

**North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Education**

District Office

6248 North Boone School Road, Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065

Monday, November 28, 2011

6:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by President Don Ward.

Present: President Don Ward, Secretary Tom Kinser, Mr. Collin Crull, Mr. Glen Gratz and Mrs. Amy Morris

Absent: Vice President Denise Balsley and Treasurer Laura Zwart

Junior Girl Scout Troup 3149 led the Board of Education in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

Carrie Savino, spoke in opposition to the wind farm development. She stated that she and her group would be available after the meeting to give more information or to answer any questions. She recalled the last time the board discussed wind turbines, and asked if the Board supported this project.

Kerry Kenney, reminded the Board that he had spoken at the Board meeting in July about the industrial safety issues associated with wind turbines and reiterated those concerns.

Brian VanLaar, recalled that the wind farm project was pulled in July due to the Board's lack of support. He felt the minutes of that meeting relating to this project were either misleading or inaccurate and requested that they be amended. He noted that everything about this project is uncertain and stressed that business development is not a school board issue. He also requested that the wind farm projections submitted with the Business Committee minutes be pulled and not allowed to be presented to anyone in the community.

Julie VanLaar, reiterated that the district is giving misinformation such as that submitted tonight to the community. She added that the wind farm development cannot go forward without a Special Use Permit, and none has been filed in Boone County.

Dan Oberholtrer, stated that he has lived in the district since 1985 and spoke about his daughter who had wonderful teachers while at North Boone. He reflected on the difficulties his daughter has endured because of epileptic seizures; however, they have abated as she has gotten older. He claimed that research states she should avoid any kind of strobe lighting or flickering caused by wind turbines. He read a letter to the Board from his wife and added that safety should come before monetary gains.

Joe Bomher, President of the Music Boosters, addressed the proposed curriculum additions at the high school and, in particular, the Introduction to Music Theory, History and Composition course. He stated that music and the arts help students become successful adults. He spoke in support of the addition of this program and offered whatever help the Music Boosters could provide.

Mr. Ward presented a Certificate of Achievement to Junior Girl Scout Troup 3149 who earned their Bronze Award for painting the picnic tables in the district.

Mr. Scott Vanderlee, of Midwest Transit, presented an award check in the amount of \$1,000 to Mr. Ward. The North Boone Transportation Department submitted the 1<sup>st</sup> Place winning photo in a contest held by Midwest Transit. The photo is displayed on their calendars of which 4,000 have been distributed.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Mrs. Morris and seconded by Mr. Gratz to approve the Agenda. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Baule reported that in the last two weeks, WZOK has recognized two North Boone teachers as Teachers of the Week. Mrs. Lindsey Keppel, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher at Poplar Grove Elementary, was acknowledged in the first week of November, and in the second week of November, they recognized Mrs. Renee Roen.

Twenty-two North Boone teachers have been nominated for the Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade Golden Apple award. A Golden Apple Nominee Reception was held on November 9<sup>th</sup>. The district encourages these teachers to take the next step in the selection process by completing a self-reflective portfolio and gathering letters of recommendation. In December, twenty semi-finalists will be selected.

Dr. Baule stated that even though their fiscal year has been approved, the federal government announced that the FY12 IDEA funding has been reduced. We have been told that we will receive approximately \$4,000 less. He anticipated that over the next few years, additional reductions will be made.

Dr. Baule reported that Dr. Bridget Belcastro and Mrs. Lindsay Abbeduto have developed an initiative through the North Boone Renaissance Program at the middle school and upper elementary to award those students who meet certain academic and attendance standards in an effort to increase both academic performance and attendance. Mr. Jacob Hubert has been working on developing a similar initiative at the high school.

The ISBE has developed a new two-page format for their school report card as opposed to the multi-page report the state is currently using. This is an effort to make the report card easier to follow.

Although her intentions are unclear, Senator Susan Garrett has been researching the issue of outsourcing Driver Education, but, historically, she has tried to reduce costs for Illinois school districts.

