

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 172
ADAMS COUNTY, ILLINOIS
HELD ON JANUARY 7, 2010

Meeting Convened

The Board of Education of School District No. 172, Adams County, Illinois, met in special session on January 7, 2010, at 7:30 a.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 Vice-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, Krause, Lovelace, Mays, and Niekamp; and the following member was absent: None. Whereupon the vice-president declared that a quorum was present. Member Niekamp was present telephonically

Questions and
Comments

Vice-President Dickerson 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.

Teacher Union President Michelle Eberlin commented on the Race to the Top Program and said specific standards and assessments need to be aligned with curriculum. She said she has some concerns regarding the evaluation of teachers without these assessments in place. She has surveyed teachers regarding the Race to the Top Program and is reviewing responses. She has concerns whether Illinois will be able to fund the mandates required by this program.

Mr. Jeff Kerkhoff expressed concerns about high school business and higher level math courses. He said the Board should be cautious about committing to the Race to the Top Program. If it is not funded, the district may not be able to afford it later.

Memorandum of
Understanding -
Race to the Top

The Board heard some legal updates on the Race to the Top Program and recommendations from administrative staff. Superintendent Lemon and Assistant Superintendents Dickens and Viniard have reviewed the program and are recommending the district participate. Superintendent Lemon said the district is already doing many of the items required in the 10 tenets of the program and it is the direction the district wants to go. Assistant Superintendent Viniard said that the Lead the Way Grant has some parallels to the Race to the Top and could count as one of the two required programs of study in the Race to the Top Program. Superintendent Lemon said the Race to the Top Program would be trumped by any bargained union agreements and the district plans to work hand in hand with the union on this program. There are concerns about tying teacher evaluation to student performance which is part of the program. Member Krause spoke in favor of outcome based assessments which are used in the health care field and have improved care. Member Dickerson said he feels comfortable with the district participating since there is an opportunity to opt out after 90 days. Member Niekamp said he cannot support it because of the many problems the government has paying its bills now. He said there has not been much time to review information. Other Board members expressed support.

Michelle Eberlin commented that with regard to teacher evaluation and student performance, class size and professional development are critical factors. How to evaluate social workers, psychologists and other support staff is an important question. She said evaluation and assessment data would be used to drive instruction.

Scott Stone said that it is a good program even if Illinois does not receive the money.

Member Krause commented that in the national data base, the number of poor students versus good students will even out. Christie Dickens pointed out that the district decides what the assessments are. Superintendent Lemon said he does not want to do this for the money but because it's the right thing to do. He said he hopes the media can help share information and allay fears.

It was moved by Member Daniels and seconded by Member Bemis to authorize the Race to the Top Memorandum to be signed. (Doc. Reg. No. 2425). On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, Lovelace and Mays; and the following member voted Nay: Member Niekamp. Whereupon the vice-president declared the motion carried.

Exit of Member
Niekamp

Mr. Niekamp exited the telephonic connection at 8:10 a.m. which was duly recorded by the Board Secretary.

Executive Session

It was moved by Member Daniels and seconded by Member Krause that the Board suspend the rules and go into executive session to discuss collective bargaining. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, Lovelace, and Mays; and the following member voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: Member Niekamp. Whereupon the vice-president declared the motion carried.

Resumption of
Rules

It was moved by Member Daniels and seconded by Member Bemis to resume the conduct of the special meeting under rules. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Bemis, Daniels, Dickerson, Krause, Lovelace, and Mays; and the following member voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: Member Niekamp. Whereupon the vice-president declared the motion carried.

Adjournment

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



Thomas Dickerson
Vice-President



Phyllis Stewart
Secretary