

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WINTHROP HARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT #1  
WINTHROP HARBOR, ILLINOIS**

**February 25, 2008**

Minutes of a regular public meeting of the Board of Education of School District Number 1, Lake County, Illinois, held in the Library of North Prairie Junior High School, in said School District at 7:00 p.m. on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, 2008.

January's Students of the Month were congratulated and awarded with a \$20.00 Borders gift card. The following students were recognized:

Teigen Ruple	Kindergarten
Haani Saiyed	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade
Leah Anderson	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Alec Swiec	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Haley Holverson	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade
CJ Taylor	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Lucy and upon the roll being called, the following members of the Board of Education answered present: Gene Ellison, Tim Hall, Ray Jordan, Dave Lucy and Chris Thompson. Syndy Nugent and James Leech were not present. Also present were Principals Ted Brooks and Pat Hodge, Assistant Principal Tom Whitford, Superintendent Dennis Guiser and Secretary to the Board, Julie Leech.

Syndy Nugent joined the meeting at 7:09 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The floor was opened for comments and questions at 7:10 pm. As there were no calls for public comments or questions, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:10 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

MOTION by Chris Thompson to approve the following consent agenda items; SECOND by Ray Jordan. On roll call, the following members voted AYE: Gene Ellison, Tim Hall, Ray Jordan, Dave Lucy, Syndy Nugent and Chris Thompson. James Leech was not present. MOTION CARRIED.

- A) February 25, 2008 Board of Education Meeting Agenda and the January 28, 2008 Regular and Executive Board of Education Minutes and the February 11, 2008 Regular and Executive Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
- B) Hiring of Ashley Orr (S.B. Kindergarten Aide)
- C) Finance Items
  - 1) Expenditure Report for January, 2008
  - 2) Revenue Report for January, 2008
  - 3) Treasurer's Report for January, 2008
  - 4) Payments of Bills & Reimbursements for February, 2008
  - 5) Student Activity Reports for January, 2008

**OPERATIONS, BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE**

There was no report.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

There was no report.

**TRANSPORTATION**

There was no report.

**PERSONNEL AND POLICY**

There was no report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The resolution approving an impact fee rebate for Maki Construction was discussed. Dr. Guiser indicated that John Maki approached Jim Leech asking for a portion of the impact fees to be returned to him to compensate him for money spent on attorney fees to de-annex the (first) property from Beach Park. Dr. Guiser indicated that Mr. Maki is a friend of Jim Leech's, but if someone else has a friend that can give us \$60,000 more per year in revenue, we would try to help them too. Dr. Guiser indicated that he did talk to our attorney who felt it was appropriate to refund the impact fees. He also indicated that, as a result, we may have other developers ask for a rebate and feel that it would be reasonable to accommodate local businessmen.

Dave Lucy indicated that he is uncomfortable with rebating any portion of impact fees, especially since we have worked long and hard to cut smaller amounts of money in order to balance the budget. Dr. Guiser reiterated that it would create goodwill with the local businessmen and it is a small amount of money to spend for the additional money it will generate. He again said that our attorney thinks it's a good thing to do.

Dr. Guiser told the Board that he met with PMA Financial last week and they indicated that as long as we keep doing what we are doing, we are going in a very good direction. PMA feels that instead of the six estimated years to pay off the TAW debt, they feel we will only have to borrow \$350,000 next year, then \$100,000 the year after that, then nothing the following year. Their three year plan includes the attrition of staff and closing Spring Bluff. PMA will be present at the March Board Meeting to address questions and concerns that the Board has.

Syndy Nugent asked at what point does the community find out about the district's plans? Dr. Guiser indicated that he plans to discuss the staff's "rightsizing" and building restructuring at the March meeting, but he did meet with a reporter from the Zion-Benton News last week and a series of two articles regarding the district's plans will be printed February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 6<sup>th</sup> – the first on Spring Bluff closing and the second on property annexation.

Tim Hall asked how will we keep the good teachers we have so they don't go out of the district? Dr. Guiser indicated that we reinforce the idea that are keeping the district viable and we continue to be efficient even while losing students. If we can do so, we are protecting our status as an independent district and they will not need to find other districts to work in.

Chris Thompson asked how much infrastructure changes will be needed at Westfield? Pat Hodge indicated that the building could accept another grade right now due to vacant classrooms. Ted Brooks indicated that the administrators are meeting in the morning to discuss long-term solutions to the building restructuring.

Gene Ellison asked if portable classrooms would be located at Westfield. Dr. Guiser said that they would probably be at North Prairie and we would want to get rid of them as quickly as we could as these types of classrooms seem to take on a life of their own if they are around too long.

Chris Thompson asked how will maintenance issues be handled at Spring Bluff if we do rent it out (potentially to SEDOL or Beach Park/Zion/Winthrop Harbor special needs kids). Dr. Guiser indicated that the cost would be passed on or shared by whoever is using the building. Ted Brooks said that we are not currently putting a lot of money in Spring Bluff in regards to technology or supplies, but the equipment that is currently in the building is descent.

MOTION by Tim Hall to adjourn at 7:57 pm; SECOND by Syndy Nugent. On roll call, the following members voted AYE: Gene Ellison, Tim Hall, Ray Jordan, Dave Lucy, Syndy Nugent and Chris Thompson. James Leech was not present. MOTION CARRIED.

These minutes were transcribed by Julie Leech.

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James W. Leech  
School Board President  
Winthrop Harbor School District #1  
Winthrop Harbor, Illinois

ATTEST:

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Christine Thompson  
Board of Education  
Winthrop Harbor School District #1  
Winthrop Harbor, Illinois