

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
OF  
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 172  
ADAMS COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
HELD ON MAY 8, 2014 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Convened**

The Board of Education of School District No. 172, Adams County, Illinois, met in special session May 8, 2014 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 Erwin, 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 Ali, Erwin, Mays, Niekamp, and Stone; and the following members were absent: Members Bailey and McNay. Whereupon the president declared that a quorum was present.

**Questions and Comments**

President Erwin 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. There were none.

**Steering Committee Update**

Business Manager Joel Murphy presented an update on the facilities survey. There were 1,760 responses to the survey. Thirty nine percent preferred building some new elementary schools and repairing others. There were 23% who preferred all new schools while 22% chose no new schools be built. Forty percent of respondents preferred two transitions—K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. The Facilities Committee meets tonight to review the survey results and discuss next steps.

**Team Teaching**

QJHS Principal Dan Sparrow and assistant principals Kim Dinkheller and Rick Owsley, presented information to the Board on the team teaching structure proposed for junior high students for the 2014-15 school year. The school will be split into three small schools in one building. Each grade level will be on a separate floor. Each grade will be a school within a school model and create smaller learning environments for students. Students will be served by teams of teachers for their core subjects. Mr. Sparrow explained that research shows that this will have a positive effect on not only academic scores but also self-esteem and discipline numbers. Some benefits of the team philosophy were explained.

*It was moved by Member Mays and seconded by Member Stone to approve team teaching at Quincy Junior High School for the 2014-15 school year.* On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Ali, Erwin, Mays, Niekamp, and Stone; and the following member voted Nay: None; and the following members were absent: Members Bailey and McNay. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

**Graduation Honors – Summa Cum Laude/Magna Cum Laude System**

The Graduation Honors Task Force, which is part of the Curriculum Committee, recommended the Board adopt a Summa Cum Laude/Magna Cum Laude graduation honors system at the April Board meeting. They also recommended the following:

- 1) Increase the minimum GPA required for each award so that it truly reflects the students who are doing outstanding work.
- 2) Graduation speeches submitted and selected from Summa Cum Laude graduates.
- 3) The new practice would start with the 2014-15 freshman class.

The Board tabled any action last month pending further discussion. While most Board members favor the Summa Cum Laude/Magna Cum Laude system, some were not in favor of the recommendation for submitting graduation speeches. Some felt the speech should still be given by the student with the highest grade point average. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

### **Early Release Once Per Week for 2014-2015**

As part of the 2014-15 school calendar, the Calendar Committee has proposed a 30-minute early release for students in grades kindergarten through 12th once per week. During the current school year, junior high and senior high students have had early release each Wednesday allowing time for teacher collaboration, Professional Learning Community activities, and professional development. It is the recommendation of the committee that all staff will benefit from time for cross collaboration and professional development.

*It was moved by Member Ali and seconded by Member Stone to approve 30-minute early dismissal for students once per week for the 2014-15 school year for professional development activities.* On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Ali, Erwin, Mays, and Stone; and the following member voted Nay: Member Niekamp; the following members were absent: Members Bailey and McNay. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

### **Appointment Quincy Blue Devil Boys' Basketball Coach**

Superintendent Cobb presented the recommendation to appoint Andy Douglas as the Quincy Blue Devil Boys' Basketball coach as recommended to him by the search committee. Member Ali, co-chair of the committee, thanked those who served on the committee and said Andy is an excellent leader and very impressive. He relates well to young people and is an incredible role model.

*It was moved by Member Ali and seconded by Member Stone to appoint Andy Douglas as Quincy Blue Devil Basketball Coach effective for the 2014-15 season.* On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Ali, Erwin, Mays, and Stone; and the following member voted Nay: Member Niekamp; the following members were absent: Members Bailey and McNay. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried. Member Niekamp said he was not in favor of the process to hire the coach and had not met him. He felt like an executive session was needed prior to the vote. Member Niekamp did not like that the coach's appointment was already announced in the *Herald Whig* prior to the meeting.

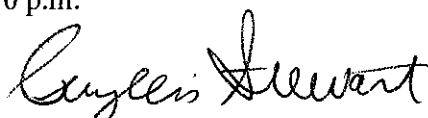
Member Ali announced that a press conference and reception would be held for Coach Andy Douglas on Friday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. in Blue Devil Gym at Baldwin School.

### **Adjourn**

*It was moved by Member Mays and seconded by Member Stone that the special meeting adjourn.* On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Ali, Bailey, Erwin, Mays, McNay, Niekamp and Stone; and the following member voted Nay: None. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried and the special meeting was duly adjourned at 6:10 p.m.



Stephanie Erwin  
President



Phyllis Stewart  
Secretary