

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 172
ADAMS COUNTY, ILLINOIS
HELD ON NOVEMBER 30, 2007

Meeting Convened The Board of Education of School District No. 172, Adams County, Illinois, met in special session on November 30, 2007, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room in the Board of Education Building, 1444 Maine Street, Quincy, Illinois, in said school district.

Roll Call The meeting was called to order by President Dickerson, 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 Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Lovelace, Nichols and Niekamp; and the following member was absent: Member Mays. Whereupon the president declared that a quorum was present.

Questions and President Dickerson opened the meeting to questions and comments to Comments members of the Board, by members of the public and employees of the district, in compliance with state statutes. Mr. Gus Rieckhoff commented on increases to the tax levy.

Arrival of Member Member Mays arrived at 5:32 p.m. which was duly recorded by the Board Mays Secretary.

Tax Referendum President Dickerson said the proposition to increase the educational tax and Revised Risk rate and the Revised Safety and Risk Management Plan need to be considered in Management Plan tandem. Superintendent Leahy said that at the Board's direction, the Safety and Discussion Risk Management Plan was revised with the assistance of the administrative team, legal counsel, district staff and experts in the area of risk management. The review and revisions follow the court's decision in the 2nd district appellate court. A copy of that plan was provided to Board members. Attorney Gorman explained the process and how risk management experts were utilized.

Business Manager Rich Royalty presented information on the tax levy. He explained administration's recommendation for a .35 tax levy in the Tort fund for 2008-09 with a possible increase to .55 in 2009-10. A comparison of money allocated to the Tort Fund in 2006-2007 with recommendations for 2007-08 was distributed. Superintendent Leahy stated that he believes that an appropriate review and revision has been made to the Revised Safety and Risk Management Plan and recommends further consideration, discussion and approval of the plan with the amount to be determined by the Board.

Member Daniels explained that the \$3.85 tax rate in the operating fund over the last three years has allowed the district to keep its head above water. It is not strong but it has worked with the .80 rate included in Tort. He explained how when local property tax revenue increases through the Equalized Assessed Valuation, the State calculates our education fund rate at \$3.00 even though ours is \$1.84. This reduces our General State Aid. He said the recommendation is to ask the public to raise our education fund rate by .25. Copies of the Resolution to place the increase on the February 5, 2008 ballot were distributed to Board members and made available to members of the public.

Attorney Chris Hays, who worked on the Risk Management Plan, answered some questions on the four steps of the plan and how the amounts were calculated. Member Mays questioned how this plan conforms to “an extraordinary tax with limited purpose” as stated in the law. He said there has not been enough time to adequately review the plan. Member Nichols commented that in a comparison of similar school districts throughout the state, Quincy is near the bottom in terms of dollars spent per student. She said the community should be proud of what we do with the money we have but there is so much more we could do. Member Mays suggested asking voters to approve a .50 increase in the education tax rate with no dollars levied in Tort. Member Bemis said that it is difficult to make a decision on the tax rate and the Risk Management Plan this quickly. He also suggested asking the public for more of an increase in the education rate and stepping back from the Risk Management Plan. He said the district should back away from Tort and build up the education fund. President Dickerson reminded Board members that the Risk Management Plan was emailed to the Board at 2:18 p.m. on Thursday, November 29. The deadline to make a decision on the referendum is today which is beyond our control. To legitimize the Tort levy, the Board voted to have the plan reviewed and to follow the 2nd court district ruling. Experts were hired to come up with a legitimate plan. Percentages have been reviewed and applied with regards to staffing.

Member Nichols said the district has to work with the law as its given even though it is wishy washy in its definition. She said she does not want to risk all that money and have it fail. We need to do what is best for kids. Member Mays said that the Risk Management Plan is not about preventing loss but about insulating us if there is not enough money. Member Bemis said that the Quincy Public Schools belong to the “public” and we are obligated to ask the public what they want.

Resolution to
Submit Tax Rate
Increase to Voters

It was moved by Member Daniels and seconded by Member Nichols that the Board approve the RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AND REQUIRING THE SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSITION OF INCREASING AND ESTABLISHING THE EDUCATIONAL TAX RATE TO THE VOTERS OF QUINCY SCHOOL DISTRICT 172 AT THE GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE 5TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2008 (Doc. Reg. No. 2297). On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Daniels, Dickerson, Lovelace, and Nichols; and the following members voted Nay: Members Bemis, Mays, and Niekamp. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried

Adopt Risk
Management Plan

It was moved by Member Daniels and seconded by Member Lovelace to adopt the Revised Safety and Risk Management Plan (Doc. Reg. No. 2298). On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Daniels, Dickerson, Lovelace, and Nichols; and the following members voted Nay: Members Bemis, Mays, and Niekamp. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried

Superintendents’s
Recommended
Compensation
Allocations

It was moved by Member Lovelace and seconded by Member Daniels to approve the Superintendent’s 2007-2008 Report of Recommended Compensation Allocations Pursuant to the Tort Immunity Levy (Doc. Reg. No. 2298). On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Daniels, Dickerson, Lovelace, and Nichols; and the following members voted Nay: Members Bemis, Mays, and Niekamp. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried

Adjournment

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

Thomas Dickerson
President

Phyllis Stewart
Secretary