

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 Monday, November 17, 2008. The meeting was called to order by President Biggs at 6:30 p.m.

Secretary Eckert called the roll with the following members answering present: Gary Buser, Jim Bush, Shari Eckert, James Ellis, Susan Hawkins, and Corie Biggs. Donald Wagoner was absent. Administration present was John Hasten, Sheila Mikeworth, and Joe Sornberger. Also present were: Deb Hawkins, Josh Brown (RDN), Marilyn Fritchley, and Amy Wells.

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

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

Don Wagoner entered the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

PTO:

Mrs. Deb Hawkins, PTO representative, presented plans for the construction of a permanent shelter on the playground south of the grade school building. Their goal is to provide permanent seating at a later date. More details will be provided before the Board takes action on the request.

Policy Committee:

The policy committee presented a packet of recommended policy changes which will be on next month's agenda for first reading.

PGS Building News:

Mrs. Mikeworth reported on the PGS special events. The average attendance for Parent/Teacher Conferences was 80% for the PreK thru 8th grade. The Veterans' Day program was well organized and emphasized WWII veterans with ten WWII veterans in attendance. PGS also hosted the LEIC girls' basketball tournament which was well attended.

Learning opportunities included a presidential election for 4th-8th grades, a safety program for K-4th grades, and dance in PE classes with the C'Motion Machine. There was also a School Improvement Day with excellent learning opportunities for the staff.

Continued;

The District Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 p.m. which will include the primary grades, district bands and choruses, and an audience sing-a-long.

PHS Building News:

Mr. Sornberger reported on the recent parent/teacher conferences and the RTI plan and parent group. October activity funds were balanced with each club treasurer and the offices. The fire alarm work and elevator project have been completed.

Grades 9 thru 11 participated in standardized testing recently to gauge the areas of weakness in PHS to provide valuable data to make positive curriculum changes.

The PHS chorus has requested permission to attend a performance of "Wicked" in Chicago over Christmas break.

Superintendent's report:

Mr. Hasten reported on the Illinois Sustainable School Compact received from the Lt. Governor of Illinois challenging schools to go green. He highlighted some of the ways that our district is green. He will sign the compact and forward it back.

Board members were presented the annual audit report prepared by Phyllis Parks of Daughettee and Parks, P.C. of Danville. The auditors were please with the audit with no noted concerns.

Board members were provided with working papers for proposed tax levy to review for the December meeting. There will be no need for a Truth in Taxation hearing. No questions or concerns were noted.

It was moved by Jim Bush and seconded by Susan Hawkins to enter into Closed Session at 7:36 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of employment, appointment, resignation, evaluation of personnel, matters relating to an individual student and negotiations. 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 Susan Hawkins to return to Open Session at 8:52 p.m. 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 Gary Buser and seconded by Jim Bush to employ Karyn Moore as a substitute bus driver pending the meeting of all necessary requirements. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, Wagoner and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Continued;

A motion was made by Susan Hawkins and seconded by Jim Bush to post a volunteer assistant 7th/8th grade boys basketball coaching position. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, Wagoner and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m. on a motion by James Ellis and seconded by Jim Bush. 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