

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, April 16, 2007. The meeting was called to order by President 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, Susan Hawkins, Donald Wagoner and Corie Biggs. Administration present was Mr. John Hasten, Mrs. Arlene Lindsay, and Mrs. Sheila Mikeworth. Others in attendance were: Jane Walker, Lisa Beabout, Karen Pifer, Denise Dart, Erika Coffman, and Josh Brown (Daily News).

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, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, 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, Hawkins, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Recognition of Faculty and Staff:

Mrs. Coffman reported 130 Trustworthiness coupons were given out in March. Mrs. Alisan Mendenhall was the staff member of the month for March.

The Character Ed songs will be presented by the chorus on April 20. April 24 is Family Reading Night with Caring for the Environment as the theme at 6:30 pm in the Commons. Character Ed movie day will be May 18th.

There will be one teacher attending the Character Ed conference with summer.

Perfect Attendance is currently at 40 students an increase from two the original year.

There were no committee reports.

PHS Building News:

Plans are being made for the Juniors to take the PSAT/ACT test on April 25 and 26 in the mornings.

The National Honor Society, along with Mrs. Fritchley and Mrs. Ramsey, will sponsor a fight against leukemia fundraiser this week. Daily events are planned to help raise money for this worthy cause.

PHS Student Council will host a blood drive on April 25 from 1:30 to 5:30.

Mrs. Lindsay also shared a copy of the monthly newsletter and end of year calendar dates.

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PGS Building News:

Mrs. Mikeworth recognized the PGS honorees for April: Mrs. Karen Pifer as a Title I Administrator and Reading Specialist. She oversees many of our reading programs and is also involved in Character Ed. Mrs. Jane Walker, Pre-K teacher, was recognized for her work with students and parents and as an excellent communicator. She goes the extra-mile and is a welcome addition to PGS.

There were many special events at PGS during the month of April. The Book Fair sold \$1,588 in books. Family Reading Night had 70 children plus parents with a visit from Mr. Pifer with a "small tractor."

The Indianapolis Opera came to school for a visit which introduced students to a new adventure in music.

PGS had their Veteran's Program. Students were able to salute area veterans and show them the respect and thanks that they deserve for serving our country.

Students raised \$1,530.94 in the St. Jude's Math-a-Thon. During our six year participation in the St. Jude's Math-a-Thon students have raised \$12,478.66.

PGS staff also participated in some learning activities during the month. Mrs. Mikeworth attended Training Positive Behavior Intervention training. Mrs. Dart attended a bullying workshop. The first annual PGS Reading Conference was held. The School Improvement Team also met during the month.

Superintendent's report:

Mr. Hasten noted the Virginia Tech shooting and how our efforts in Character Ed and understanding bullying make a difference. Programs like ours will continue to decrease the number of these incidents occurring. The lifelong affect from these programs will continue to grow.

The District also continues to explore security improvements

Superintendent Hasten advised the District was notified by the State that we are in the Financial Recognition range based on 2006 school year financial data. This is the highest category obtainable for the School District Financial Profile.

A motion was made by Donald Wagoner and seconded by Shari Eckert to accept the stone bench donated by William Snyder. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Buser, Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, Wagoner, and Biggs. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Superintendent's evaluation form was reviewed and discussed with no action necessary.

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The first reading of the handbook changes for the high school and grade school was conducted. Proposed changes were reviewed and discussed with no action necessary at this time.

First reading of amendments for policies #7:290, 7:290-AP, and 8:70 was conducted with no action necessary at this time.

The mowing bids were reviewed. The bids include provision of equipment and fuel. All totals include weekly mowing. Each contract would provide liability insurance. Should be provided with guidelines by superintendent.

The Board will need a committee to form a resolution statement, if necessary, to present at Delegate Assembly Resolution.

Jim Bush made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:52 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of employment, appointment, resignation, evaluation of personnel, matters relating to an individual student and negotiations. Susan Hawkins 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 9:15 p.m. on a motion by Jim Bush and seconded by Corie Biggs. 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 Donald Wagoner to employ Keith Nash as a full time custodian effective 3/23/2007 at the scheduled rate. 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, seconded by Gary Buser, to employ Lisa Hyde as a part time custodian effective 3/26/2007 at the scheduled rate. 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 Shari Eckert and seconded by Susan Hawkins to approve the resolution for the contract amendment for John L. Hasten as presented. 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 James Ellis and seconded by Donald Wagoner to accept with regrets the resignation of Les Wernz as a regular route driver effective April 5, 2007. 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 Jim Bush and seconded by Susan Hawkins to employ Mike's Mowing for the season as presented with guidelines as per superintendent. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Bush, Eckert, Ellis, Hawkins, and Biggs. Nay: Buser and Wagoner. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Jim Bush and seconded by Susan Hawkins to employ Abacus Computer Consulting beginning May 1, 2007 for district technology support for an annual fee of \$18,000.00. 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 9:21 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.

Corie Biggs, President

Shari Eckert, Secretary