

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Palestine Community Unit School District No. 3 was held at Palestine Grade School at 205 S. Washington Street, Palestine, Illinois on Tuesday, February 20, 2007. The meeting was called to order by President Biggs at 6:30 p.m.

Acting Secretary Donald Wagoner called the roll with the following members answering present: Gary Buser, Jim Bush, James Ellis, Donald Wagoner and Corie Biggs. Shari Eckert, and Susan Hawkins were absent at roll call. Administration present was Mr. John Hasten, Mrs. Arlene Lindsay, and Mrs. Sheila Mikeworth. Others in attendance were: Josh Brown (Daily News), Denise Dart, Linda Ryan-Catt, Christina Provines, Kendra Butler, Karen Pifer, and Dessie Carr.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Jim Bush and seconded by Gary Buser. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Ellis, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Gary Buser made a motion, seconded by Jim Bush, to approve the consent agenda. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Ellis, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Shari Eckert arrived at 6:34 p.m. and assumed her secretary duties.

Recognition of Visitors:

Mrs. Ryan-Catt reported on the Freedom's Challenge writing essay sponsored by the V.F.W. at the high school level. Three students in English III classes were recently honored at banquets sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Essays reflecting the theme of "Freedom's Challenge" were written as part of a class assignment during October. Locally, three students were honored January 21st at the Robinson VFW. Katherine Mendenhall received 3rd place in the competition and was awarded a plaque and \$50. Calvin Wagoner was named 2nd and received a plaque and \$75. Christina Provines was honored with 1st place receiving a plaque and \$100.

Christina was also named first place winner in the district area and traveled to Villa Grove where she received a standing ovation, a plaque, pen, certificate, and \$125. She is one of 19 Illinois high school students who attended the state competition in Springfield on February 9-11. Christina received 4th at state level and received over \$1,000.

WTYE was recognized for helping students to record professionally their essays.

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Citizen Education Teacher of the Year for 2006-2007 by V.F.W. Post 4549 and its Auxiliaries was Mrs. Linda Ryan-Catt. She was recognized for her outstanding efforts in promoting patriotism, civic responsibility, and citizenship in the school curriculum. She also received the Principal's Pride award for February.

There were no committee reports.

PGS Building News: Mrs. Mikeworth, PGS Principal, reported on events at PGS including the beginning of 4th grade swimming at LTC, the "Reality Store" held for PGS/HGS 8th grades and sponsored by BPW, and Family Reading Night. Scholastic Bowl competition begins for the junior high. The junior high also had a Valentine's Dance.

She reported on SMARTBoard training held for the staff and the IPA Secretary Appreciation Dinner.

The following staff was recognized this month for their accomplishments: Mrs. Dessie Carr was recognized as an all-star aide in working as library aide, lunch aide, and DIBELS coordinator. Mrs. Denise Dart, 5th grade teacher and Yearbook Coordinator, was recognized as being proactive with ILS and being a teacher/learner in seeking ways for school improvement.

PHS Building News: Mrs. Lindsay's reported that Sophomore and Junior students were tested on December 12 and 13 using the ThinkLink program and will take the next test on February 21 and 22. This is the second of three tests.

Teachers have also begun test preparation and review in their classes for the PSAT/ACT. Tutoring sessions have been scheduled from February 12 through April 11. Mrs. Lindsay and Mrs. Ramsey have met with the Juniors to discuss test preparation and requirements.

Mr. Stuart Smith gave a presentation for the Indiana Association of Biology Teachers at the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers of Indiana Conference. He discussed a lab comparing homogeneous structures. The conference was held in Indianapolis on February 8th. As always, Mr. Smith represented our school well.

The county principals met with the county superintendents on February 8th in Robinson. This meeting was to inform the superintendents of the information they requested on class consolidation.

Stephanie England was named January Teacher of the Month for her dedication and hard work in drama and her inspiration to veteran teachers.

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Superintendent's report: Mr. Hasten gave an update on the district's AYP status. The high school met AYP under the new provision for safe harbor. The group improved 10% over the previous year. There is still more to do to meet standards outside of the provision. Staff members have been attending curriculum advisory meetings in Olney. The PHS SAC team has been recognized.

The grade school meets/exceeds over standards by over 30%. The sixth grade last year achieved 91% in math and 87% in reading.

It was moved by Donald Wagoner and seconded by Jim Bush to approve policy amendments for Polices 2:10, 2:20, 2.20-E, 2:50, 2:80, 2:110, 2:110-E (delete), 2:130, 2:140, 2:150, 2:200, 2:210, 2:220, 2:240, 2:250-E1, 2:250-E2, 2:250-E3, 3:10, 3:40, 3:60, 4:10, 4:40, 4:170, 4:170-AP2, 5:30, 5:30-AP2, 5:90, 5:250, 6:60, 6:60-AP, 6:235-E4, 6:250, 6:250-AP, 6:340, 7:270, 7:270-AP, 7:270-E, 8:30, and 8:60 (delete). Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Board had the first reading for policies #: 2:90 (delete), 2:120, 2:120-E, 2:250, 2:250-AP, 2:260, 4:90, 4:90-AP, 4:160, 4:160-AP, 5:40, 5:150, 5:160 (delete), 5:170, 5:170-AP1, 5:170-AP2, 5:170-AP3, 5:280, 5:300, 5:320, 5:330, 6:30, 6:70, 6:80, 6:130, 6:145-E (delete), 6:150, 6:170, 6:210, 6:220 (delete), 6:230, 6:280, 6:290, 6:330, 7:80, 7:90, 7:100, 7:190-AP3, 7:220, 7:310, 7:310-AP, 7:340, 8:40. The amendments are to be approved at the next meeting.

On a motion by Shari Eckert and seconded by James Ellis high school graduation was set for Friday, May 18, 2007. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Wagoner and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried

It was moved by Jim Bush and seconded by James Ellis to set grade school graduation for Thursday, May 24, 2007. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Wagoner and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried

A discussion on changes in the grade school graduation was held. Mrs. Mikeworth wants to place emphasis of cap and gown on high school graduation. The cost is also increasing. Students are required to be well dressed for the occasion and there will be a dress code if caps and gowns are not used. Parents will be given an opportunity for input. No decision was made at this time.

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Susan Hawkins arrived at 7:19 p.m.

The closed session minutes from July 2006 through December 2006 were reviewed for release. On a motion by James Ellis and seconded by Jim Bush the closed session minutes from July 2006 through November 2006 were released. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by James Ellis and seconded by Donald Wagoner to destroy the closed session recordings prior to June 2005. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Jim Bush made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:27 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of employment, appointment, resignation, evaluation of personnel and matters relating to an individual student. Gary Buser seconded the motion. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:09 p.m. on a motion by James Ellis and seconded by Shari Eckert. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

It was moved by Jim Bush and seconded by Donald Wagoner to regretfully accept the resignation of Kendra Butler effective the end of the 2006-2007 school year. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

James Ellis made a motion, seconded by Jim Bush, to employ the following as after school tutors at the high school for the 2006-2007SY: Mark Catt, Diane Woolverton, Stephanie England, Linda Ryan-Catt, Robin Rinard, and Michelle Smith. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Susan Hawkins and seconded by Shari Eckert to extend the Superintendent's contract for two years through June 30, 2011. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

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The Board continued their discussion of ancillary issues from the board retreat.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m. on a motion by Jim Bush and seconded by Shari Eckert. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Corie Biggs, President

Shari Eckert, Secretary