

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
PEKIN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 303
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2005
7:30 P.M.**

The Pekin Community High School Board of Education met on Monday, November 28, 2005 in the Board of Education Room located in The Holman Career and Technical Education Building of Pekin Community High School, City of Pekin, County of Tazewell.

President Howard asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Howard apologized for the delay of this meeting, explaining that the Board was involved in matters of student discipline

Roll Call

All members were present upon roll call: Jim Mangan, Mark Rossi, Gary Lowe, Karen Hohimer, Betty Scott, Joe Alesandrini, and Larry Howard.

Call to Order

A quorum being established, President Howard called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

President Howard addressed the minutes of October 24, 2005 as outlined in the agenda.

Motion by Lowe, second by Alesandrini to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of September 26, 2005, and to make the Policy Committee minutes of October 24, 2005 a matter of record.

Motion passed by roll call vote: Ayes – Lowe, Alesandrini, Mangan, Rossi, Hohimer, Scott and Howard; nays—none.

Communications, Public Comments and Participation

Board Applause

Member Scott commended Mr. Rice, Special Education teacher here who went above and beyond when it came to organizing a bus to take students and a social worker, to a funeral of one of the one of the last children we lost. She also commended the IASB for the great conference and workshops she was able to attend as a representative from this school district and to better serve the community.

Member Alesandrini – Thanked Tim Ruwe, Steve Huey and Traci VanProoyen for the presentation they made on Dragon Price at the IASB Conference. He said he had the opportunity to introduce these individuals for that presentation and throughout the weekend and several board members and administrators expressed their gratitude and thanks to the staff and members who put the presentation together and said how they would be able to take the information back to their districts and put it to use. He said this was his 21st conference but never before has he had so many individuals come and to express their gratitude.

President Howard agreed, saying it was well presented, well attended, and was very well received.

Member Rossi congratulated the Speech Team and their coaches for their first tournament win this season over at Normal West.

Member Hohimer congratulated the students on the canned food drive.

Board Applause (cont'd.)

President Howard directed his Board Applause to Joe Bachman and the landscaping class in cooperation with Tom Elliott of the Pekin Park District. More than 20 trees of different varieties and species trees have been planted on both sides of the road that leads to the stoplight. In years to come, we will see the fruits of what they have done. I commend those people for that job.

Student Council

Matt Spialek told the members about the canned food drive. He said it was a huge success as this year they produced over 11,000 cans of food and fed the most families ever - over 81. He said that one student brought in 1800 cans of food. He announced that coming up is Holiday Spirit week where the students will have a scarf day, a favorite stocking day, a Holiday Spirit day, and a battle of the sexes day (gals wear green, guys wear red). During the lunch periods hot chocolate and candy grams will be sold and there will also be an eggnog drinking contest.

Approval of Warrants

Motion by Alesandrini, second by Scott to approve the payment of monthly warrants in the amount of \$1,570,361.65 as per summary information found on page 10 of the agenda material and in detailed information under separate cover.

Motion passed by roll call vote: Ayes – Alesandrini, Scott, Mangan, Rossi, Lowe, Hohimer and Howard; Nays – none. *Disbursements are attached as exhibit "A"*

Financial Reports as of October 31, 2005

Bank Balances	\$17,372,739.26
District Investments – Principal	\$16,925,190.72
Health Care YTD	(\$ 40,075.99)

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business

Consent Agenda

President Howard read the items contained in the Consent Agenda plus additions and corrections:

1. Employment: Certificated - Athletic: Employ **Jeff King** as assistant Boys' Basketball Coach for the 2005-06 season at a differential of 15% as per contract;

Support Staff - Clerical: Employ **Diane Owens** as Secretary to the Superintendent beginning October 24, 2005;

Volunteer: **Terry Quilty** volunteer assistant for Girls Basketball Program.
2. Resignation - Support: **Stormi Green** as personal assistant in Special Education effective November 10, 2005.
3. Retirement - Support: **Doug Farris** as Buildings & Grounds Supervisor effective January 31, 2006.
4. Donations:
A check was received from the Pekin Community High School Class of 1945 in the amount of \$1,000 as a donation to the PCHS Scholarship Fund;

Consent Agenda (cont'd.)

