

**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, December 15, 2014  
6:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Don Ward.

Present: President Don Ward, Vice President Denise Balsley, Secretary Collin Crull, Mr. Matt Ellingson, Mr. Thomas Moon, Mrs. Amy Morris and Mr. Brian Reininger

Absent: *(None)*

**PUBLIC HEARING ON 2014 TAX LEVY**

Mr. Jeff Carr shared that we do not technically need a hearing as we are below the 5%. Mr. Ward invited the audience to give testimony on the levy. Mr. Glen Gratz posed some general questions about the levy amount and the EAV. Dr. Baule, Mr. Ward and Mr. Carr clarified the CPI and EAV rates. Mr. Ward announced last call for testimony.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mr. Ellingson to approve the Agenda as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

Mr. Butch Peters, volunteer and employee for 44 years, wished to address the Board regarding the stadium. He stated he had volunteered and been involved with athletic fields since the early 1980's, and noted the fences, pressbox and track were all built by volunteers. He mentioned he had been to every stadium in northern Illinois and feels our athletic facilities are not up to IHSA standards. He expressed that now is the right time to move forward as we already voted in the tax money. He feels we are reaping the harvest of the 1% tax from people even outside our district, and that it would benefit band, PE and athletics. Mr. Peters said this facility is something the entire community could be proud of and thanked the Board for their time.

Mr. Joe Haverly, parent, spoke to the Board about communication. He doesn't feel that nine days is sufficient notice for holding a Town Hall meeting and that timeframe does not allow people enough time to prepare. He stated he joined the group to petition for the stadium to go to referendum.

Mrs. Meredith Williams said she realizes the need for a good sports facility, but feels teachers need more money. She asked Mr. Ward if he feels that we are relying on wind farms and turbine companies for funding. Mr. Ward replied that we are not relying on any money from turbine companies. She feels turbines pose serious issues and provided the Board with a letter and newspaper article supporting her position.

Mr. Rick Hutchinson, parent, said he returned to the District 13 years ago, and said back at that time, it was discussed to re-do the field, and now it clearly needs to be replaced. He said the community perception is that the stadium is being rushed. He said he trusts the Board, and thanked Dr. Baule, the teachers and the Board for their strong leadership. He said he would vote yes if the athletic complex was put to referendum. He suggested an ad hoc committee, and to make sure money is set aside to maintain the field and emphasized it is the program not the field that is important. He also showed the Board a deteriorating athletic uniform and encouraged the Board to take care of their existing equipment and programs.

Mr. Tom Kinser, former Board member, said he is behind the petition to put the stadium to referendum. He said the July 2013 minutes reflected if bonds were abated, we could potentially avoid \$100,000 in extra-curricular and teacher cuts the following year, and thought any future sales tax money was planned for tax abatement. He questioned why the Board chose working cash bonds instead of alternative revenue bonds. While gathering signatures, he found some people had not been informed about the plan to sell bonds.

Mrs. Laura Zwart addressed the Board by stating students with connections succeed, and said connections can happen in the classroom, field and band room. She noted North Boone had eight Illinois State Scholars and six were two-sport athletes. Mrs. Zwart said when we support extra curriculars, it improves student achievement. She feels her goals are the same as many others, and said we need to address our aging facilities and saying 'no' without offering any other options is not an acceptable answer.

Mrs. Lynn Brody, PGE teacher and HS track coach, provided the Board with a letter signed by six teachers that also coach. She stated she has been the boys track coach for 16 years and feels the stadium is not all about football, and would benefit many sports. She noted our track is not safe or compliant with IHSA regulations and said the long and triple jumps have been ruled dangerous by IHSA and cannot be used, the shot and discus area are not up to standard, and the track has cracks that are wide and dangerous. She said IHSA regulations prohibit cheerleaders from performing stunts on asphalt, the band is currently only allowed one practice, and most soccer practices are held indoors to preserve the grass field. She feels PE, band and most sports will benefit from the stadium.

