

Regular Board Meeting
February 21, 2006
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A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Palestine Community Unit School District No. 3 was held in the Grade School Cafeteria at 102 N. Main St., Palestine, Illinois on Tuesday, February 17, 2006. The meeting was called to order by President Corie Biggs at 6:30 p.m.

Secretary Shari Eckert called the roll with the following members answering present: Gary Buser, Jim Bush, Shari Eckert, James Ellis, Donald Wagoner, and Corie Biggs. Stephanie Guyer was absent. Administration present was Dr. Cal Owens, Superintendent; Grade School Principal, Sheila Mikeworth; and High School Principal, Arlene Atencio-Lindsay. Others present were as per the attached attendance sheet which hereby becomes a part of these minutes.

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

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

The Board of Education recognized January's Character Education winners by presenting them with a certificate of achievement. There were 80 Fairness coupons awarded during the month. Autumn Burkett introduced the winners: Lucas Tingley, Brehanna Nidey, Tarryn Monti, Heath Surrells, Foster Biggs, Samantha Ziegler, Cody Boyer, Tori Miller, Tyson Vennard, Brandon Meeks, Gage Daugherty, Mariah Butcher, Sarah Nethery, Kaycee Bates, and Michaela Wesley. They each received a T-shirt, a bookmark, and a pencil.

Mr. Ray Herman of LaMotte Creek Planning Committee addressed the Board. The area of concern is the high school trib. The key issue is to alleviate flooding at 1000N and SE corner of airport. A ditch was dug from ethanol plant to bridge at high school property for drainage. Part of 1000N dredged out in Summer 2005. New 24" underground tile in place at ethanol plant. Need to replace from west side of ethanol across Mitchell property to high school ditch. \$20.00 ft. installed for 1500 ft/\$30,000. 400-500 ft. or 1/3 on high school property. Ethanol will cover up to \$15,000. Committee hopes for grant from Mary Heath Foundation as there are no state or federal monies readily available. Need at least a letter of support from district to recognize the need for this project. C. Owens to draft letter of support for project on behalf of the Board.

High School Principal's Report

Arlene Lindsay, High School Principal, presented an update concerning the offering of dual credit thru LTC. Penny Quinn, Dean of Students at LTC, spoke to the staff and answered questions. Mrs. Fritchley will offer Word Processing I for dual credit during the 2006-2007 school year. Hopefully others will be interested in the future.

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She presented a draft of the high school 2006-2007 Handbook. The section placement was revised. The discipline committee asked for review of policy. Graduation requirements in handbook are listed by year of graduation. No additional classes in 2006-07, but for 2007-08 there will be general math and writing course additions.

The WYSE team placed first. We are sharing a bus with Hutsonville to sectionals on March 9. Seniors are requesting Sunday, May 21 for graduation.

Grade School Principal's Report

Mrs. Mikeworth reported on activities at PGS during the month. The 4th Grade students are writing ads thru Kreative Kids Partnership with the Daily News. The 2nd benchmark testing for DIBELS indicated progress. The 4th and 5th Grade students participated in a program sponsored by the Arts Council with the Paper Marbler.

The student council sold Heart-O-Grams for Valentine's Day. The classes of Ms. Waldrop (8th) and Mrs. Burkett (3rd) developed an Olympic Collaboration which included the January Character Ed winners carrying the Olympic Torch and an assembly to honor students for academic excellence. Random Acts of Kindness Week was February 13-17. There was an assembly to kick the week off and non-certified employees were surprised and honored during the week.

There were several school and community events during the month. Character Ed made over \$600 on their chili supper. Two Family Reading Nights were held emphasizing Character Education and Kindness and Valentine's Day. There were community meetings on grandparents as providers and a bio-terrorism meeting.

The building secretaries were honored at the IPA Secretaries' Banquet at Red Hill. School Improvement Day featured team teaching, the WELLNESS policy, and roundtables on ISAT, DIBELS, and WELLNESS. Our district also presented a program on Character Education at the State NCLB Conference in Chicago.

Superintendent's Report

Building update: There will be a water line modification. There will be a 6" line from street to building with a T for the sprinkler line which will not be metered. A change order will be needed; estimated \$3-4K. Discussed Huff's responsibility for some portion of this.

Don't believe we will be in building by June 1st. Gym will not be completed on schedule. Requested schedule for completion and recovery plan to get back on schedule. Construction manager to be present at each meeting.

The bids for the grade school renovation will be due the end of March. There is no bid package available for review yet, but it is to be completed by the end of February.

Suggest building tour for students and another board tour ahead of next meeting.

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The following proposed program changes were discussed: one additional FTE at grade school, suggest self-contained 5th grade, full time computer instructor, ability grouped 7th and 8th grade math, need daytime custodian at high school, aide for high school library coverage. There is also concern over high school lunch and over wellness compliance. Administration to provide suggested improvements to lunch program, considering both closed campus and open campus. C. Owens estimated \$100-110k of additions to budget with these changes.

Communications between Palestine and Hutsonville have improved with regard to coop. Discussion of resuming scholastic bowl at high school.

Will schedule Athletic Committee meeting next week. Recommendations for football uniforms to be addressed next month.

Illinois EPA - basement floor tile asbestos will require abatement.

Jim Bush made a motion, seconded by Donald Wagoner, to allow use of grade school gym by Bidy Ball. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Wagoner and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried

A motion was made by Shari Eckert and seconded by Jim Bush to award high school asbestos removal contract to KAM Services for base bid of \$39,985 and alternate bid of \$8,974. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by James Ellis and seconded by Gary Buser to set senior graduation for Sunday, May 21 at 5:00 p.m. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Wagoner and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Donald Wagoner made a motion, seconded by James Ellis, to set Thursday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m. for 8th grade graduation. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

On site service and wet sleeve design was discussed. In line 6 cylinder engine requirement was discussed. Suggested removing any brand name from specs. Will also specify white roof and modify to meet IL code. It was moved by Jim Bush and seconded by James Ellis to authorize use of specifications calling for "on-site" service capabilities and optional "wet sleeve" engine design as modified. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: Buser. Motion carried.

The FY07 calendar was adopted as presented on a motion by Shari Eckert and seconded by Jim Bush. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, and Biggs. Nay: Wagoner. Motion carried.

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The Board entered into Closed Session at 8:38 p.m. on a motion by Jim Bush and seconded by Shari Eckert for the purpose of discussion of employment, appointment, resignation, and evaluation of personnel. 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 Gary Buser to return to Open Session at 10:11 p.m. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Wagoner and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Shari Eckert and seconded by Jim Bush to approve a maternity leave for Autumn Burkett from March 30 thru the end of the year. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Arlene Atencio-Lindsay was employed as high school principal and special education coordinator for a three year term on a motion by Gary Buser and seconded by Jim Bush. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Jim Bush and seconded by Gary Buser to accept the resignation of Cal Owens effective June 30 at the completion of his three year contract. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Board thanked Dr. Owens for three years of service to the district.

Jim Bush made a motion seconded by Shari Eckert to employ Consulting and Resource Group to perform a full superintendent search for the district for an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m. on a motion by James Ellis and seconded by Donald Wagoner. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Wagoner and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Corie Biggs, President

Shari Eckert, Secretary