

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Millburn C.C. School District 24

REGULAR MEETING
Dec. 15, 2008

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Kenneth Dewitt
Stacy Freeman
Thomas Heinrich
Shawn Lahr
Therese Schmidt
Chris Stream

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

James Menzer, Superintendent
Elizabeth Keefe, Special Services Director
Cheryl Kucera, Curriculum Director
Joanne Rathunde, Technology Director
Jake Jorgenson, Principal
Jason Lind, Principal

TREASURER

Roger Manderscheid

VISITORS

Kim Dodd
Priscilla Kreamer
Amy Langille

ACCOUNTANT

Gary White

BOARD CLERK

Dorothy Pazanin

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Millburn C.C. School District 24, Lake County, Illinois, held at Millburn Central School, was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Kenneth Dewitt. Roll call was dispensed with because it had been taken prior to the start of the meeting with the following Board Members in attendance: Kenneth Dewitt, Stacy Freeman, Thomas Heinrich, Shawn Lahr, Therese Schmidt and Chris Stream. Robert Buehler was absent. Principal Jake Jorgenson entered the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -- A motion was made by Chris Stream and seconded by Shawn Lahr to approve the Minutes of the Public Hearing for Levy of Nov. 24, 2008. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: Robert Buehler. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Stacy Freeman and seconded by Shawn Lahr to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Nov. 24, 2008. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: Robert Buehler. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT -- Roger Manderscheid spoke to the Board regarding the general economic situation as it relates to issuance of Tax Anticipation Warrants. He chronicled economic events of 2008, referring to a meltdown in the commercial paper market, an unprecedented high interest rate for municipal bonds, the home mortgage crisis, and a steep stock market decline.

Because of this series of events, investors are primarily looking for safety, and borrowers going to the municipal bond market are having a difficult time getting funding, he said. As a result, M & I Bank in Milwaukee, the institution that issued TAWs to the district last year, said that it had no buyers for a new warrant issue. Mr. Manderscheid said that he has found potential buyers, but there has been no firm commitment. He will report to the administration and the Board as soon as the commitment is finalized.

He cautioned the Board to look ahead to next year. He said the Board may not be able to continue the trend of increasing the amount of warrants each year. The Board will need to make some tough decisions and keep looking for ways to curtail expenses.

At the end of November, the district had \$4 million on hand. By February, however, there will be a need for more revenue. A motion was made by Shawn Lahr and seconded by Therese Schmidt to approve the Treasurer's Report. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Stacy Freeman, Chris Stream, Kenneth Dewitt, Thomas Heinrich, Shawn Lahr and Therese Schmidt. Nays: none. Absent: Robert Buehler. The motion passed.

NOVEMBER BILLS -- A motion was made by Shawn Lahr and seconded by Chris Stream to approve payment of the November bills. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Chris Stream, Kenneth Dewitt, Thomas Heinrich, Shawn Lahr, Therese Schmidt and Stacy Freeman. Nays: none. Absent: Robert Buehler. The motion passed.

EXPENDITURES

12/31/2008

EDUCATION

BILLS PAYABLE	\$214,789.69
PAYROLL	\$716,573.70
MICS	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$931,363.39

TRANSPORTATION

BILLS PAYABLE	\$17,926.44
PAYROLL	\$71,611.97
TOTAL	\$89,538.41

SITE & CONSTRUCTION

BILLS PAYABLE	\$0.00
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BUILDING

BILLS PAYABLE	\$61,968.44
PAYROLL	\$41,838.37
TOTAL	\$103,806.81

IMRF

BILLS PAYABLE	\$0.00
PAYROLL	\$41,213.39
TOTAL	\$41,213.39

BONDS&INTEREST

BILLS PAYABLE	\$0.00
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TORT

PAYROLL	\$11,905.82
BILLS PAYABLE	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$11,905.82

FUNDS TOTAL	\$1,177,827.82
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ACTIVITY FUNDS -- Jason Lind said November was another busy month for field trips. He deposited a check for about \$17,000 into the Millburn Central Activity Fund, which was the money collected at registration for yearbook sales. That money will be held until bills for the yearbook arrive during the second half of the school year. He explained that the "errant deposit" notation referred to a transaction in which an incorrect deposit slip was used. He mentioned it during last month's report, and the correction is noted this month. A motion was made by Therese Schmidt and seconded by Thomas Heinrich to approve the Activity Funds for Millburn Central and Millburn West. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Kenneth Dewitt, Thomas Heinrich, Shawn Lahr, Therese Schmidt, Stacy Freeman and Chris Stream. Nays: none. Absent: Robert Buehler. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT -- Priscilla Kreamer asked if the Board had set dates for interviewing superintendent candidates. Kenneth Dewitt responded that initial interviews with the Board were planned for mid-January. An opportunity for the community to meet the candidates should occur by the end of January or beginning of February. At that time there will be a rating sheet available for community input.

Amy Langille asked if the rating sheet would give a value to particular traits and concerns, rather than be a general checklist. Board Members responded that the specific rating sheet that would be distributed to the community was not yet available. However, the criteria for what the Board is looking for in its new superintendent has already been established.

Ms. Langille said she is interested in seeing the criteria, and asked about the selection process and how the Board will assess leadership skills. She said she wishes the Board would communicate more with parents and the public regarding this topic. Board Members reviewed steps that had already been taken, and talked about the upcoming interview procedures.

Kim Dodd said she had heard from a neighbor that the school district was considering hiring an outside company for busing. Kenneth Dewitt said that over the years there have been conversations about the pros and cons of the district operating its own bus service. He said the district currently owns its own buses, and all the drivers are district employees. He said it is generally agreed that this system gives the district the most control, and that there are no plans to change this.

