

The regular meeting of the Montgomery County R-II Board of Education was held on November 13th in the Bellflower Elementary School Gymnasium. During Executive Session, the Board accepted the resignations of Jamie Kluesner and Denise Rakers from their high school volleyball coaching positions. Lynn Arens was approved for the position of Middle School cheerleading sponsor.

At 7:30 the Montgomery County R-II Board moved into Regular Session and was entertained by a group of middle school drama students under the direction of Kristin Crowe. The students performed the play "Sibling Switch" and those in the cast were Latyshia Churchill, Keith Holt, Sam Kroll, E'Lora Magday, Nikki Phillips, Brandi Hollensteiner, Kathrynne Brandenburg and Dakota Skeens.

Reports included Governance and Administration from Superintendent Ward. Dr. Ward asked Janet Stumbaugh, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, to report on the updated APR. She reported the district has a new score of 13/14 with the only area not met being the AYP sub-group. She commended the Board and teachers for a job well done. Mrs. Stumbaugh, along with PD representatives, reported to the Board on activities done during the early release on October 17th. Some of those activities included collaboration on the four questions and data analysis to present to parents during the parent teacher conferences.

During Dr. Ward's report to the Board he updated them on the new social security requirements that will go in effect on July 1, 2009. The federal government has informed school districts that too many employees have been exempt from paying Social Security taxes. Those workers are covered by the Missouri Public School Retirement System. Federal officials now say only teachers, principals and a handful of other positions can be exempt from paying into Social Security. This new interpretation will have a negative impact on schools ability to attract quality employees and the retirement benefits for thousands of education employees. The new ruling could affect guidance counselors, instructional aides and certain central office administrators.

In a financial update, he reported a simulation on Proposition A that could result in approximately \$100,000 in new money for the 2010 school year. Dr. Ward has started a preliminary 2010 budget and hopes to have a working copy to the Board for the January meeting.

Dr. Ward and Mrs. Stumbaugh were involved in the interview process for a new insurance broker. The Montgomery County R-II School District is a member of the Missouri Eastern Insurance Consortium, along with Troy and Louisiana. Clopton, Bowling Green and Mark Twain (Ralls County) are awaiting approval of membership. The Board has allowed Dr. Ward to make a decision on maintaining membership or looking into other options for insurance starting with the 2010 school year.

In other business the Board reported back on the attendance at the Missouri School Board Association Conference in October. The Board will be working with Dr. Ward and Assistant Superintendent Stumbaugh on implementation of ideas from the conference.

The Board adjourned Regular Session and went back into Executive Session to approve an early graduation request for Krystal Kemry.

The next scheduled meeting will be December 11th at the Jonesburg Elementary School.