

**PEKIN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 303
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2005
6:30 P.M.**

The Pekin Community High School Board of Education met on Monday, December 19, 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.

Public Hearing on Tax Levy

President Howard opened the Public Hearing on the 2005 Tax Levy at 6:35 p.m.

Lee Bailey, Roger Alexander, Paul Kirby all of Pekin and on fixed incomes, spoke to the Board asking that they not raise taxes and give serious consideration to how much more money they need when they have money in reserves.

John McCabe asked if equalized evaluation was considered when computing the levy and the impact a new TIF district would have on the budget.

Members talked about the effect a new TIF district would have on the school.

President Howard closed the hearing at 6:45 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

Call to Order

President Howard called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:47 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

President Howard addressed the minutes of November 28, 2005 as outlined in the agenda.

Motion by Scott, second by Hohimer to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting and the Closed session of November 28, 2005, and to make the 5 p.m. Policy Committee minutes of November 28, 2005 a matter of record.

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

Communications, Public Comments and Participation

Board Applause

Member Mangan said that in looking over financial reports, he found that just in the last four years this district has collected over \$70 million from taxpayers and he thought it would be a good thing to recognize our tax payers and let them know our gratitude.

Member Scott commended the music department for all the great concerts they have put on and for their vespers concert.

Member Alesandrini reminded everyone of the upcoming Pekin Insurance Holiday Tournament on December 27, 28 & 29 of 2005.

Member Lowe commended Student Council for ringing bells for the Salvation Army, and he also echoed Member Scott's comments on vespers concert and for Dr. Rimington.

Member Hohimer also echoed previous sentiments on the vespers concert.

Student Council

No report this evening.

Approval of Warrants

Motion by Alesandrini, second by Hohimer to approve the monthly warrants in the amount of \$1,408,302.27 as per summary information found on pages 12 & 13 of the agenda and in detailed information under separate cover.

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

Financial Reports as of November 30, 2005

Bank Balances	\$16,337,111.47
District Investments – Principal	\$16,061,863.41
Health Care YTD	(\$ 19,565.89)

Unfinished Business

Policies for Second Reading

Motion by Alesandrini, second by Lowe to adopt the following policies as presented:

- 2:200 Board *Types of School Board Meetings*
- 2:220 Board *School Board Meeting Procedure*
- 4:170 Operational Services..... *Safety*
- 6:110 Instruction ... *Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program*
- 6:340 Instruction ... *Student Testing and Assessment Program*
- 7:60 Students *Residence*
- 8:30 Community Relations..... *Visitors To and Conduct On School Property*

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

Tax Levy for 2005

Larry Carr talked about the reserves, various revenue and expenditure funds in the levy, and how they are computed. He said the levy as it appears now, represents an increase to taxpayers of 2.8% & 2.9%. Under the current levy, on this agenda for adoption, taxpayers would pay about \$270,000 more than the prior year; however, he said in January or February the abatement for \$300,000 will be on the agenda - which would bring the amount back to zero increase to the taxpayers.

Motion by Lowe, second by Alesandrini to approve the 2005 Tax Levy as presented for a total levy in the amount of \$8,881,500.

Member Mangan talked about the money the District has in reserves and felt the current proposal represents a higher tax than is needed and is not fair to taxpayers. He proposed a property tax decrease of 5.6% from last year's taxes and 9.1% from the projected tax proposal. He urged members to vote "no" on this proposal and vote "yes" on the proposal to tax the same amount as last year.

Members talked about the tort fund and how much of the tort fund is left over at the end of the year. It was indicated that the legal fees were down this year so the levy is the same as last year. They talked about the District providing supplemental services for students not meeting AYP. They talked about the reserve fund, if the abatement amount could be increased if new growth is higher than estimated, and the timeline for approval of the abatement

Discussion continued on the levy and the tax to the taxpayers.

John McCabe clarified his inquiry about a TIF District. He asked about last year's graduation rate (83.1%) as compared to the rate 7 or 8 years ago (69%) and stated he feels this is a good return on the taxpayers' dollar.

Motion passed by 5 to 2 roll call vote: Ayes—Lowe, Alesandrini, Hohimer, Scott and Howard; nays—Mangan and Rossi. Member Rossi explained that he voted no only because he prefers the immediate abatement.

The 2005 Tax Levy is attached as exhibit "B "

New Business

Consent Agenda

President Howard read the items contained in the Consent Agenda.

Employment:

Certificated Staff: **Debbie Dacy** as a homebound teacher for the 2005-06 school year at a salary of \$16 per hour as per contract; **Jena Hintz** as a substitute teacher on an "as needed" basis at a salary of \$14 per teaching hour as per contract; **Corrie Salmon** as Assistant Boys' Swim Coach for the 2005-06 season at a differential of 12% as per contract.

