

Pending approval.

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Public Schools Board of Education.

Members Present: Julie Beam, Chuck Carpp, Dave Garvison, Jeff Johnson, Gerry Martin, Tom Reynnells, Carol Sjoquist. All present

Administration Present: John Overley, Sue McQueen, Jay Peterson.
All present

Athletic Director: Jeff Miller, Present.

Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:30.

Sjoquist moved and Reynnells supported the motion to approve the December 7, 2009 and the December 16, 2009 minutes as presented. The motion to approve December 7, 2009 minutes carried 7-0 and the motion to approve the December 16, 2009 minutes carried 6-0 with Martin abstaining.

Carpp moved and Beam supported the motion to approve the bills of \$476,987.87 as presented. Discussion was held. Motion carried 7-0.

Comments from the public:

Johnson addressed the audience stating the board strives to trust and abide by the chain of command and not try to micro-manage the administration. He stated the board could not respond to any personnel issues at this time.

Al Boyer expressed his concern regarding a problem his son is having with a teacher. He also expressed a concern regarding negative comments that his son said a coach made as well as a concern regarding cancelled practices.

John Drenth expressed a concern regarding statements made by coaches.

Tom Lefor expressed concerns regarding negative comments made by coaches to the athletes.

William McCabe expressed concerns regarding negative comments made by coaches and his concern the athletes would take matters into their own hands. He also expressed a concern regarding practices being cancelled at the last moment.

Julie Boyer expressed a concern with communications between the coaching staff, parents and the Athletic Director.

Joyce Drenth expressed concerns regarding practices being cancelled without prior notification.

Miller addressed the parents and stated he had spoken with the coaches and is continuing to work with them. All parental concerns have been and will be documented and will be addressed.

Discussion was held. Miller was asked to set up a meeting with the parents and coaches to better understand the issues and to address all concerns.

Peterson stated he would meet with parents who had concerns regarding the teaching staff.

Jenny Ludwig, representing the Lawrence Village, asked if the village could put articles in the *Flying Tiger*. Discussion was held. The consensus of the board was that it would be a positive addition to the newsletter, but would look to see if there would be any additional costs.

Gene Butler of Butler Computer gave a web page presentation. Discussion was held. Overley will present a tentative contract at the February board meeting for the Web Page creation and upkeep by Butler Computer.

McQueen presented the Elementary Principal's report stating several programs were successfully held in December. She gave special recognition to the varsity basketball team's help with the kindergarten classes.

Peterson presented the Jr./Sr. high school report stating they had stepped up the building security efforts and locker changes had been completed. The winter homecoming will be held February 15-19 and the student council will be holding a semi-formal dance on January 23, pending the board approval.

Overley presented the Athletic Director's report stating the head varsity football position has been posted and letters of interest have been received.

School Board elections will be held May 4, 2010. At this time, three seats are open including Chuck Carpp's, Tom Reynnells' (to finish out a one year term) and Gerry Martin's (to finish out a two year term).

Overley presented a Race to the Top overview stating basically the State may receive Race to the Top funding from the Federal Government of which we would receive approximately \$75,000. Beam moved and Carpp supported the motion to approve the Michigan Department of Education's Memorandum of Understanding. Discussion was held. Motion carried 7-0. Reynnells moved and Martin supported the motion to approve the Lawrence Public Schools' Specimen Resolution concerning the Memorandum of Understanding. Discussion was held. Motion carried 7-0. The board directed Overley to send a letter to Mr. Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Michigan Department of Education.

Reynnells moved and Carpp supported the motion to approve the Student Council's request to have a winter semi-formal dance at the Van Buren ISD on January 23, 2010. Motion carried 7-0.

Peterson made a presentation of OdyessyWare, a computer program for the purpose of alternative scheduling, credit recovery and summer school. Sjoquist moved and Carpp supported the motion to approve the purchase of OdyessyWare at a cost of \$4495 for the first year which includes a one time cost of \$1495 for training. Discussion was held. Motion carried 7-0.

Reynnells moved and Carpp supported the motion to approve a trip to Chicago's Shakespeare Theater on March 5, 2010 by the High School English Department. Motion carried 7-0.

Carpp moved and Martin supported the motion to approve Wendy Murney and Maryann Nunez as 7th and 8th grade girls' basketball coaches, respectively. Motion carried 7-0.

Overly presented a budget update stating the School Aid budget for the 2010-2011 school year may have a cut of \$268/student giving us \$6800/student for that school year.

The Lawrence Public Schools received \$295.04 from the Linda Marshall embezzlement payments for the month of December 2009 leaving a balance owed to the school of over \$50,000.

Discussion was held regarding parental concerns.

Discussion was held regarding some damage to school property.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25.

Pat Garrod, Recording Secretary