Ms. Sammy Boyce, president of the Booster Club, said she had been receiving negative messages and feedback and feels the Boosters are doing the best thing for the community. She thanked Allan Johnson for keeping up the field and hoped the Board realizes it's not prudent to count on him indefinitely. She agrees that academics are important, but feels athletics are important as well. She recognized that \$16M was already approved by the Board for bond abatement, and thought the 1% tax would be used school facilities projects. Ms. Boyce said the final numbers for the stadium are not in yet, but the Boosters are ready to help. She stated the

community already voted in the Board members and voted in the sales tax referendum. She asked the Board to please vote to approve the stadium.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Zwart said she has received back reports for the past five months, and received the PMA report today. She expects to have a Treasurer's Report soon for July through November.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Baule noted the student musicians did an excellent job at the NBHS Winter Concert. He thanked Mr. Flynn for the nice concert.

He said the NBHS Dance team performed at the opening home Boys' Basketball game, and mentioned a video of their first high school performance is available online.

Dr. Baule presented the mascot survey results which showed the majority would like one mascot K-12. He will work with administration to move forward.

Dr. Baule shared the upcoming NBUE and MS event schedules.

Dr. Baule mentioned approximately 250 English and Spanish technology surveys were passed out at parent/teacher conferences and that only a small percentage of families didn't have home Internet access.

He said NBMS and UE had observers on site for a control study being underwritten by Amplify which is providing integrated curriculum to a similar district in Michigan. They will return for a second visit in the spring.

Dr. Baule provided the Board with a letter from Mrs. Crawford requesting additional office staff at PGE and asked the Board how they'd like to proceed.

Dr. Baule said the Morrissey Agency stated the audit is taking them much more time than they anticipated. He mentioned the TRS staff felt we overpaid a former teacher and he asked the Board if that person should return the difference within the 30 day TRS window or if it should become part of the payroll audit process.

He noted Mrs. Brenda Zellner deserved a lot of credit for spending a great deal of time working on cleaning up the final audit issues.

He said District communication via Facebook has increased and noted we are generally averaging about 1500 connections per week. He also provided the Facebook link to the NBHS page and noted NBMS/UE has had a page since August, and mentioned information is regularly posted on the web and via Twitter.

Dr. Baule congratulated Jane Lenser, as she was featured in the Winter Issue of the Illinois School Library Media Association newsletter for the award she won for the "Books on Wheels" project.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Policy Committee

The next Policy Committee meeting is to be determined.

#### Business Services Committee

The next Business Services Committee meeting is to be determined.

#### Facility/Long Range Planning Committee

The next Facility/Long Range Planning Committee meeting is planned for after winter break.

#### Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee

The next Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee is to be determined.

### CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Crull and seconded by Mrs. Morris to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting November 24, 2014
- B. Personnel

Site	Person	Position	Salary	Effective/End Date
<b>1. Certified – FMLA</b>				
NBMS	Elizabeth Blackmer	Special Education Teacher	N/A	April 7, 2015 – End of 2014-2015 School Year using sick and unpaid leave
NBMS	Ashley Boyer	Language Arts Teacher	N/A	March 16, 2015 – End of 2014-2015 School Year using sick and unpaid leave
CES	Sarah Korpan	Bilingual Teacher	N/A	February 1, 2015 – March 16, 2015
PGE	Julie Winebaugh	First Grade Teacher	N/A	April 7, 2015 – End of 2014-2015 School Year using sick leave
<b>2. Non-Certified – Hire</b>				
PGE	Ashockia Palmer	Special Education Teacher Assistant (5.75 hours)	TA120, Step 3	12/01/14
NBHS	Heidi Nebergall	Special Education Teacher Assistant (5.75 hours)	TA30, Step 16	12/20/14

<b>3. Non Certified – Resignation</b>				
<b>District</b>	<b>Heidi Nebergall</b>	Bookkeeper	N/A	12/19/14
<b>NBHS</b>	<b>Jonathan Stimes</b>	Special Education Teacher Assistant (5.75 hours)	N/A	12/19/14
<b>4. Extra-Curricular - Hire</b>				
<b>NBHS</b>	<b>Robert Alderman</b>	Volunteer – Leo Club	Indemnify	2014-2015 School Year
<b>NBHS</b>	<b>Robert Kemp</b>	Volunteer – Leo Club	Indemnify	2014-2015 School Year

