

MINUTES OF THE **Regularly** scheduled MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF STAUNTON COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #6, Macoupin and Madison Counties, Illinois, held in the school Library on Tuesday, January 16th, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order Regular Meeting

A. Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll call

President Chris Tingle called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 pm in the school Library. Roll was taken: Board members Janice Kinder, Dave Lamore, Stephanie Legendre, Kim Peterson, John Renner and Chris Tingle were present. Scott Skertich absent. Administration in attendance were Superintendent Dan Cox, High School Principal Brett Allen, Grade School Principal Nancy Werden, and assistant principal Ryan McGowan.

B. Approval of agenda

Lamore made a **motion** to approve the regular agenda as presented. Kinder seconded the motion. On a roll call vote: Kinder, Lamore, Legendre, Peterson, Renner, and Tingle voted to approve the agenda as presented. Skertich absent.

II. Recognition of Public/Visitors

President Tingle acknowledged Kelly Costa, reporter from the Staunton Star Times.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Bills/Payroll/Treasurer's Report

B. Approval of Minutes Regular and Closed from December 2017

C. Approval of Personnel Report:

a. Approval of Volunteers- SHS Asst. Softball – Brian Kernich-

b. Recognition of Resignation(s) and Retirements- None

c. Approval of Employee unpaid leave of absence-Diane Dal Pazzo for a general unpaid leave of absence effective January 17, 2018-February 20, 2018

d. Approval of paternity leave request-Kyle McBrain

D. Acceptance of Donations-None

E. Destruction of Closed Session Recordings older than 18 months

Superintendent Cox recommended the approval of the consent agenda as presented. Tingle made a **motion** to approve the consent agenda as presented. Lamore seconded the motion. On a roll call vote: Kinder, Lamore, Legendre, Peterson, Renner, and Tingle voted to approve the agenda as present. Skertich absent.

IV. Administrator Reports

A. Superintendent Dan Cox

State of the District report

Mr. Cox gave his State of the District report. He told the Board that the District currently has 1,306 students enrolled (376 in the high school). He, the Board, and district Employees have worked hard to reduce the District's deficit spending by over \$1.1 million and still maintained a high level of program offerings. He told the Board that it is possible that our District could have a balanced budget at the end of this school year (the first time since 2008) if new Tier funding is distributed this spring. He was elated that communities throughout Illinois reformed the most inequitable school funding in the nation. He was disappointed that the Governor used an amendatory veto of Senate Bill 444 resulting in schools throughout the state not receiving the new funding. As part of our District's Plan, the faculty and staff created a vision for technology to attempt to create a 1:1 technology district. The Staunton Education Foundation generously donated \$ 25,000 to get a jump start on this plan. Beginning this fall a pilot program will begin in which all 5th and 9th grade students will have personal laptops as part of their instructional resources. He noted that we have

nine students enrolled in the Macoupin County CEO class. We had six students named as Illinois State Scholars, adding to the rich academic tradition that SHS offers. He also cautioned that we will continue to need to be prepared for several issues in the future: 1) rebuilding damage created by years of state underfunding, 2) prioritizing programs and services to restore, 3) meeting the District's adequacy target over the next decade, 4), writing school improvement plans, and 5) addressing the statewide certified and substitute teacher shortages, among others.

Review of Freedom of Information Act requests

The Board reviewed the freedom of Information Act requests from Jennifer Summers representing Parent's Foundation for Education.

A. Principals reports:

Discussion of Latin Honor System

Research has been conducted which could result in SHS transitioning to the Latin Honor System for honoring graduates and eliminating the Valedictorian/Salutatorian designations. Additionally, the Staunton High School faculty discussed and voted on the issue and a consensus of eliminating the two distinctions resulted. If implemented, the program would begin with the incoming Freshmen next year.

Criteria for the Latin Honor System:

- Summa Cum Laude 4.0 - 3.90
- Magna Cum Laude 3.89 - 3.80
- Cum Laude 3.79 - 3.65

Class rank will still be calculated at Staunton High School, as this can be important in students applying for specific scholarships. The student speaker at the SHS Graduation Ceremony will be chosen via an application process developed by the High School Principal in conjunction with the High School Counselor. Students who are distinguished as Summa Cum Laude can apply to be the speaker at the ceremony.

