<sup>th</sup> bond issue stressing that he feels it is imperative to have the support of the Elementary district. He is concerned that the window of opportunity will close if the referendum doesn't pass this time and this is the best opportunity for area students in a number of years.

Amy Graham, member of the Illini West referendum steering committee shared that there are community meetings scheduled in all three communities beginning with Carthage on March 7<sup>th</sup>. A meeting will also be held at LaHarpe on March 18 and Dallas City on March 20. The architects will be in attendance at these meetings. Emergency services personnel from Carthage will also be in attendance at the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mrs. Graham feels it is imperative to publicly state that Illini West and Carthage Elementary are in unity in this endeavor.

The referendum committee has redirected its mission to focus on the safety of students and staff and responsible action on behalf of the taxpayers. They will be doing a telephone campaign prior to the election.

#### Administrative Reports:

Mrs. Hardy shared that new legislation regarding school reorganization has been enacted that will allow non-contiguous reorganization for districts within a 30 mile radius when meeting all other criteria. ISBE has agreed to review an unfunded mandate pertaining to special education class sizes. She stated that the Special Education Alliance is in agreement with the review which could prove beneficial to us as well as most other districts.

There is a boiler repair scheduled for Monday. They will be repairing a mudleg and a leaking valve as well as a leak in one of the primary classrooms.

Diane shared an ISAT cut score page which was better than she had expected. She explained that a change to the cut score basically means a change to what is a passing score. She also pointed out that the revised scores are more inline with high school PSAE results therefore benefitting high schools by forecasting their incoming students' scores. The tests will be more difficult also because they have added some questions using core standards. In the fall of 2014 students will begin being tested twice per year and some questions will require a response either orally or in writing. As the state moves toward all electronic testing and grading of tests, Diane is looking at moving keyboarding down to first grade.

She shared that the Tech Plan is close to finished. It should be done next week so she may have it at the next board meeting.

Diane also shared that the Illini West tech person is very good to work with.

In order to keep up with technology, it is her opinion that we may have to incorporate more pda-type devices in the classroom. Such a change would also save money on labs.

It appears more and more that she will need to unlock YouTube as there are so many educational programs that utilize it.

Diane also provided handouts showing the current upload and download speeds of our internet with the increase in bandwidth provided by Adams Networks. The handouts indicate that connection speeds are still varying depending on the website that's being used, usually running between 16 and 21. It was pointed out the number of users on the system when the speed tests is being done also affects the speed. This upgrade, provided by Adams without even being requested, will be necessary for the change in testing.

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

#### Discussion

Diane reported on the activities of the Curriculum Advisory Committee. Last month's meeting went well as they had great consensus on the exploratories concept. It was originally discussed to only have exploratories on Friday but they were unable to get such a schedule worked out so they decided on the last 30 minutes of each day and the teachers really liked that. Scheduling that way also allows more teachers to be available to teach an exploratory class. Next year everyone will again be taking four exploratories so we can expand our course offerings. They would like to bring back some old ones that were popular as well as look at some new ones. The committee would like for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to be able to choose their exploratory courses so the students can truly explore what they are interested in.

Some of the new exploratory topics being considered include service leadership, creative writing, personal finance, career exploration, digital citizenship, Spanish, speech, life skills/healthy living, get up and move, study skills, emergency planning, keyboarding and ag. The committee has matched up topics with the teacher believed to be best suited to teach them.

They would like input from the board so they may get this started next year. It was the consensus of the board to allow the committee to proceed as explained.

The robotics program is going very well as there are approximately 30 students attending. At this point it is not intended to make this a part of the curriculum however.

Diane shared that bullying would probably be covered during homeroom in this proposed schedule.

The board reviewed the summary of the lease committee meeting between our district and Illini West H.S.D. #307. Mrs. Hardy handed out photo books which showed the areas of concern as expressed by high school staff.

It was requested that the board be updated monthly on the progress of the outstanding jobs.

It was mentioned that it may become necessary to meet more than once per year. Some are in favor of meeting as frequently as every other month.

The Western Division Spring Dinner meeting is being held on March 5<sup>th</sup> at West Prairie High School. Anyone interested in attending please let Shannon know by Friday.

The board discussed its stance on the Illini West referendum. This item will be on next month's agenda as a possible action item.

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

It was moved by Mrs. Fritz and seconded by Mrs. Markley to offer Diane Pepple a new contract as presented from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016 with a salary to be determined annually for each of the contract years and goals to be established by June 30, 2013. Roll Call: Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mr. Menn, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

It was moved by Mrs. Markley and seconded by Mrs. Fritz to approve the base salary of \$66,916 for Principal Diane Pepple for FY14. Roll Call: Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mr. Menn, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

It was moved by Mr. Menn and seconded by Mrs. Markley to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 p.m. Roll Call: Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Ufkes, yes; Mrs. Fritz, yes; Mr. Menn, yes; Mrs. Markley, yes; Mrs. Stoverink, yes; Mrs. Huston, yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.