

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 172
ADAMS COUNTY, ILLINOIS
HELD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2013 – 6:00 p.m.**

Meeting Convened

The Board of Education of School District No. 172, Adams County, Illinois, met in special session November 12, 2013 at 6:00 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, Bailey, Erwin, Mays, McNay, Niekamp, and Stone. The following members were absent: None. 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.

Mr. Jeff Kerkhoff asked why a special meeting was scheduled for discussion of the facilities instead of the regular meeting next week. President Erwin responded that more time was needed for discussion than would be afforded at the regular meeting which has a full agenda.

Mr. Bill Daniels, former Board member, told the Board that reorganization is not a new topic. Twice in the past 18 years the district has explored the merits of redistricting after surveys showed strong community support for K-5, 6-8, 9-12 configuration. In 1995, there were six K-3 schools. It was determined at that time that 10 buildings would be needed for a K-5 system. The Board determined one-time expenses and additional operating costs were unaffordable. Likewise, in 2004, the Board looked at redistricting but tabled the matter due to cost. In both of those years, the Board was facing hefty bond obligations that had to be paid off using property taxes. In 1995, the District had \$34 million in debt and about \$30 million in 2004. By June 30, 2017, the district's debt is expected to drop to about \$5 million. Mr. Daniels said the district would be able to carry out major improvements without causing much change in the district's tax rate. He said the Board has a great opportunity and cautioned them to do it right.

District Facilities Discussion

Business Manager Joel Murphy presented an update on the results of the community survey on district facilities. 77.7% of respondents rate district facilities "C" or below. Limiting the number of times a student moves to a new building during their K-12 school experience was rated at least somewhat important by 60.2% of the respondents. Regarding grade configuration, there is overwhelming support for K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Over half of the respondents feel it is at least somewhat important to preserve our older facilities and keep existing schools on their current sites in new or renovated buildings. Over 90% feel that it is at least somewhat important to have neighborhood schools.

Most Board members agree with the K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 configuration and it is supported by the community. Board members brainstormed many options to get there. Some would like to see all new elementary buildings and others would like to start with one new K-5 school. The current K-3 buildings will not hold K-5 students and QHS cannot accommodate the addition of ninth graders. Mr. Murphy said the cost to build one K-5 building is approximately \$13 million and would take approximately 18 months.

The cost would be similar to add on to QHS. Several options mentioned included: building one K-5 on the Monroe School property, housing two K-5's at Baldwin, or building more new buildings and high school addition if supported by the taxpayers. Part of Baldwin could be used for ninth grade or ninth and 10th graders. It was noted that Baldwin was rated as one of the district's worst buildings and may not be worth renovating and keeping. As with some of the other older buildings, it is not worth continuing to pump in money for repairs or costly renovations. Most of the Board members felt that Blue Devil Gym, the auditorium and south section of Baldwin should be retained, however. The capacity of new K-5 buildings was discussed. Mr. Murphy suggested 600 as the optimum number for K-5 students without increasing the need for additional administrator and clerical support.

President Erwin said that the process will continue with further discussion at next week's meeting. A special meeting and additional community forums may be held in early December and a final decision will need to be approved by the Board at the regular December meeting.

Executive Session

At 7:35 p.m., it was moved by Member McNay and seconded by Member Stone that the Board suspend the rules and go into executive session to discuss a) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the School District; b) collective negotiating matters between the School District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; h) the placement of individual students in special education programs and matters relating to individual students; and i) pending, probable or imminent litigation. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Ali, Bailey, Erwin, Mays, McNay, Niekamp, and Stone; and the following members voted Nay: None. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

Departure of Member Niekamp/Member Mays

Member Niekamp exited the meeting at 7:36 p.m. when the Board went into executive session which was duly recorded by the Board Secretary.

Member Mays exited the meeting at 8:00 p.m. during executive session which was duly recorded by the Board Secretary.

Resumption of Rules

At 8:35 a.m. it was moved by Member Stone and seconded by Member Ali to resume the conduct of the special meeting under rules. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Ali, Bailey Erwin, McNay, and Stone; the following members voted Nay: None; and the following members were absent: Members Mays and Niekamp. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

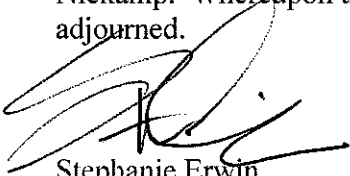
Special Education Settlement

It was moved by Member Ali and seconded by Member Stone to ratify the recommendation made in executive session to approve a due process settlement (Doc. Reg. No. 2694). On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Ali, Bailey, Erwin, McNay, and Stone; the following members voted Nay: None; and the following members were absent: Members Mays and Niekamp. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried.

Adjourn

It was moved by Member Ali 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, McNay, and Stone; and the following member voted Nay: None; and the following members were absent: Members Mays and

Niekamp. Whereupon the president declared the motion carried and the special meeting was duly adjourned.



Stephanie Erwin
President



Phyllis Stewart
Secretary