- C. Intergovernmental Agreement Establishing Cooperative Robotics Club

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Stadium Project**

Dr. Baule said a stadium committee including community and staff was formed a few years back, and said in light of the last Board meeting, Steve Cashman from Cashman Stahler was invited to show a drawing of the stadium and to provide accurate and up to date figures. Mrs. Morris mentioned she has been a Board member for almost four years and prior to becoming a member served on a stadium committee. She does not feel like the project has been rushed, as it has been over five years. Mr. Cashman then presented Concept F, which was a slight modification of Concept D, which was discussed at the Board meeting in December 2013. Mr. Cashman said based on feedback, future concessions would be located at the north end zone. Concept F proposed a field, track and home bleachers. Visitor bleachers and concessions could be future projects, as to keep the cost down to \$4.3M. He said we could also look for opportunities for further cost reductions with bids.

Mr. Cashman gave a brief history of the stadium background and shared that in September 2012, 12 committee members held eight design team meetings, sent out a questionnaire, visited multiple sites and came up with a series of designs. In 2013, Concept D was selected and said Concept F is just slightly different. Mr. Ward asked about the seating capacity for the bleachers. Mr. Cashman said the home bleachers can seat 1058. With the addition of visitor bleachers, capacity would be 1500. Dr. Baule thanked the Boosters for purchasing mobile bleachers that seat 200. Mr. Cashman said they would grade the area and create a wind break on the west side of the stadium to recreate pine tree stadium. He also said there would be perimeter fencing around the track and the stadium. He shared the committee desired to have the fields together as a complex, which allows the existing field to remain and be utilized for MS practices. Mrs. Balsley asked for turf cost estimates. Mr. John Huard, a representative from FieldTurf, was on hand to answer questions. He said the estimate is \$460K not including sub work and said the field should last seven to ten years. He noted there would be a \$157K cost savings for a grass field. Mr. Huard said the committee felt turf was advantageous and they had planned to pursue that option. He noted the biggest advantage would be to PE classes and the multi-purpose capability. Mrs. Balsley asked what the estimated cost would be to maintain a turf field. Mr. Purvis provided information from several schools that currently have turf fields. He said Freeport rakes five times per year and it takes about ten hours per year total to maintain by redistributing the rubber pellets, and they

have their turf professionally cleaned every two years for an average of \$1650 per year. Mr. Purvis said Mendota has not spent any money to date to maintain their field, as they just rake the turf. He contacted Rockford Schools inquiring about their maintenance costs but has not yet heard back from their district. Mr. Moon questioned why the fall 2011 cost estimate was \$2M lower. Mr. Cashman said that at that time, there was no design yet in place, and they had looked at previous designs for other schools and gave estimates supplied by the sub-contractors. Mr. Cashman said the current estimates are approximately a 4% increase from last year. He said over the past 20 years, there has been a 3-4% average escalation in price, and it can be as low as 1% or as high as 12%. Mr. Ellingson asked if it would cost \$400K to replace the turf. Mr. Huard said some could be salvaged and we would receive credit. Mr. Ward asked if all teams could play on the grass if we would need more grass fields. Mr. Purvis said it would be difficult, as varsity football and band are only allowed one practice each, and PE classes are not allowed to use the field. Mr. Purvis said they have also had to turn away Roscoe Rush as we wouldn't have any grass come August. Mr. Cashman said there is a big advantage on a synthetic field. Mr. Moon asked if our conference would remain intact and asked for the number of soccer and football games we currently host. Mr. Purvis said he was confident the conference would continue, and stated we host four or five home football games and eight or nine soccer games per year, depending on the rotation. Mr. Crull asked if other schools allow multiple teams on their turf fields. Mr. Purvis said Mendota told them everyone tries to use it all the time and the spring is especially busy, with three levels of baseball and softball. Mendota said their football team actually gets to use it the least amount. Mr. Moon asked Mr. Cashman what causes field failure. Mr. Huard said the warranty is eight years, and recommended to budget for ten years, with replacement expected in years 10, 11 or 12. He said the fibers give way from UV. He noted polymer technology is embedded and has twice the UV coating as in the past, and it's twice as soft as ten years ago. He also said we can re-use 75% of the fill. Mr. Huard said the difference in the XM6 and Revolution are the sand and rubber pellets. With Revolution, there are two pounds per square foot of infill and there is a higher percentage of sand, which locks together better. This adds .40-.50 cents per square foot. He stated 95% of all Illinois fields have purchased the top system. There will be a \$20K savings to reuse the infill, and the difference is under \$100K for the performance level. There is no cost to dispose of the material as it is reused by batting cages, etc. Mr. Ward asked for a comparison of injuries on turf vs. grass. Mr. Huard said there was a five year injury study conducted by side line medical staff. The findings show that playing on artificial turf, players have less major and moderate injuries, but more minor injuries, such as scratches. Mr. Purvis said a three year study showed there is a 15% lower incident of concussions and a 13% reduction of severe injuries on turf. In cold weather, on turf there is a 22% reduction of concussions. Mr. Huard stated in 2001, there were two fields in Illinois with this turf and now they have 300 fields in the state. He said the pellets are derived from recycled tires, so it feels like playing in a mixture of sand and rubber, which feels more stable to the foot. He also noted there are less injuries with the higher infill weights. Mr. Huard provided a sample of the turf for the Board's review.