A donation of 2 pallets of pipe weld coupons from Midwest Generation Plant (Powerton) for use by the Manufacturing Class at Pekin High; and

A donation of 1 pallet of various pipe and steel plate received from Aventine Renewable Energy (Corn Products/Williams) for use by the Manufacturing Class of Pekin High.

Motion by Scott, second by Lowe to approve items 1 – 4 of the Consent Agenda.

Motion passed by roll call vote: Ayes – Scott, Lowe, Mangan, Rossi, Hohimer, Alesandrini and Howard; Nays – none.

Student Discipline

As a result of the Closed Session for Student Discipline Hearings held prior to the Regular Meeting, the Board takes the following action:

Motion by Alesandrini, second by Lowe to expel student 05-02-06 for the remainder of the school year for reasons of gross disobedience and misconduct.

Motion passed by roll call vote: Ayes - Alesandrini, Lowe, Mangan, Hohimer, Scott and Howard; nays-none; present - Rossi.

Motion by Alesandrini, second by Mangan to expel student 05-03-06 for the remainder of the school year for reasons of gross misconduct.

Motion passed by roll call vote: Ayes - Alesandrini, Mangan, Rossi, Lowe, Hohimer, Scott and Howard; nays - none.

The minutes of the closed session are recorded and filed separately.

Policies For 2nd Reading

Policy Chairman Alesandrini informed the members that Policy 2:200 needs an additional paragraph added on page 4 of 4. *A copy of the paragraph was handed out to all members.*

Motion by Alesandrini, second by Lowe to adopt Policy 5:10 General Personnel – Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment and adopt Policy 8:90 Community Relations – Booster Clubs.

Motion passed by roll call vote: Ayes – Alesandrini, Lowe, Mangan, Rossi, Hohimer, Scott and Howard; nays – none.

Policies For 1st Reading

Motion by Alesandrini, second by Lowe to lay over policies 2:200, 2:220, 4:170, 6:110, 6:340, 7:60 and 8:30 for action at a future meeting.

A member expressed concern over policies 4:170 and 6:110 6:340 that state the Superintendent or designee shall develop a procedure, but these procedures are not currently in the Administrative Procedure Manual. The administration was asked to take a look at the policies that require an administrative procedure.

Motion passed by roll call vote: Ayes – Alesandrini, Lowe, Mangan, Rossi, Hohimer, Scott and Howard; nays – none.

School Library/Media Program Guidelines

Superintendent Davis reminded the Board that they approved the School Library/Media Grant application at the last meeting, and said one stipulation of the grant was that the Board review the guidelines as outlined in the Linking for Learning document. The response and acknowledgement of the compliance are outlined in the agenda material. She recommended that the Board acknowledge that they have met the stipulation, in that they have reviewed the Revised Illinois School Library/Media Program Guidelines.

Motion by Scott second by Alesandrini to affirm that the Board has reviewed the Revised Illinois School Library/Media Program Guidelines.

Motion passed by roll call vote: Ayes – Scott, Alesandrini, Mangan, Rossi, Lowe, Hohimer and Howard; nays – none.

Sponsor of Soccer Field Scoreboard

Superintendent Davis explained that the Soccer Booster Club would like to have a scoreboard at the other side of the Soccer field – opposite the current scoreboard, because fans don't sit on that side of the field as originally anticipated. She said the booster club has talked to the Park District and businesses about supporting another scoreboard. The Park District is in favor of the scoreboard and has indicated they would help with installation. The Commerce Bank is interested in sponsoring the scoreboard, but want their signage to be maintained "forever" which Superintendent Davis said she does not recommend.

