

**ALDEN-HEBRON S.D. #19**  
Hebron, IL 60034-9799  
“Strive For Excellence”

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**APRIL 16, 2019 - 7:00 P.M.**

Vice-President Winkelman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Alden-Hebron Community Consolidated Unit School District #19 to order at 7:01 P.M.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Winkelman, Mrs. Combs, Mr. Madsen, Mr. Eskridge Mr. Stauss, Mrs. Smith

**ABSENT:** Mr. Norton

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Dr. Debbie Ehlenburg—Superintendent, Tim Hayunga-MS/HS Principal, Pat Syens-Treasurer, Scott Redden-Buildings & Grounds, Michelle Venard-MS Math/PLTW Teacher, Cyndie Erckfritz-Transportation, Deanna VanderPal-District Secretary, Ariel Beck, Ray Stalker, Brandon Berg, Colleen Geils-Media Specialist, Ken Neilsen, Jacob Behrens-HS Math/Science Teacher, Liz Behrens, Mike VonBergen, Tracie VonBergen, Patti Peisert-1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, Karen Fallon-Kindergarten Teacher, Tammie Lillie, Zack Lillie, Elijah Nallen, Sue Walters, Chris Olson, Ashley Donnelly-HS ELA Teacher, Connie Mueller, Mike Mueller, Nick Ciccotosto, Dave Manning, Kate Johnson, Mel VonBergen, Dawn Higgins, Joe Higgins, Dean Beck

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- 3/20/19: FOIA from Drew Zimmerman, reporter for NWHerald—requesting revenue amount budgeted for and total amount collected for registration fees for last 5 fiscal years. Satisfied on 3/21/19
- 3/26/19: FOIA from Olivia Deloian, NBC5, requesting information on Tornado safety in District buildings. Satisfied on 3/27/19. She contacted the District office again on 4/8/19 for clarification of the response; that was satisfied on 4/12/19

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Public Comments**

- Ariel Beck informed the BOE and others present that she has started an “AH Referendum Education Committee”. She and her husband are both graduates of Alden-Hebron and are raising their family in the community. The aim of the committee will be to provide accurate information regarding the school district with district residents. They intend to share findings online and through flyers distributed in the community.
- Ray Stalker, Village of Hebron resident, remarked that Illinois is “broke”, with people fleeing the state in droves. It is his belief that the District should fix items on the Health, Life, Safety list rather than burden the taxpayers with the cost of a new building.
- Mel VonBergen, 55-year resident of Hebron Township, stated that he participated in a Consolidation committee years ago to research the feasibility of consolidation with a neighboring districts. It is his belief that the Alden-Hebron

BOE was not transparent as they planned for the April referendum, and that the community was not well-informed by the Board. He further stated that there has been no growth in the community that would warrant a new school building.

#### Staff Comments

- Mrs. Venard and some of her Project Lead the Way students presented the BOE with their latest project. They were given the task to solve an engineering problem for a fictitious furniture company. Using a CAD program, the students designed prototypes for cubes that would improve production for the company. They then timed the BOE members to see if how long it would take for them to assemble the prototype cubes using the drawings they created.
- Dr. Ehlenburg extended thanks to Sue Walters for her work in writing for, and receiving a \$2500 grant for the school from “America’s Farmers Grow Communities. Mrs. Walters intended the grant funds to be earmarked for the new MS/HS building, but she may be able to alter that stipulation and will contact Dr. Ehlenburg with further information regarding the funds.

#### Board Comments

Mr. Winkelman urged those present to support the student athletes of the District, now that spring sports are in full-swing—Track, Softball and Baseball. He reported that the HSBB team won their game this afternoon with a score of 12-1, and the HSSB team won their game this afternoon with a score of 2-1.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

The following were reviewed under the consent agenda.

- \*A. Approval of March 19, 2019 Regular & Executive Meeting Minutes
- \*B. Recap of March 2019 Expenditures
- \*C. Treasurer’s Report for March 2019
- \*D. Approval of Current Invoices & Payroll
- \*E. Personnel Report
- \*F. Approval to re-employ Auditor
- \*G. Regional Safe Schools Program
- \*H. Final 2018-2019 Calendar (final day 5/31/19)

Mr. Eskridge moved, Mrs. Smith seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Ayes: Mr. Winkelman, Mrs. Combs, Mr. Madsen, Mr. Eskridge, Mr. Stauss, Mrs. Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Norton

Motion Carried

#### BUSINESS

##### ADMINISTRATION

ES Principal Report – as presented

MS/HS Principal Report– as presented

Mr. Hayunga also stated that IAR testing is completed and went well, in spite of early technical glitches. He was pleased and grateful to the parents for making sure student

attendance was good during the testing week, and to Mr. LeBaron who worked diligently to keep the technology up and running during testing; they only needed one day of “make-up” testing for absent students. The Illinois Science Assessment will begin on Wednesday, 04/17.