Dr. Baule stated that nothing has been forthcoming recently in regard to the Governor's efforts to consolidate the regional offices in Illinois, but he anticipated some kind of change in reducing the number of offices in the state and additional districts added to the Winnebago/Boone Regional Office.

Dr. Baule reported that Mr. Matt Klett has assumed the ESL (English as a Second Language) responsibilities in the district since the departure of Mr. Greenlee. He held a meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup> for the ELL parents and will continue to conduct computer labs at Capron on certain Wednesdays of the month for ESL parents and their students. Mr. Klett has been very good in his efforts to get these parents more involved.

Dr. Baule announced that Rock Valley College, Northern Illinois University, Rockford College and area school districts are collaborating to develop a program whereby high school junior and seniors will have the opportunity to earn an Associate Degree in Engineering or Science designed to transfer to the other four-year colleges' Bachelor Degree programs.

Dr. Baule reported that on November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> the high school presented *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. Mrs. Troller added that the play was extremely well-attended, the students did a great job and many students participated who had not in previous years. She announced that the high school musical will be held on March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The high school music concert will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup>, and the middle school concert will be held on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Baule informed the Board that the district's firewall and filtering appliances have been upgraded. However, IT has not upgraded the connections from 6MB to 20MB between the elementary schools and the main campus because the cost is prohibitive at this time. The original cost of approximately \$8,700 has increased to over \$10,000 because of the required equipment at Manchester. The majority of the costs are the additional band width and price of equipment. Fox Valley has been put on hold for this update until Dr. Baule could notify the Board with a copy of the Service Proposal given them tonight.

Dr. Baule also reported that PowerSchool was upgraded during the Thanksgiving week. It was a long process, but thanks to Mr. Randy Porter and Mrs. Kathy Gustafson, it was completed prior to school resuming on Monday.

IT has installed 150 new computers in the K-4 buildings. IT anticipates upgrading the computer lab at the upper elementary as well replacing the current furniture with the proper furniture that had been removed but not replaced a couple years ago.

Mrs. Troller will be retiring as Principal at North Boone High School at the end of this school year, and Dr. Baule stated he has developed a process and timeline for selecting a new principal. A survey will be sent out to staff, students and parents for their input on the criteria for the new principal, and he will meet with the high school staff to begin to announce the vacancy by the end of November. The vacancy will not be posted until the surveys have been returned, which will help in developing the questions to be added to the vacancy posting. Dr. Olds and Mrs. Crawford will run the first set of interviews and, hopefully, a new principal will be appointed by late February.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Policy Committee

Mr. Crull reported that the Policy Committee did not meet in November. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 5, 2011 at 3:30 p.m.

### Business Services Committee

Mrs. Nelson reported that the Business Services Committee last met on November 17, 2011. The next meeting date is to be determined.

### Facility/Long Range Planning Committee

Mr. Ward reported that the Facility/Long Range Planning Committee did not meet in November. However, a meeting will be scheduled soon in order to go out for construction bids in January and February.

### Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee

Mr. Gratz reported that the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee did not meet in November. The next meeting will take place in the spring.

### Other Committee Reports

Mr. Ward reported that the Community Involvement Committee last met on November 2, 2011. The next Community Involvement Committee meeting will be held at the high school on Wednesday, December 7 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Kinser reported that the Technology Subcommittee did not meet in November. The next meeting date is to be determined.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was submitted to the Board.

## CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Crull and seconded by Mr. Kinser to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting October 24, 2011
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting November 9, 2011
- C. Personnel

Site	Person	Position	Salary	Effective/End Date
<b>1. Certified – Leave Change</b>				
NBUE	Jodie Rogers	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher	N/A	Change from 10/24/11 thru 1/4/12 to 11/14/11 thru 12/21/11
<b>2. Extra-Curricular – Resignation</b>				
NBHS	Brian Arenz	Freshmen Girls Basketball Coach	To be prorated – team not filled.	11/16/11

<b>3. Extra-Curricular – Volunteer</b>				
<b>NBHS</b>	<b>Kelsey Grover</b>	Basketball – Girls	Indemnify	2011-2012 School Year
<b>NBHS</b>	<b>Sarah Mueller</b>	Basketball – Girls	Indemnify	2011-2012 School Year

