

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, December 18, 2006. 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, Susan Hawkins, Donald Wagoner and Corie Biggs. James Ellis was 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), Mrs. Fritchley, Mrs. Dart, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Burkett, Ms. Butler, Ruth, Charles, & Aviana Beckes.

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

Jim Bush 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, Hawkins, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Jim Ellis arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Recognition of Visitors:

Character Ed: Channel 2 was here on December 14 to interview and provide a story on PGS Character Ed. The decrease in discipline and increase in learning was stressed. Character Ed winners are enjoying receiving their awards in front of their peers. Parents are welcome to come during the presentation. Students are giving staff coupons and Amber Ramsey was chosen teacher of the month. January 19 is the Character Ed chili supper. Perfect attendance is at 73 currently. Mrs. Dart's 5th grade, Kindergarten, and 7th grade were recycling commercial winners.

Amber Ramsey recognized Charles Beckes, PHS Junior, who has been awarded the Prudential Spirit of Community Award. He is an Eagle Scout in Robinson Troop 901. His project was to provide gifts for residents at four different nursing homes who have no family.

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PGS Building News: Mrs. Mikeworth, PGS Principal, reported on events at PGS including Family Reading Night, K-4th Christmas program and the Jr. High Christmas concert, and the reading of “Charlotte’s Web” for a national contest. The Daily News and TV Channel WTWO both provided coverage of our Character Ed Award, and we have a gym.

She provided information on a Reality Store sponsored by the BPW that will be held at PGS on February 9th for Palestine and Hutsonville 8th graders. The Reality Store is designed to open the eyes of adolescents to the financial responsibilities awaiting them in adulthood.

The following teachers and student were recognized this month for their accomplishments: Mrs. Amber Ramsey, Guidance and Counseling, for implementing some special days at PGS; Mrs. Autumn Burkett, 3rd Grade and Character Ed Committee, for the PGS Recycling Project, the Purple Hands Project with Bulgaria, and her interest in become a Star Discovery Educator; and Susannah Eckert, 8th grader, on being an IESA Scholar Attitude nominee.

Mrs. Mikeworth noted that Christmas came early to PGS. Thru funds provided by our Academic Foundation Grant and the Herning Grant, PGS has received a Neo AlphaSmart Cart with 30 Neo instruments, 3 Laptop computers, 2 SMARTBoards and 2 LCD projectors. PGS thanks the Academic Foundation and the Herning Grant for their generosity.

PHS Building News: Mrs. Lindsay reported on the recent testing of the sophomore and junior class using the Think Link program. This is the first of three tests to be administered. Test results will be received for individuals, classes, and grades. The information will enable teachers to customize their lessons to better meet the needs of our students.

Charlie Duke from the Truancy Review Board came to PHS concerning truancy problems.

Thanks to a donation from the First Robinson Savings Bank, members of PHS biology classes attended a genetics update conference at ISU on November 20. Topics included gene therapy, stem cell therapy, and cloning.

Mrs. Lindsay recognized Charles Beckes for his Prudential Spirit of Community Award, Jessie Polk for being nominated by her peers as PHS DAR nominee, and PHS students Justin Rice, Jessie Polk, and Ashlei Friedrich for being named Illinois State Scholars.

Superintendent’s report: Mr. Hasten reported that the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation grant is almost finalized.

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It was moved by Jim Bush and seconded by Gary Buser to approve the following motion: Be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Palestine Community Unit School District #3 that the following amounts of money, as indicated on the Certificate of Tax Levy hereto attached and made a part hereof, shall be raised by special tax for the various purposes as in said Certificate of Tax Levy indicated for the next ensuing year, and that the District Superintendent shall have the Certificate filed with the County Clerk. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

On a motion by Donald Wagoner and seconded by Susan Hawkins it was approved to allow a.m. Pre-K students to be dropped off at a licensed daycare within the school district for the remainder of the school year. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Eckert, Hawkins, Wagoner and Biggs. Nay: Bush. Motion carried

Saturday, February 3rd was scheduled for the Board Retreat to be held in the PGS Library.

Jim Bush made a motion, seconded by Shari Eckert, to approve the transfer of the remaining funds in the Activity Fund of the Class of 2006 to the High School Yearbook account. 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 7:29 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of employment, appointment, resignation, evaluation of personnel and matters relating to an individual student. James Ellis 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 9:55 p.m. on a motion by Jim Bush 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.

It was moved by Gary Buser and seconded by Jim Bush to accept the resignation of Marcie Hilderbrand as High School Girls' Basketball Assistant Coach effective immediately. 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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It was moved by Susan Hawkins and seconded by Donald Wagoner to approve Erika Coffman as High School Girls' Basketball Assistant Coach pending the posting of the opening and selection of a coach at the January meeting. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m. on a motion by Gary Buser and seconded by Donald Wagoner. 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