#### Superintendent Report– as presented

Dr. Ehlenburg suggested that the regular meeting of the Alden-Hebron BOE be changed to a different night of the week for the 2019-2020 school year so Mrs. Elswick will be able to attend, as she has class on Tuesday evenings. Also, Dr. Ehlenburg informed those present that, after the April 2 election, the Alden-Hebron BOE will have one open seat that will need to be filled. She announced that the information explaining how interested parties can apply for the position will be posted on the District website. Finally, she stated that the meeting for Reorganization of the Board needs to be held before April 30. She made the suggestion to reschedule the May 7 meeting to Wednesday, April 24 to accomplish the reorganization.

Mr. Madsen moved, Mr. Eskridge seconded to schedule the meeting for Reorganization of the Board for Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 7:00pm in the Elementary gym.

Motion carried.

#### FINANCE

Mr. Madsen moved, Mrs. Smith seconded to approve Patricia Syens as School Treasurer for the 2019-20 school year and Treasurer’s Bond.

Ayes: Mr. Winkelman, Mrs. Combs, Mr. Madsen, Mr. Eskridge, Mr. Stauss, Mrs. Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Norton

Motion Carried

#### PHYSICAL STRUCTURES/MAINTENANCE

##### Buildings & Grounds Report - as presented

Mr. Redden added that things are going relatively smoothly, with the exception of a new crack in a section of the old boiler. Mr. Winkelman commended Mr. Redden and his crew for their hard work, especially following the weekend snowstorm.

Dr. Ehlenburg stated that the Building and Grounds Committee met on April 16 before this meeting. She invited the committee to share the topics discussed. Mr. Madsen reported that the committee went over the building audit that was recently completed.

Mr. Eskridge stated that this year \$55,000 for work on boilers and cabinet heater had to be completed at the MS/HS building. Priorities to include in the 2019-2020 budget; asbestos checks at both buildings; 5-year maintenance for stage curtains (washed, fire-protection) for \$9300; Develop a cycle for replacing aged air conditioning units and some carpet replacements. Dr. Ehlenburg stated she will include those items in the budgeting plan for next year.

Dr. Ehlenburg invited the BOE to share their thoughts regarding the referendum results:

- Mr. Eskridge: Feels that if the community was so strongly against the referendum, perhaps there should be an annexation study.
- Mr. Stauss: Believes they should spend the money for architectural plans to build a new school and spend money for architectural plans to remodel the existing building.

- Mrs. Smith: The District needs to find out why community members voted against the referendum; whether it was lack of information given by the District, preservation of the old building, or they simply didn't want a tax increase.
- Mr. Madsen: Suggested having a 3<sup>rd</sup> party conduct a survey to find out why the referendum failed.
- Dr. Ehlenburg: Reported that 66% of the school referendums on the April 2 ballot statewide failed.
- Mr. Winkelman: Interested to know whether it was lack of information, or the bottom dollar that compelled taxpayers to vote no.
- Mr. Stauss: Remarked that he doesn't understand how some in the community believe that the BOE is not transparent and that there was a lot of misinformation being spread prior to the election.
- Mrs. Combs: Feels the BOE should inquire if any neighboring districts are interested in annexation and if there should be a study done regarding that.
- Dr. Ehlenburg: Offered to gather information on 3<sup>rd</sup> party survey companies and bring the information to a future meeting as an item on the agenda.
- Mr. Eskridge: Disappointed in the attitudes/reactions of some community members. The integrity of the BOE and its members was attacked and called into question prior to the election.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Transportation Report – as presented

Dr. Ehlenburg reported that, due to changes to a special needs student's IEP, the District will need a larger, handicap accessible bus. Mrs. Erckfritz further stated that the District will need to replace one of the regular buses as well. She will be checking with surrounding districts to see if any of them have a larger, handicap-accessible bus that they will be trading in.