Mr. Moon made a motion that District 200 will not issue any bonds for capital improvements or a sports complex without approval of the voters by referendum. Mr. Ellingson seconded the motion.

Mr. Moon said his fear is if the project is pushed through and we spend all this money on a stadium that we still have six buildings to consider, and noted the high school is not far from needing a new roof. Mrs. Morris said she had heard from lots of people and feels she shares a common concern that they don't want taxes to increase. Mrs. Morris feels we now have the opportunity to make this happen, and said some Board members never thought we'd see the CDB money. Since it was received, we've already promised \$16M toward tax abatement, and now have an opportunity to abate taxes and build the complex. She feels this project is not taking away from taxpayers. Mrs. Morris said when the sales tax was voted in, the Board never voted where that money would be used. Mr. Reininger asked Mr. Moon what other projects are coming up, and Mr. Moon said Mr. Novak has not provided an updated list, but said we have issues with the MS gymnasium roof, and noted the Capron kitchen is close to being out of code, and Capron also has bathroom and major blacktop issues. He feels a new structure would take away from current building needs, and said the high school roof alone would likely cost \$1M. Mr. Reininger asked Mrs. Morris if the committee could further scale back the stadium. Mrs. Morris said the committee didn't think that was possible and felt that over time, the turf field will be more cost effective.

Mr. Ward made a motion to table the motion until the next regular meeting. The motion died for lack of a second.

Dr. Baule checked with counsel and the attorney said the Board could put general revenue bonds on the ballot, but the Board cannot put limited or working cash bonds on the ballot. Mr. Ward noted sales tax cannot be repealed until all seven districts in the county have bonds paid off, which couldn't happen for 20 more years.

Dr. Baule said there are several options, one is to do nothing at this point and if there is not a petition, choose whether or not to issue bonds in January, and if there is a petition it would go onto the ballot in April, which would articulate whether or not we could issue working cash bonds for \$4.5M. The other option would be to hold a special Board meeting and put a question on the April ballot, which basically would ask to issue a specific amount in bonds to build an athletic complex for a specific dollar amount. Mr. Moon feels it would be even more difficult to communicate the information if the petition succeeds, as people may feel like this was a back door effort and the only way to stop it was by a petition, instead of the Board putting it on the ballot themselves. Mr. Ward said that is possible if the information were to be spun that way. Mr. Ward said he was more inclined to let the process take its course and not make it even more difficult to understand. He said it will be on the ballot and be up to the people to campaign for it either way and to make their decision. Mr. Crull said we cannot sell bonds tonight because the petitioners have not yet had their 30 days, and agrees that the process should run its course. Mr. Moon feels the Board changed their course before they needed to finish their petition. He feels the Board is delaying because they cannot get the wording

right in the proper timeline, and feels it's basically a stall tactic. Mr. Ward said his thought was that this vote was taken last month and it passed 5-2, and there was a laid out path to follow and said Mr. Moon could have made this motion last month. Mr. Ward said there is a process in place and the Board voted on it last month. Mrs. Morris said she'd like to make her view point very clear and said she appreciates all the public feedback, but does not believe this should go to referendum, as she feels the voters have already voted on the sales tax and voted the Board members into these seats to make the best decisions for the school district on their behalf. She feels like if the vote stays within the Board, they are doing their duty as an elected Board member. She feels they were trusted by the community to make decisions on how to spend the school's money and in her opinion, this is the best way to do that without increasing the property taxes. She said this project will not directly increase taxes.