A suggestion was made to have a lease agreement that would be renewable in 10 years, but Superintendent Davis indicated that other agreements are for the life of the scoreboard, which is also about 8 to 10 years.

Superintendent Davis said she wanted the Board to be aware of this request as it will be brought back at the next Board meeting for approval.

Discussion took place on the current scoreboard and if it could be moved. It was noted that the Park District takes care of the scoreboard and moving it would be very costly. Also mentioned was the maintenance and damage costs – both of which were said to be minimal. Further discussion was requested about other businesses having the opportunity to advertise on the scoreboard. Response to that request was that this meeting is on TV and interested businesses would have the opportunity to contact the school. A member expressed concern that perhaps the Board should be securing a sponsor instead of the Booster Club.

USAF Band of Mid-America

Superintendent Davis reviewed the information on page 52 of the agenda material. She informed the Board that the school has the opportunity to co-sponsor this band with Pekin Times and Gallatin River and that this would be a free concert with no charge to the public. She said the school's part would be to provide a place for this event and all monetary support would be provided by the Pekin Times and Gallatin River.

Motion by Lowe second by Rossi to co-sponsor the United States Air Force Band for their performance in the Peterson Theater on January 27, 2006.

Correction was noted that this event will need to be held in the Hawkins Gym. The motion maker and seconder agreed to the amended motion.

USAF Band of Mid-America (cont'd.)

Question was raised about tickets and Superintendent Davis said a plan would be developed for the distribution of tickets.

Amended Motion to co-sponsor the United States Air Force Band for their performance in the Hawkins Gym on January 27, 2006.

Motion passed by roll call vote: Ayes – Lowe, Rossi, Mangan, Hohimer, Scott, Alesandrini and Howard; nays – none.

New Courses

Tim Ruwe explained the need for the two new courses. He said that last year Integrated Math 1 & 2 was approved by the Board and he is asking for approval to add Integrated Math 3 & 4 for next year, and Integrated Math 5 & 6 for the 2006-07 school year. He also asked for approval to add a Digital Electronics Class as electronics is needed in the curriculum due to classes taught by Beau Shepard and Rick Brewer.

Motion by Alesandrini second by Rossi to add courses in Integrated Math 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6; and a Digital Electronics Class.

A Board member asked the size of the Integrated Math 1 & 2 classes this year and Project Lead the Way. He was informed there are about 200 students in the Math classes and 37 in the Project classes. Question as to whether or not another teacher would be needed for the electronics class and he was informed that there is currently a teacher on staff that is qualified and interested in teaching this class.

Motion passed by roll call vote: Ayes – Alesandrini, Rossi, Mangan, Lowe, Hohimer, Scott and Howard; nays – none.

Wind Power

Superintendent Davis explained that the district has the opportunity to participate in a feasibility study of wind power relative to determining whether the district could utilize wind power to offset some of the energy costs. She mentioned that a smaller district has saved 80% of their power usage costs. She asked the Board to participate in this study, at no cost to the District and all costs would be covered by a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. She added that a letter would need to be sent to acknowledge the fact that the District wants to participate and support the study.

Motion by Mangan second by Lowe to support a grant application to the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to determine the feasibility of a Wind Power Project.

Motion passed by roll call vote: Ayes – Mangan, Lowe, Rossi, Hohimer, Scott, Alesandrini and Howard; nays – none.

Estimated Tax Levy

Larry Carr provided a computer presentation on the estimated tax levy along with a hard copy which was handed out to all members. He reviewed previous funds and tax levys and explained how the County Clerk computes the maximum tax rate. He talked about the historical growth of the District and the CPI of each year. He said at the present time, EAV and the new growth is not known; but by estimating property growth between \$10 million and \$15 million, this year's increase could fall between 1.98% and 2.98%.

Estimated Tax Levy (cont'd.)