Mr. Madsen remarked that he noticed that Mrs. Erckfritz keeps Alden-Hebron's fleet of buses looking very good in comparison to other Districts.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Public Comments

- Connie Mueller, a 60097 resident stated that people in that zip code did not get the flyer regarding the referendum. She reported that when she called the school to inquire about it, she was told that it was not mailed to that zip code. She further stated that the residents in the 60097 had no knowledge of the District Facilities Committee that was organized last year to research District options for the future.  
 \*\*Mrs. VanderPal explained that flyers were mailed to the 60097 zip code. However, the District Office had to research the rural routes in that zip code and decide which of those routes to mail to in order to reach most of the District residents that live in that zip code. Mailers cannot split up a rural route into sections, it is all residents on a rural route, or none.
- Mike VonBergen thanked Mr. Hayunga and Mr. Winkelman for conducting the tours of the MS/HS prior to the election. He also thanked Mr. Redden for the hard work that he and his crew obviously do to keep the building looking as good as it does. He stated that he understands that the decision about what should be done about the school is an emotional one, but he feels that taking the school away

from where it is would be bad for the community. He believes that now is the time for the community to come together.

- Brandon Berg, resident of Alden Township, thanked the Board Members for the all they do as members of the BOE. It is his belief that, although it was a “no” this time for the referendum that does not mean that it is a “no” forever, just for now. The good thing is that now, the community is more aware of what is going on with the school. He does not believe that the District should consider consolidation. Finally, he urged everyone to continue to attend the BOE meetings and to stay involved.
- Mr. Manning inquired whether or not there are grants available for the handicap-accessible bus. He believes that there is someone who is on the county board now who can help with such a project; a county board member who helped the Village of Hebron obtain a grant to tear down a vacant building so a municipal parking lot could take its place.

\*\*Dr. Ehlenburg responded that the cost of a vehicle is reimbursable by the state over a 5 year period through the transportation claim.

#### Staff Comments

None

#### Board Comments

- Mrs. Smith stated that the Health, Life, Safety items do need to be fixed. However, from the perspective of someone who has been a teacher for more than 20 years, people need to understand that teaching and education are much different than it was even when she started her career. Therefore, there are more than just the items from that list that need to be improved in order to bring the educational environment up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century learning standards.
- Mr. Eskridge stated that the referendum was a good idea, and maybe should have been done 10 years ago, based on the community concern and dialogue surrounding it.
- Mrs. Combs stated that there will be a vacant seat on the BOE after the reorganization meeting, and that it is sad that there weren't more people running for the BOE when she ran, considering that the referendum spurred a lot of heartfelt conversations, either for or against.
- Mr. Madsen urged those present to consider running for the BOE—the Board needs all kinds—young, old, male, female.
- Mr. Eskridge remarked that in 2000, when he first ran for the BOE, there were 12 candidates, while this year, other than current members running for re-election, there was only one.

#### Executive Session

Mr. Eskridge moved, Mr. Madsen seconded to go into executive session at 8:12pm. for the purpose of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees.

Ayes: Mr. Winkelman, Mrs. Combs, Mr. Madsen, Mr. Eskridge, Mr. Stauss, Mrs. Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Norton

Motion Carried

Return to open session at 8:35

Action taken as a result of Executive Session:

Mr. Madsen moved, Mr. Eskridge seconded to extend Mr. Hayunga's contract for one year with a 3% increase.

Ayes: Mr. Winkelman, Mrs. Combs, Mr. Madsen, Mr. Eskridge, Mr. Stauss, Mrs. Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Norton

Motion Carried

Mr. Eskridge moved, Mr. Madsen seconded to offer Mrs. Elswick a 2-year contract as Assistant Superintendent/ES Principal.

Ayes: Mr. Winkelman, Mrs. Combs, Mr. Madsen, Mr. Eskridge, Mr. Stauss, Mrs. Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Norton

Motion Carried

Mrs. Smith moved, Mr. Madsen seconded to approve the Teachers Contract for August 2019 – August 2023.

Ayes: Mr. Winkelman, Mrs. Combs, Mr. Madsen, Mr. Eskridge, Mr. Stauss, Mrs. Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Norton

Motion Carried

#### Adjournment

Mrs. Smith moved, Mr. Eskridge seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm.

Motion carried.

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President

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Secretary