

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Palestine Community Unit School District No. 3 was held in the Palestine Grade School at 205 S. Washington Street, Palestine, Illinois on Monday, November 19, 2007. The meeting was called to order by President Biggs at 6:31 p.m.

Secretary Eckert called the roll with the following members answering present: Gary Buser, Jim Bush, Shari Eckert, James Ellis, Susan Hawkins, Donald Wagoner and Corie Biggs. Administration present was Mr. John Hasten, Mrs. Arlene Lindsay, and Sheila Mikeworth. Also present were: Phyllis Parks, Jennifer McCoy, Barbara Potts, Tina Groff, Marcie Hilderbrand, Denise Dart, Marilyn Fritchley, and Brenda Littlejohn.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Donald Wagoner 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.

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

Faculty and Staff Recognition:

Mrs. Barbara Potts presented a Character Education update. The Character Ed word for October was Citizenship and the November word is Responsibility. September Character Ed winners traveled to the radio station to tape Character Ed slogans. October 21-27 is Character Ed week. The Character Ed Committee made \$602.00 on their recent pancake dinner.

PHS Building News:

There will be a student teacher, Melody Benton, at the high school beginning in January. Teachers spent the recent school improvement day working on Standards Aligned Classrooms. Grade cards went out on November 2 and parent/teacher conferences were the best turnout ever. A new Drivers' Education early bird class began November 15 with 12 students. Mr. Smith received a \$1000 award thru a Walmart grant for his science classes.

Several community outreach events took place during the month involving various classes and clubs. Girls' basketball season began November 15th. Team Quest JV team placed 2nd in regionals.

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PGS Building News:

The first PGS blood drive had 40 donors. Students participated in Pioneer Day on October 24th with students learning about a variety of pioneer activities. The October Family reading night also had a pioneer theme. The History Club held their annual Veterans Day Program in the PGS gym.

PGS made over \$600 on the Character Ed pancake supper and a staff fund raiser made over \$1000 for the landscaping project to begin in the spring.

PGS will be hosting the 7th and 8th grade girls' basketball regionals.

Mrs. Mikeworth recognized the student teachers currently at PGS. Ms. Jennifer McCoy is in Mrs. Adams' 4th grade and Ms. Tina Groff is in Mrs. Kidwell's 1st grade.

Superintendent's report:

Mr. Hasten reported on the recent school board conferences held in Chicago. Gary Buser is exploring track possibilities.

Phyllis Parks of Daughhetee & Parks, P.C. presented the audit review. She reported that everything was in order. The test for compliance and internal control over federal money found nothing wrong. There is very little long term debt outstanding. No deficit fund balances. Salaries and benefits are 81% of expenditures in Ed Fund. The estimated operating expense per pupil is \$8,448.57.

It was suggested that the Board discuss financial controls. Athletic events need improved controls for verification of receipts. A written explanation of operating procedures must be provided.

Discussion and action on the marquee sign was tabled until next month upon presentation of an information packet.

The policies presented for first reading were discussed. They will be on the agenda for review in December and for approval in January.

It was moved by Jim Bush and seconded by James Ellis to endorse the Academic Foundation Requests from Teachers and present them to the Academic Foundation for their consideration. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, Wagoner and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Gary Buser made a motion to authorize the Board President to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the PEA concerning the Drivers' Education classes. Jim Bush 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.

Continued;

A motion was made by Jim Bush and seconded by Donald Wagoner to authorize the submission of the School District Library Grant Program Application FY2008. 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 authorize Palestine Public Library District to use two of the district's school buses for their summer reading program on June 4, 2008. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, Wagoner and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Gary Buser made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:43 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of employment, appointment, resignation, evaluation of personnel, matters relating to an individual student and negotiations. Jim Bush 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 9:01 p.m. on a motion by Jim Bush and seconded by Susan Hawkins. 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 Susan Hawkins and seconded by James Ellis to employ Melissa Murdock as a cook at the Grade School effective 11/20/07 at \$10.00 per hour and pending the meeting of all necessary requirements. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins and Biggs. Nay: Wagoner. Motion carried.

Keith Nash was reassigned as a substitute custodian and substitute aide in addition to his substitute bus driver position on a motion by Gary Buser and seconded by Susan Hawkins. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, Wagoner and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Jon Phillips was employed as a full time custodian at the Grade School effective 11/5/07 at \$10.00 per hour and pending the meeting of all necessary requirements on a motion by Gary Buser and seconded by James Ellis. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, Wagoner and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Denise Dart was employed as an After School Tutor at the Grade School for the 2007-08SY on a motion by Susan Hawkins and seconded by Gary Buser. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, Wagoner and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Continued;

It was moved by Jim Bush and seconded by Gary Buser to approve a maternity leave for Amber Ramsey beginning November 15, 2007 thru January 11, 2008. 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 9:05 p.m. on a motion by Jim Bush and seconded by Susan Hawkins. 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