NEW BUSINESS

LETTER TO RESCIND RETIREMENT -- A motion was made by Therese Schmidt and seconded by Stacy Freeman to approve the letter from Comptroller (Accountant) Gary White to Rescind his Retirement. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: Robert Buehler. The motion passed.

It was noted that Roger Manderscheid and Gary White exited the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

SALES TAX RESOLUTION -- A motion was made by Stacy Freeman and seconded by Chris Stream to approve the 1% Sales Tax Resolution. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Thomas Heinrich, Shawn Lahr, Therese Schmidt, Stacy Freeman, Chris Stream and Kenneth Dewitt. Nays: none. Absent: Robert Buehler. The motion passed.

PRINCIPAL CONTRACT -- A motion was made by Stacy Freeman and seconded by Chris Stream to approve a 3-year contract for **Jake Jorgenson**, Principal at Millburn West. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Shawn Lahr, Therese Schmidt, Stacy Freeman, Chris Stream, Kenneth Dewitt and Thomas Heinrich. Nays: none. Absent: Robert Buehler. The motion passed.

BUS BID -- Dr. James Menzer said two bids had been received for the purchase of a used bus. Chris Stream asked if the higher bid might be a better value. Dr. Menzer said he would get more information to compare the two bids. The Board agreed to table the issue.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT -- Dr. James Menzer said that Dawn Miller, the superintendent search consultant, was unable to attend the meeting because of an injury. However, she plans to attend the Committee Meeting on Jan. 5. The SEDOL superintendent and business manager also plan to attend the upcoming Committee Meeting.

Dr. Menzer said a group of administrators and board members from Warren, Woodland and Gurnee schools have been meeting to discuss ways the districts might work together in the areas of special education transportation and efficient use of building space.

Several winter storms have created the need for a lot of snow plowing. Different types of salt are being used depending on the conditions, in an effort to maintain supplies.

There is a PTO-sponsored assembly planned for the last day before winter break. Chorus concerts are scheduled this week. Wrestling practice has begun with matches starting in January.

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR'S REPORT -- Dr. Cheryl Kucera reported that the recent articulations with the three area high schools have focused on how to better prepare students for college. The high schools want to work with the grade schools in several areas, including preparing students to do well in high school, and placing incoming high school students into the appropriate level of classes. The schools also are interested in using some grade school test scores to help predict how well a student is prepared for college. The earlier predictions will help schools to intervene appropriately to help students succeed in high school and on college entrance tests.

Dr. Kucera also reported that ISAT materials have been ordered for the state-mandated testing scheduled in March.

TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR'S REPORT -- Joanne Rathunde said she has been working to meet upcoming state deadlines for reporting student data. She also is helping to prepare for ISAT tests and the testing of at-risk students.

SPECIAL SERVICE'S DIRECTOR'S REPORT -- Elizabeth Keefe said she is researching new software for the Special Education student data base. A web-based system would allow more than one person at a time to use the system. The current system is becoming outdated, and software updates are expensive.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS -- Jake Jorgenson said Millburn West boys basketball team won its conference championship at today's game. There also was a cheerleading exhibition, with eight teams participating. Upcoming activities include a band concert and assembly.

Jason Lind said several musical performances are scheduled this week at Millburn Central. The new athletic conference in which the school is participating this year extends its basketball season into January. Also, an article and picture in the Chicago Tribune featured Millburn Central PTO's "giving tree." The project is designed to allow teachers to create a wish list for their classrooms that parents can use when shopping for holiday gifts.

There being no further business, the Regular Board Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Kenneth Dewitt, President
Board of Education
Millburn C.C. School District 24

ATTEST:

Chris Stream, Secretary
Board of Education
Millburn C.C. School District 24

Date

BOARD of EDUCATION
Millburn C. C. School District #24

SPECIAL MEETING

January 5, 2009
Millburn West School Library

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Buehler
Chris Stream
Therese Schmidt
Stacy Freeman
Shawn Lahr
Tom Heinrich

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

James Menzer, Superintendent
Elizabeth Keefe, Director of Special Services
Gary White, Comptroller

VISITORS

Dawn Miller
Bill Delp
Steven Johns

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Millburn C. C. School District 24, Lake County, Illinois, held at Millburn West School was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call was dispensed with as it had been taken prior to the start of the meeting with the following Board Members present: Therese Schmidt, Robert Buehler, Chris Stream, Stacy Freeman, Shawn Lahr, Tom Heinrich. Absent: Ken Dewitt

A presentation of the construction plans for the Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL) was made by Dr. Bill Delp, SEDOL Superintendent and Mr. Steven Johns, SEDOL Chief Financial Officer. An overview of the costs for building and renovating was presented as follows: \$18.6M to construct a new building on acreage from Warren Township High School District; \$2M to renovate Laremont; \$4M for renovation to the Lake Forest High School campus.

Mrs. Elizabeth Keefe presented on the eSped program. This is a web-based student management program used by the Special Services Department. She outlined ways to cut costs in the department in order to make this purchase. One way would be to takeback students who are in special placements out of district.

An update on the Superintendent Search was given by Dawn Miller, IASB. The final six candidates credentials were passed on for review. Dates were set for interviews. There will also be opportunities by staff and parents to meet the final two candidates and have written input.

Dr. Menzer and Mr. White discussed finances and the steps that were being made in order to balance the budget.

Bus Bid - not approved.

eSped – tabled until a later date.

First Class (proposal for new email/calendar program) – not approved.

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned.

Chris Stream, Secretary
Board of Education
Millburn C. C. School District 24

ATTEST:

Bob Buehler, Vice President
Board of Education
Millburn C. C. School District 24

Date