Mrs. Balsley feels this should go to referendum, but would rather see it go for working cash funds than for bonds which would go against our debt service limit. She said she is all for the stadium and will work to get it passed. Mr. Reininger felt she had a very good point, and said he would like to see a new stadium, but was hoping to find a way to reduce the cost.

Mr. Ward asked for further discussion, and asked for a roll call for the motion on the floor.

Mr. Moon made a motion that District 200 will not issue any bonds for capital improvements or a sports complex without approval of the voters by referendum. Mr. Ellingson seconded the motion.

Ayes: Mr. Ellingson and Mr. Moon

Nays: Mrs. Balsley, Mr. Crull, Mrs. Morris, Mr. Reininger and Mr. Ward

Motion failed 5-2.

Mrs. Balsley said she didn't like the idea of not having a concession stand and restrooms and asked Mr. Cashman if we could get volunteers to build them or if the contractors needed to be involved. Mr. Cashman said it is a legal and insurance issue. He said by state law, we would have to pay prevailing wage. Mr. Cashman said it's unusual to have volunteers build these days, as now the Department of Health is involved. He said the results from the stadium survey identified concessions and restrooms as a high priority and the only reason they were put as an option was to reduce or delay the cost. Mr. Ward said any structure requires architectural plans to be submitted, so there would be some costs involved. Mr. Moon said Harvard's Vo-Tech class built their concession stand with the help of community contractors. Mr. Ward said donations can come into this project and be applied. Mr. Ward noted in the past we have received donated scoreboards, etc.

Mr. Reininger asked for the timeline on construction if approved. Mr. Cashman said basically four-six months, but it depends on the scope, with the design being two-three months. Dr. Baule said if it goes to referendum, it would be ready in 2016, or if the Board approved the bonds it would be ready next fall.

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. **December 2014 Bills**

A motion was made by Mr. Crull and seconded by Mrs. Morris to approve December Bills as presented.

Ayes: Mr. Crull, Mr. Ellingson, Mr. Moon, Mrs. Morris, Mr. Reininger

Nays: *(none)*

Abstain: Mrs. Balsley and Mr. Ward

Motion passed 5-0, with two abstentions.

### B. **2014 Tax Levy**

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mr. Reininger to approve the 2014 Tax Levy as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

### C. **Resolution Abating the Tax heretofore Levied for the Year 2014 to Pay Debt Service on General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2008A, of Community Unit School District Number 200, Boone and Winnebago Counties, Illinois**

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mr. Reininger to approve the Resolution Abating the Tax heretofore Levied for the Year 2014 to Pay Debt Service on General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2008A, of Community Unit School District Number 200, Boone and Winnebago Counties, Illinois as presented. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

### D. **Bond Abatement**

Dr. Baule mentioned this follows the abatement schedule presented last month, and provided the Board with an investment schedule from PMA.

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mr. Crull to approve the resolution abating tax on general obligation bonds as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made at 9:28 p.m. by Mr. Reininger and seconded by Mr. Crull to recess to Executive Session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

The following members were present: President Don Ward, Vice President Denise Balsley, Secretary Collin Crull, Mr. Matt Ellingson, Mr. Thomas Moon, Mrs. Amy Morris and Mr. Brian Reininger.

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mr. Reininger to return to Open Session of the Board of Education, and was called to order at 10:06 p.m. by President Don Ward. Present:

President Don Ward, Vice President Denise Balsley, Secretary Collin Crull, Mr. Matt Ellingson, Mr. Thomas Moon, Mrs. Amy Morris and Mr. Brian Reininger.  
The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Mr. Crull and seconded by Mr. Reininger to have counsel prepare a letter of discipline for employee 2015-01.  
The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mr. Ellingson to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 p.m.  
The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

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

**SECRETARY** \_\_\_\_\_ *Collin Crull / S/*  
**Collin Crull**

**APPROVED:** 1/26/15