

MARCH 12, 2009 BOARD MINUTES

The regular March meeting of the Montgomery County R-II Board of Education was held on the 12th in the Bellflower gymnasium. During Executive Session, the board accepted the resignation of Matt Fox. Also accepted was a resignation for the purpose of retirement from Lila Broz, Cathy McCormack, and Anita Davis.

At 6:30 p.m. the board called to order the Special Public Hearing to approve the 2009-10 school calendar. The board approved the recommended calendar and the first day for students will be Wednesday, August 19th. One change to the school calendar is President's Day will not be used as a make-up day and Spring Break will run for a week. A copy of the calendar can be obtained from the Central Office.

The board went directly into the Regular Session with the approval of the Agenda and Consent Agenda. In Recognition, Dr. Ward commended Shonda Boyer, Kathy Holtz (sponsors) and all the participants for a strong performance in the District FBLA contest. Montgomery County High School will be sending 22 participants to the State competition in April. Debby Guile, Bellflower Principal, recognized the Odyssey of the Mind Team that took First Place in competition at Rolla, on March 14th. This win qualified the team for the World Competition in May, which will be in Ames, Iowa. Coaches for the team are Janice Edgar and Lisa Cunningham. Members include Eric Queathem, Dylan Miller, Joey Schlueter, Hanna Lane, and Grant Shanks.

The board opened bids on surplus property which included 2 deep fryers, 3 pianos, and numerous meal trays. The Jonesburg Lion's Club received the bids on the two fryers at \$251 and \$151, Maria Stille received the bid for the pianos and no bids were submitted for the serving trays.

During the Superintendent's Report Dr. Ward presented a plan for the restructure of the elementary schools that will produce a more equitable cost per student per elementary building. On February 18, the Montgomery County R-II School Board, along with administrators met to discuss how to offset the loss of state/local revenues and deficit spending. The board elected to reduce the 2009-2010 budget by \$500,000.

The first step of this process will include all High Hill and New Florence elementary students attending the learning centers in Jonesburg and Montgomery City effective the 2009-10 school term, thus reducing the student population at Bellflower by approximately 30 students. Step two will allow for the restructure of class configurations at Bellflower to a KG/1st, 2nd/3rd, and 4th/5th class structure. Moving to this setting allows for the elimination or reassignment of staff and the reduction of programs. Step three will be the review of all bus routes with the intention of eliminating one and possibly two for the upcoming school year. District wide cuts will equal approximately 7 aide positions, 2.5 core teachers and 5 intervention positions (at-risk, reading, social worker), with the most notable staffing cuts made at middle school at-risk, combining

Bellflower staff, and the elimination of all elementary library aides. In addition, a reconfiguration of administrators and their duties is in the works for next school year.

Budgets such as supplies (incidental and capital) have all been reduced in addition to the aforementioned cuts. The district will also eliminate all pre-school transportation for the 2009-10 school year. With this reduction the district will add a half time pre-school at both Bellflower and Jonesburg, increasing our pre-school population by 20 students. Parents will be required to provide the needed transportation to and from the pre-school. These cuts will reduce the budget by \$650,000 for the 2009-2010 school year.

Dr. Ward updated the board on summer projects that will include renovation to the locker room at the football field house, expanding the cafeteria at Montgomery City Elementary and moving one of the instructional trailers from Bellflower to Jonesburg. In other facility business Dr. Ward presented budgetary numbers on various projects at the high school and middle school complex. These projects include: finishing window retro-fit at high school, roof replacement at the high school and middle school, replacement of HVAC units and controls at high school, ceiling tile at high school, asbestos abatement at high school, upgrade of sports lights on football and baseball fields, electrical upgrades at both the high school and middle school tech labs, interior door replacement at high school, and gymnasium light upgrade at the high school and middle schools. The board will review all projects to prioritize the list. Dr. Ward will be researching the cash flow for either a 15 or 20 year lease participation to finance this project. It could be done by using Classroom Trust Fund or the 7% Transfer into Capital Projects, moving a percentage of the present levy into Fund 4 or a combination of both.

The board moved from Regular Session back into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. The next regular meeting will take place April 9th, in the Jonesburg Multipurpose Room, at 7:30 p.m.