The Board had questions about who would give the graduation speech, how many would speak at graduation, etc. and Brett told the Board that these are some of the things that will need to be addressed before the plan would be implemented.

Grade school Report- Nancy Werden

• Institute Day

Upon return from Christmas break, the teachers participated in a Google training workshop in order to begin the process of increasing technology through our 1-to-1 initiative. From this workshop, teachers were able to learn and apply Google and use their laptops. Some teachers have already familiarized and started transitioning to using Google products (which are currently free to access and use). The PreK team and Nancy attended a state workshop to learn the program changes being adopted by the state in regards to the PreK standards. Staunton will be phasing in these changes and have STARNET come in to evaluate our progress in order to prepare for the next state monitoring visit.

• Reading Recovery Conference/PE Workshop

Two teams of teachers (one from the high school and one elementary) will be attending the Reading Recovery Conference in Chicago from January 18-20, 2018 to help teachers learn strategies currently being used to help students improve their reading skills and comprehension. Teachers will learn research based interventions that can be applied in the classroom. She would like to incorporate these strategies into a family engagement night this spring.

• Freshman Orientation

The freshman registration meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 30, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. This is an important meeting that students and parents should attend in order for 8th grade students to gain an understanding of what classes are available and extracurricular activities they will be able to join.

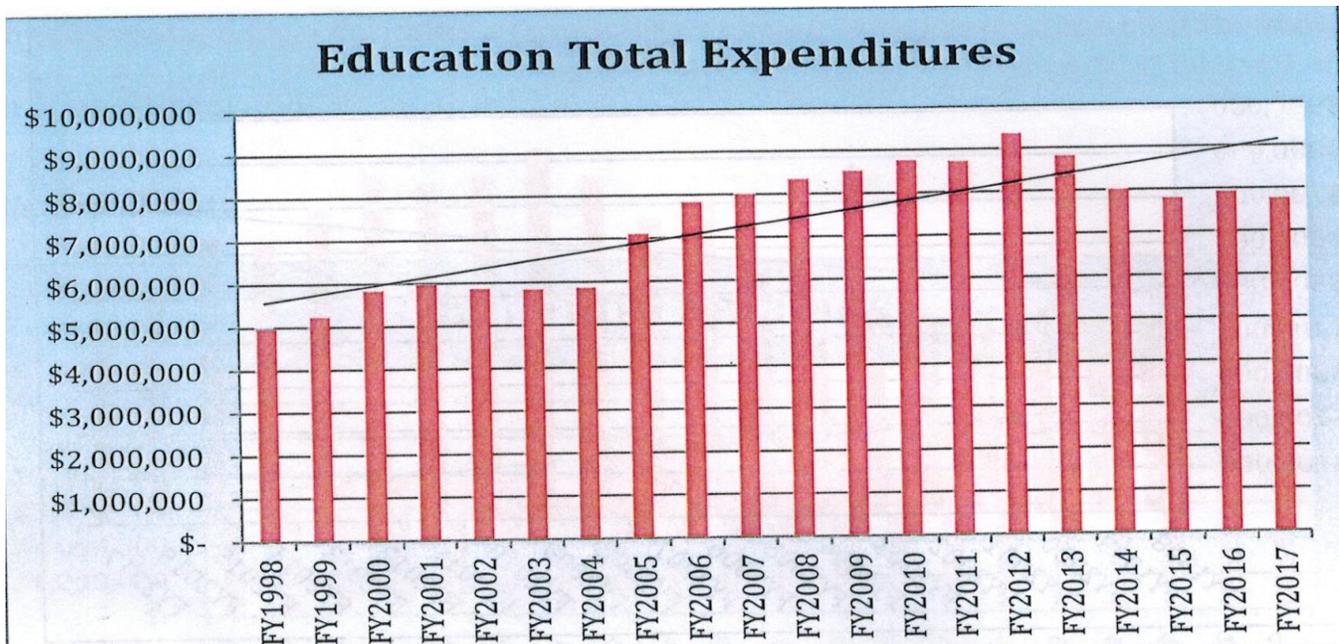
High School Report- Brett Allen

- Mrs. Cress has started the process of registering students for next year’s courses. In addition, a Freshmen Registration Meeting for parents and students will held the evening of Tuesday, January 30th at 6:00 PM in the high school auditorium. Information will be provided to incoming freshmen and their parents about the registration process and the importance of picking the right courses.
- The 11th annual FFA, Friends for Ag, Dinner Auction will be held on Saturday, February 3rd, 2017 at the Crystal Ballroom in Staunton. Doors will open at 4:00 PM with buffet dinner being served from 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM. Ticket can be purchased through the Staunton FFA Alumni Association or the high school office.