He asked Superintendent Davis to talk about future issues. She talked about District goals and the challenges the District faces. She talked about the students needing to meet state standards and the sub groups not meeting AYP and the need for intervention. She said there is no question the District will need monetary support to intervene. She reminded the Board that the District is not fully reimbursed for Special Education needs. She indicated that Larry Carr is well within what is expected of capturing new growth so we can provide for long term help for the District and long term ability to provide for the challenges that we will be facing.

Larry Carr indicated the District is in sound financial shape now, but expenses are coming up. He recommended that the District utilize the District's bonds to abate \$300,000 for taxpayers, thereby reducing the net increase in taxes between 1.72% and 2.56%. He said that by abating \$300,000 through bonds, it does not affect our tax base, and the tax payers still get a break.

He announced that the Public Hearing on the Levy and the adoption will be at the next Board Meeting on December 19, 2005.

Motion by Lowe second by Alesandrini to establish an estimated tax levy and hold a public hearing on the Tax Levy at the December 19, 2005 meeting of the Board of Education.

Discussion took place on the tax without the abatement and the tax rate. It was noted that the projected balanced budget was without the abatement – the abatement will create a deficit.

Motion passed by roll call vote: Ayes – Lowe, Alesandrini, Rossi, Hohimer, Scott and Howard; nays – Mangan.

Reports

Policy: Chairman Alesandrini announced that a meeting was held this evening. The committee will recommend three policies (5:30, 6:310, and 7:50) for a first reading at the December 19th meeting. The committee will continue on with the 500 series of PRESS at their next meeting.

O & M: Chairman Rossi indicated a meeting will be scheduled at a future date.

LMRC: Superintendent Davis said the November meeting was cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

SAC: Superintendent Davis reported that the committee is in the process of developing plans. The short term plan is to intervene with targeted students who are close to meeting the State standards. The committee wants to offer the opportunity to all students to take the ACT Prep on Saturday mornings. She said the Sociology class did a survey of the student body and it was indicated that students would attend. Since the committee wants to provide that class, a request giving costs and dates will be brought to the Board at the December meeting. She indicated this class would be run similar to the Credit Recovery class. The committee is also working on a plan for students with IEPs. She said other schools provide supplemental tutoring and added services. The committee talked about intervening in issues that are not academic issues but social and emotional issues.

The committee did discuss the potential recommendation of a long-term plan to come before the Board for additional employment of a counselor or social worker to try to begin intervening in the homes. The District does have a number of programs in place but there is not much else that can be done unless we can get into the homes and try to help parents understand how critical it is for them to help us. We need to enlist their support in a different way than we have in the past.

Reports (cont'd.)

Betty Scott and Karen Hohimer, members of SAC, indicated the District needs to meet AYP and intervention is needed and students need to be served. Outside help could cost about \$1200 - \$1500 per student but in-house intervention would cost around \$400 per student. They indicated the district can do better than to outsource services and would like the board to definitely consider this intervention.

A suggestion was made for expansion of the Alternative school, as it would have an impact on student achievement – attendance wise and academic wise. Seems that 25% are low income category. The Alternative School opens up alternatives for those who struggle and would like to see a serious study on increasing the alternative school – it would be money well spent.

Future Agenda Items

Question as to why the band has to put up scaffolding for band rehearsals, why not use football field and the press box. President Howard indicated such issues would be better directed to the Superintendent – who responded that she would find out.

Response from another Board member was that the scaffolding is only used during Band Camp and it is usually the director's decision. He also said director can spot the band easier from scaffolding than from the press box. Suggestion was also made to contact the Band Director on this issue.

It was announced that the NASB Convention will be in Chicago this year. Superintendent Davis informed the Board that she will be putting information together for the Board regarding this conference

Announcements by President

The CIV meeting will be held on December 7th. Any Board member who is interested in attending should contact the Superintendent's Office.

Recognized Colleen Kahl who was in the audience, noting that she is the Alliance President, a Social Studies teacher, and a cheerleading coach/sponsor. She was congratulated on achieving National Board Certification.

Adjournment

President Howard declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.