

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 172
ADAMS COUNTY, ILLINOIS
HELD ON JULY 11, 2011**

Meeting Convened

The Board of Education of School District No. 172, Adams County, Illinois, met in special session on July 11, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Office, Room 214 located at 1416 Maine Street, Quincy, Illinois, in said school district.

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Daniels, who directed the secretary to call the roll. On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Daniels, Erwin, Krause, and Stone; and the following members were absent: Member Dickerson, Mays, and Niekamp. Whereupon the president declared that a quorum was present.

Questions and Comments

President Daniels opened the meeting to questions and comments to members of the Board, by members of the public and employees of the district, in compliance with state statutes.

Jeff Kerkhoff spoke to the Board about National Constitution Day which is September 17.

Jeann Morrison, District 8 Director-Illinois State PTA, invited Board members to join PTA. She stressed the importance of focusing on what PTA is all about. It is not just about raising funds. PTA's partner with parents, teachers, and community members to advocate for children in their schools and community.

Arrival of Member Dickerson

Member Dickerson arrived at 5:10 p.m. which was duly recorded by the Board Secretary.

Curriculum and Instruction

President Daniels said the focus of this meeting of the committee of the whole is to review issues of curriculum and instruction. Assistant Superintendent Trish Viniard presented information on the District's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and how Quincy compares to other districts. She explained how the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) minimum state standards to meet AYP have increased from 40% in 2003 to 85% for 2011. The target is 100% by 2014. All subgroups must meet or exceed the State's standards. The subgroups required by NCLB are: Race, Economically Disadvantaged, and Limited English Proficient students. Students can be included in more than one subgroup. The following conditions apply in making AYP in a given school year:

- At least 95 percent of students are tested for reading and mathematics, for all students and for all subgroups of 45 or more students.
- At least meet the minimum annual target for Meeting/Exceeding Standards for reading and mathematics for all groups and subgroups
- At least meet the minimum annual target for attendance rate for elementary and graduation rate for high school.

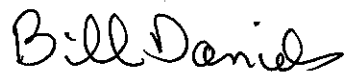
In a list of 25 comparable Large Unit District Schools, Quincy is not alone in failing to meet AYP. Not one school district on the list has met AYP. Mrs. Viniard pointed out there have been improvements but not enough. Board Member Krause stated that the practicality of getting 85% of children in every subgroup to meet these academic standards is unreal. He said that scores keep improving but the district must keep meeting ever higher minimum standards. A seven and a half percent improvement every year is impossible.

Mrs Viniard noted that the number of low-income students has increased from 39% to 53% in seven years. True poverty equals life deficits for children. Intervention is necessary. Yet the district has 52 fewer full-time equivalent teachers now than seven years ago. Half of those teachers who have been released were intervention specialists. She said we are not providing the help needed. Student Achievement was one of the goal areas identified in the Board's goal setting and planning process.

QHS Principal Danielle Edgar and Assistant Principal Jody Steinke provided some information on changes to the state standards. In an effort to meet the requirements of NCLB, the Illinois School Achievement Test (ISAT) will be phased out in favor of a common core curriculum test. The transition to the common core standards will take several years. The core curriculum has fewer, clearer, and higher standards. Students will be tested at least twice a year instead of one test at the end of the year. Information on Reading and Mathematics core curriculum standards was provided the Board members.

Adjournment

It was moved by Member Dickerson and seconded by Member Erwin that the special meeting adjourn. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Daniels, Dickerson, Erwin, Krause, and Stone; and the following members voted Nay: None; and the following members were absent: Member Mays and Niekamp. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried and the special meeting was duly adjourned.



Bill Daniels
President



Phyllis Stewart
Secretary