- The annual Band Booster Trivia Night/Auction will be held Saturday, February 17th at 7:00 PM at Concordia Hall. Contact a member of the Band Boosters for tickets.
- He congratulated the SHS Red Roses dance team for qualifying to participate in the State Competition. It takes place in Springfield at the Convention Center on Saturday, February 10th.

V. Financial Report

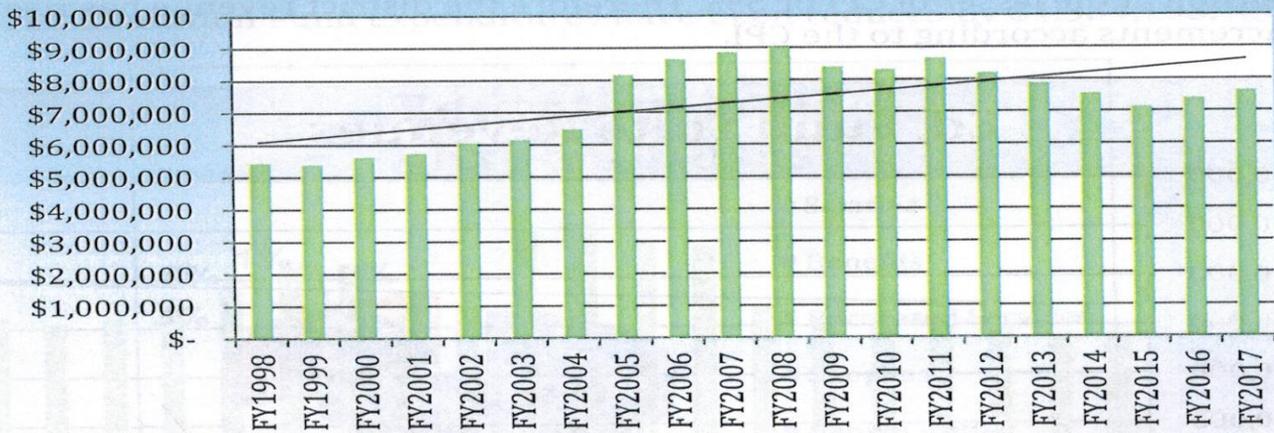
A. Presentation of District Budget Projections

Mr. Cox presented the Board with a detailed 3-year budget projection. He included several graphs, two of which are included:



He noted that Educational Funds personnel costs have been reduced by \$654,448 since 2012. Over recent years educational funds salaries have remained relatively flat with a net reduction of \$13,111 predicted for the current year.

Education Total Revenues



Staunton schools falls under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) which caps the extension at the lesser of CPI or 5%. Therefore, the District revenue has risen in small increments. Additional, the State’s funding in recent years (which the District relies on for 56% of our funding) has been cut by \$1,058,602 to our District. This combination has resulted in our District having a deficit in FY 2013 of \$568,553, FY 2014 of \$581,754, FY2015 of \$1,050,462, FY2016 of \$ 625,503, and FY 2017 of \$52,905. Mr. Cox projects that FY 2018 we have a surplus of \$127,932, a surplus in 2019 of \$19,281, but deficits again in FY 2020 of \$60,434 and a deficit of \$53,545 in FY 2021. Our operating tax rate has remained a low \$3.05.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Consideration and Possible Action to issue a request for proposals for Food Management Services

The Board discussed and directed the superintendent to prepare invitation for bid for meal services contract as part of the nutrition and wellness food procurement process. OPAA sent a feasibility study for our district. The study showed that we lost \$116,434 in the cafeteria in 2014-2015, lost \$40,309 in 2015-2016, and lost \$ 69,486 in 2016-2017. 42% of our students purchase lunch but only 15% purchase Breakfast. OPAA, based on previous experience, told the District that a 20% increase in overall participation is not out of the question. A 10% increase in lunch/breakfast would generate \$30,000 for the District. Lamore made a **motion** directing Mr. Cox to make RFPs (Request for Proposals) for bids for meal services. Renner seconded the motion. On a roll call vote Kinder, Lamore, Legendre, Peterson, Renner and Tingle voted to approve Mr. Cox to get bids for meal services. Skertich absent.

