

EMMONS SCHOOL DISTRICT #33  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
February 19, 2009

The following were present:

Damian England, President	Michele Reiser
Dan Jordan, Vice President	Jackie Zogran
Jim Fischer, Secretary	Dr. Robert Machak, Superintendent
Michele Poss	Dr. Cynthia Vandrush, Principal (6:45pm)
	Carla Pratt, School Secretary

President England called the meeting to order at 6:05pm with roll call.

Motion to move to Closed Session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees and to discuss negotiation matters between the public body and it's employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees by Dan Jordan. Second by Jackie Zogran. The Board moved to Closed Session at 6:06pm.

The Board reconvened open session at 7:10pm.

Also present were staff members Craig Seaver, Cyndy Thielen, Cheryl McCameron and Jennifer Wu, community member Mrs. Laurie Christopherson and Mr. Howard Crouse from PMA.

**VISITORS TO BE RECOGNIZED:**

Howard Crouse from PMA Financial Services gave a presentation to the Board. PMA does financial planning and investment banking for school districts, handles bond proceed management for school districts that are building, and manages the Illinois Liquid Asset Fund.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion to approve the agenda by Jim Fischer. Second by Michele Poss. Yes:6, No: 0.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES:**

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2009 Open and Closed sessions by Dan Jordan. Second by Michele Reiser. Yes: 6, No: 0.

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST:**

There was a question of a check to OCE in the amount of \$792.00. Dr. Machak will investigate and get back to the Board with an explanation.

Minutes to approve the remaining January bill list and the February bill list by Michele Reiser. Second by Jackie Zogran. Yes: Zogran, Fischer, Jordan, Poss, Reiser, England. No: 0.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

### **Financial Report:**

Expenditures are still within the 5% range. We are through about 58% of the school year, and all expenditures are on track.

The Hot Lunch Program is in the black again this month.

Dr. Machak will meet with our Treasurer, Jennifer Nolde on March 3, 2009 to talk about tax anticipation warrants.

Dr. Machak had a conversation with Representative JoAnn Osmond about money available to schools and an online website. He gave her a list of things that Emmons needed and asked for her feedback on which she thinks has the best chance at funding.

Dr. Machak has also subscribed to a grant service on-line to help in finding available grants for school districts. Teachers applied for grants from TrustMark, and received a total of \$3000 from them this year. Three grants were also received from the Antioch Garden Club.

### **Technology Report:**

Mr. Seaver gave a presentation of the technology plan and offered some options from the technology committee for using phased out computers in classrooms.

Mr. Seaver also shared the 212 video that he and Dr. Machak created for the 212 assembly.

### **School Calendar:**

A draft of the school calendar for school year 2009/2010 was given to the staff, and we are working on getting it ready for approval by the Board. We are considering applying for waivers to attend on Lincoln's birthday and Veterans Day. The feeling is that we would rather take President's Day as a day off, and that we would better honor veterans by holding school and inviting them to participate in an assembly in their honor. The Board will receive a draft in March, and hopefully will be ready to vote on acceptance in April.

### **Memo of Understanding with Teacher's Union:**

Dr. Machak has been working with Mrs. Ryan and the Teacher's Union to create a memo of understanding that the last day of school for this school year will be a full day for this year only.

### **Schaefer Grants:**

Dr. Machak and Dr. Vandrush met with the Schaefer family who has set up a foundation in honor of Katie Schaefer, their daughter and a former Emmons student. The foundation offers 350 grants for teachers to pursue public service type projects.

**Insurance Report:**

Due to family commitments, Phil Delany was not available for this Board meeting, so his presentation on our health benefit costs will be at the March meeting.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:****Social Studies Curriculum:**

The Social Studies Curriculum committee has met frequently for the last several months. They invited Penny Choice who does Social Studies content area for the Regional Office of Education and got her opinion of some of the available material. Next week, publishers will present their textbooks to the committee.

Many publishers do not service K-8, so it is likely that there will be different publishers chosen for different grade levels.

The committee is hoping that they will be able to present their top choices to staff and then to the Board in April.

**Calendar:**

Dr. Vandrush presented the March activity calendar to the Board.

**SEDOL:**

Jackie Zogran and Cyndy Thielen are planning on attending the SEDOL meeting next week. Prior to the Meeting, there will be a presentation of projects that were possible because of grants received .

**Goals Reports****Administrative Evaluation:**

This committee will meet Monday, February 23, 2009.

**Organizational Structure:**

No update.

**Fiscal Accountability:**

Met last week with Howard Crouse of PMA.

**Policy Update & District Mission:**

No update.

**Academic Excellence:**

The committee will meet on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 3:30pm.

**Communications:**

The committee has been talking with someone about doing a district wide mailing. They are now waiting for an estimate for the service.

**Facilities Management:**

No update.

**Administrative Practices:**

No update.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

The Board held a 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of the revised District Vacation Policy.

Motion to approve the revised District Vacation Policy as read by Jim Fischer. Second by Michele Reiser. Yes: 6, No: 0.

**NEW BUSINESS:****Changes to District Discipline Policy:**

An incident that happened during school hours became a topic of conversation with parents. As a result, some parents were questioning the current discipline policy and were questioning if it needed to be changed. A number of parents attended the Superintendent's forum meeting in early February and asked what was done with this student as a result of the incident. Dr. Machak explained that discipline policy have a need to have some flexibility for dealing with specific circumstances.

Dr. Machak would like to keep the policy, but expand on a couple of ideas to take to the School Discipline Policy Committee. He would also like to have the facilitators review the handbook and, if they feel it necessary, recommend changes.

Due in a large part to that forum and the parent's concerns expressed there, Dr. Machak has asked our social worker, Sarah Posey, to present an anti-bullying workshop on March 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:00pm - 8:30pm. Detective Andrea Upruch from the Lake County Sheriff's Department will also be present.

**Visitor Participation :**

Mrs. Wu wanted the Board to know that Dan Schneider has been working with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade on the Social Studies classes and lack of good textbooks. She believes that he has good insights about instructional ideas and critiquing the current textbooks.

Motion to move to Closed Session to continue the discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees and to discuss negotioaion matters between the public body and it's employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more class of employees by Dan Jordan. Second by Jackie Zogran. Yes: 6, No: 0. The Board moved back to Closed Session at 8:56pm.

The Board reconvened Open Session at 10:15pm.

Motion to offer a retirement package to Dr. Vandrush to take effect at the end of the current contract on June 30, 2009 by Dan Jordan. Second by Michele Poss. Yes: Reiser, Zogran, Fischer, Jordan, Poss, and England. No: 0.

Motion to adjourn by Michele Poss. Second by Dan Jordan. Yes: 6, No: 0. The meeting adjourned at 10:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carla Pratt

School Secretary

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\_\_\_\_\_ President

Date

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Secretary