- D. ISAT Enrichment Program Request – Capron Elementary
- E. Group VIII Program Request – Capron Elementary
- F. Group VIII Program Requests – Manchester Elementary
- G. Set Date for Hearing on the 2011 Tax Levy
- H. Donation of Trees from Mr. & Mrs. Kinser
- I. Donation of Basketball Shirts
- J. Donation of Basketball Uniforms

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*(No Unfinished Business)*

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. November 2011 Bills**

A motion was made by Mr. Gratz and seconded by Mr. Kinser to approve the November 2011 Bills.

Ayes: Mr. Crull, Mr. Gratz, Mr. Kinser, Mrs. Morris

Nays: *(none)*

Abstain: Mr. Ward

Motion passed 4-0, with one abstention.

#### **B. North Boone High School Curricula Recommendations**

Dr. Baule stated that he wanted to make sure the district has the right course options available for next year. A statistics course is necessary as another senior option for students. It could be offered as a regular course, but an AP class would be best for college preparedness. There is a strong correlation between students who take AP courses in high school and their success in college. Mrs. Troller added that there have been requests for more 4<sup>th</sup> year math selections. Established staff members are interested in being involved in this course, and the current staffing is sufficient. The goal is to recruit more students into the AP classes. This course is for those students who would not normally take a 4<sup>th</sup> year of math.

The Digital Communication Tools course would provide some additional depth to computer courses without going into graphic design type classes. Similar classes are being offered in Indiana and Wisconsin. It will give students a chance to be more computer literate in the business world. There will be some costs for equipment but they would be covered within the budget. This class would be for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students and would go beyond what these students already know.

Dr. Baule stated that he would like the Board to approve the Introduction to Music Theory, History and Composition as an AP course. Again, the students would not be required to take the AP exam at first so they can become familiar with what is expected in this type of course first. There should be some associated costs but, hopefully, some

help will come from the Music Boosters. This AP challenging. The course would be for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12 grade level students.

Mr. Ward expressed his concern that there may not be any funds for additional staff.

A motion was made by Mr. Gratz and seconded by Mrs. Morris to approve the North Boone High School Curricula Recommendations as amended to make Music Theory an AP course.

The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

**C. NBEA Contract Ratification**

Mr. Ward stated that many difficult issues were addressed by both sides. This is a two-year contract as opposed to the usual three-year contract in previous years.

Mr. Crull expressed his concern that this was only a two-year contract, stating that this may make future budgeting more difficult.

A motion was made by Mr. Kinser and seconded by Mr. Gratz to approve the NBEA Contract Ratification.

Ayes: Mr. Gratz, Mr. Kinser, Mrs. Morris, Mr. Ward

Nays: Mr. Crull

Motion passed 4-1.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made at 7:56 p.m. by Mrs. Morris and seconded by Mr. Crull to recess to Executive Session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees; collective negotiating matters; or other matters provided for pursuant to §2(c) of the Open Meetings Act.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

The following members were present: President Don Ward, Secretary Tom Kinser, Treasurer Laura Zwart, Mr. Collin Crull, Mr. Glen Gratz and Mrs. Amy Morris. Vice President Denise Balsley was absent.

The Open Session of the Board of Education was called to order at 9:36 p.m. by President Don Ward.

Present: President Don Ward, Secretary Tom Kinser, Treasurer Laura Zwart, Mr. Collin Crull, Mr. Glen Gratz and Mrs. Amy Morris

Absent: Vice President Denise Balsley

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*(No Recommendations from Executive Session)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION**

**A. Enrollment**

**B. Student Activity Fund Reports**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mrs. Zwart and seconded by Mr. Kinser to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 p.m. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

**PRESIDENT** \_\_\_\_\_ *Don Ward* /S/  
**Don Ward**

**SECRETARY** \_\_\_\_\_ *Tom Kinser* /S/  
**Tom Kinser**

**APPROVED:** 12-19-11