Support Staff: **Jo Ellen Durham** as a Personal Assistant substitute in the Special Education Department for the 2005-06 school year at a salary of \$6.50 per hour as per contract.

Resignations: **Sue Renner** as Senior Class Advisor effective at the end of the 2005-06 school year; **Richard "Dick" Ronna** as Assistant Softball Coach effective immediately.

Volunteer: **Richard "Dick" Ronna** as Assistant Softball Coach on an "as needed" basis.

Motion by Scott, second by Alesandrini to approve the Consent Agenda items 1 through 3 as presented.

It was noted that the position of an assistant swim coach is due to enrollment in the program.

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

Student Discipline

Motion by Alesandrini, second by Lowe to expel student #05-04-06 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.

Policies for First Reading

Motion by Alesandrini, second by Lowe to lay the following policies over for action at a future meeting: He pointed out a typographical error on page 61 in policy 7:50. The last sentence should read “a maximum of 6 semester hours”

Policy 5:30 Personnel.....*Hiring Process and Criteria*

Policy 5:180 Personnel.... *Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity*

Policy 6:310 Instruction.... *Credit for Alternative Courses, Programs,
Course Substitutions and Independent Study*

Policy 7:50 Students..... *School Admissions and Student Transfers To
and From Non-District Schools*

Discussion took place on Policy 7:50 on graduation requirements and re-enrollment dealing with a 19 year old who cannot gain enough credits to graduate by the time they are 21 and the rules for homeless students.

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

Sponsor on Soccer Field Scoreboard

Superintendent Davis indicated she has talked to the Park District and they felt the cost would be too high to move the current scoreboard. The goal is to get the new scoreboard up without any cost to the District. The advertisement/sponsor would stay for the life of the scoreboard.

Motion by Scott, second by Hohimer for approval to allow the Soccer Booster Club to secure a sponsor for an additional scoreboard.

Scoreboard (cont'd.)

It was noted that the Board would have veto power if the sponsor is not acceptable. A suggestion was made to have a separate sponsor board attached to the scoreboard so sponsors could be changed annually; however, it was explained that the sponsor is needed for the financing of the new scoreboard and the sponsorship would continue for the life of the scoreboard.

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

Student Achievement - ACT Prep Course

Superintendent Davis, on behalf of the Student Achievement Committee, asked the Board for approval to offer free ACT prep courses at an amount not to exceed \$4,000 this school year. She explained that this is one intervention strategy to increase AYP. She said she would come back at the January meeting to discuss potential other activity relative to students with IEPs.

Motion by Lowe, second by Alesandrini to approve the Student Achievement Committee's request to offer free ACT Prep courses at an amount not to exceed \$4,000.

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

Truman State University

Superintendent Davis asked for Board approval to sign an agreement with Truman State University to allow exploratory field experiences for their teacher-ed students, at no cost to the district.

Motion by Alesandrini, second by Rossi to approve an Exploratory Field Experiences Placement Agreement with Truman State University.

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

Reports

Policy Committee – Joe Alesandrini reported that the committee met this evening at 5 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office. Closed minutes were reviewed from April 2005 to September 26, 2005. They continued discussion on revisions to policies in the 500, 600 and 700 sections.

O & M Committee – Mark Rossi reported that the committee met this morning at 8 a.m. in the Superintendent's Office and discussed the stadium and theatre sound system. Specs were reviewed for the gym sound system. Benches (similar to the park memorial benches) around the column entrance were discussed, as students need a place to sit while waiting for rides.

Inquiry about the purchase of televisions for the cafeteria area donated by the class of 2004 and when they will be put up. Superintendent Davis said they are waiting to see if the price of flat screens will come down to the money that is available.

LMRC – Paula Davis reported that this committee met in the Board Room on December 8, 2005. They discussed express lunches from Aramark, and held a brief discussion on alliance issues. The committee is scheduled to meet again on January 12, 2006 at 3 p.m.

SAC – Paula Davis reported that this committee met in the Board Room on December 15, 2005 at 3 p.m. A number of issues were discussed, the request for free ACT prep courses, an expansion of Dragon Day activities over the school year, and a survey of students to see what they might be interested in relative to motivating them to do well on the PSAE. They talked about exploring all avenues to increase test scores and meeting AYP. They continued discussion on students with IEPs. Their next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2006 at 3 p.m.

Future Agenda Items:

None.

Announcements by President:

On behalf of the Board of Education, President Howard wished the students, faculty, staff and community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Roger Alexander stepped to the podium and reported a problem with the center lane on Court Street near Stadium Drive. He asked that the school announce to employees not to use the center turn lane when coming from Stadium Drive to go up the back entrance to the high school. He lives on Court Street, right across from the automotive center, and has trouble turning into his driveway from the center lane because of PCHS people using that lane. He also asked that students be requested not to abuse the properties across the street from the school, as they are private properties.

Adjournment

President Howard adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

President Larry Howard

Secretary Mark Rossi