VII. New Business

A. Approval of Fuel Bids

Mr. Cox was not prepared to make a recommendation on fuel bids because he needed more time to talk to the other schools involved in this group bid.

B. Approval of resolution to regulate expense reimbursements

The Superintendent recommends approval of the resolution regulating expense reimbursements as presented. Tingle made a **motion** to approve the resolution regulating expense reimbursement as presented. Renner seconded the motion. On a roll call vote Kinder, Lamore, Legendre, Peterson, Renner and Tingle voted to approve the expense reimbursement resolution. Skertich absent.

C. First Reading of updates and revisions of Board of education Policies

No action on this.

D. Consideration and possible approval of the purchase of storage containers

The District is in growing need of on-sight storage, specifically for outdoor equipment, classroom items that are used on a periodic basis, and surplus items the District wants to keep (i.e. desks). The need for additional storage has increased since A.R. Graiff is no longer utilized. The containers will be located next to the maintenance shop. The superintendent recommends approval of the purchase of two 8' x 40' storage containers priced at \$2,200 each with a delivery charge of \$700 for a total of \$5,100. The containers are Standard Ocean Cargo Worthy Containers 40'long, 8'6" tall, and 8'wide. They are all steel with a tongue and groove marine laminate wood floor. The floor has steel cross members every 12 inches. There are two doors on one end with handle locks on each door. They are wind and water tight containers weighing 8,200 lbs. each. Tingle made a **motion** to purchase two storage containers from S&K Storage, Inc. for \$5,100. Renner seconded the motion. On a roll call vote Kinder, Lamore, Legendre, Peterson, Renner, and Tingle voted to purchase two storage containers from S&K Storage, Inc. Skertich absent.

VIII. Roll call to go into Closed Session of Purposes defined in:

Lamore made a **motion** to go into executive session at 8:25 pm in the unit library. Tingle seconded the motion. On a roll call vote Kinder, Lamore, Legendre, Peterson, Renner, and Tingle voted to go into executive session (Skertich absent) to discuss:

A. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1)- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body.

B. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) – Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting

C. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) –Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act.

IX. Roll call to Open Session

Lamore made a **motion** to return to the regular order of business at 8:57 p.m. Tingle seconded the motion. On a roll call vote Kinder, Lamore, Legendre, Peterson, Renner, and Tingle voted to return to the regular order of business. Skertich absent.

X. Action as a Result of Closed Session

A. Consideration and action to open Closed Session Minutes

Mr. Cox recommended that the Closed Session Minutes remain closed. Renner made a **motion** to continue to keep Closed Session Minutes closed. Kinder seconded the motion. On a roll call vote Kinder, Lamore, Legendre, Peterson, Renner, and Tingle voted to keep the Minutes closed. Skertich absent.

B. Action on Bus Driver Trip rate increase

Mr. Cox recommended that the Board give the drivers and Aides a \$.25 an hour increase in salary for regular trips effective next pay period. Tingle made a **motion** to increase the bus drivers and Aides \$.25 per hour for regular trips beginning next pay period. Kinder seconded the motion. On a roll call vote Kinder, Lamore, Legendre, Peterson, Renner, and Tingle voted to increase the bus drivers pay. Skertich absent.

XI. Correspondence

None

XII. General Discussion

Mr. Cox told the Board that pre-bid meetings for A. R. Graiff were held today and will continue this Friday and bills will be open later this month or early in February.

XIII. Adjournment

With no further business Lamore made a **motion** for adjournment. Tingle seconded the motion. All members present voted for adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, February 20th, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library.

Dave Lamore, Secretary Staunton School District.