

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GALESBURG-AUGUSTA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS                      MAY 18, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Curt Case at 7:00 p.m. in the Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools, High School Media Center.

**Present:**        Mr. Curt Case, Mr. Michael Way, Mr. Chuck Whitman, Mr. Jeff McCubbin,  
                      Mr. Bob Kinas, Mrs. Beth Wilson and Mrs. Lynne Wells

**Also**

**Present:**        Mr. Todd Reynolds, Mrs. Martha Hymer and Mr. Chris Hurley

Number of people in the audience 31.

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited.

**Agenda Approval**

*It was recommended that report item #4 2009 MASB Media Honor Roll Nominee – Phyllis Rose be moved to the discussion and decision section of the agenda.*

A motion was made by Mr. Whitman and supported by Mrs. Wilson to approve the May 18, 2009 regular meeting agenda, as amended.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**E. Secretary's Report**

Recommend approval of:

Minutes of the regular meeting of April 20, 2009;  
Minutes of the special meeting of April 21, 2009;  
Minutes of the special meeting of April 22, 2009;  
Minutes of the special meeting of April 23, 2009;  
Minutes of the special meeting of April 28, 2009;  
Minutes of the special meeting of April 29, 2009;  
Minutes of the special meeting of April 30, 2009;  
Minutes of the special meeting of May 12, 2009.

*Trustee Kinas recommended an amendment to the May 12, 2009 Minutes.*

**F. Accounts Payable Report**

Recommend approval of Accounts Payable:

\$743,271.98 for April 1-24, 2009;  
\$48,432.47 for April 27, 2009.

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**G. Treasurer's Report**

Recommend approval of Treasurer's Report for April 30, 2009, showing a balance of \$1,483,707.02.

**H. Personnel**

Recommend approval for the following soccer coach:

Soccer Coach: Mark Lewis

**Routine Business Items**

A motion was made by Mr. Kinas and supported by Mr. McCubbin to approve agenda items E through H, and to amend the May 12, 2009 Minutes.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**REPORTS**

**Student Poems**

Students from Mrs. Fotis' sixth grade English class read their *I Am* poems that consisted of real and imaginary thoughts.

**Community Input** (Agenda Items) – None (*Eighteen audience members left after the poem recitals leaving thirteen audience members.*)

**Chris Hurley – Primary School**

Primary School Principal Chris Hurley addressed the Board of Education to give an update on the G-A Primary School via a *PowerPoint* presentation. Discussion items included attendance, enrollment, DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills), MEAP (Michigan Educational Assessment Program), GLCE'S (Grade Level Content Expectations) and MIBLSI (Michigan's Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative.)

**Excellence in Special Education Award**

The Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency has informed the District that Matt Kaemming, Teacher/Advocate has been selected for the *Excellence in Special Education Award*. One staff member in each District was selected for their creativity, communication skills, advocacy and for going the extra mile while working with special education students. District nominees included G-A Primary teacher Lynn Buchkowski, G-A Middle School teacher Phylis Reed, G-A Primary counselor Cindy Whittingham-Neill and G-A Primary School teacher Ann Wolfis.

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**Math Book Recommendation – Phylis Reed**

Middle school teacher Phylis Reed addressed the Board of Education to present the 2009 textbook rotation recommendations from the 6-12 math departments via a *PowerPoint* presentation. Discussion items included the process and selection criteria. The selections are:  
6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Integrated Math = Prentice Hall: Connected Math 2  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Exploratory = Prentice Hall: Connected Math 2 (3 dimensional geometry)  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Exploratory = Glencoe: Mathscape (activity based geometry)  
Algebra I (for high school credit if the exam is passed) Glencoe/McGraw Hill: Algebra I

**Business Items – Discussion**

**G-A Parent Advisory Council for 2009-2010**

Parent Debbie Smith has been nominated to serve on the G-A Parent Advisory Council for the 2009-2010 school year.

**Textbook Adoption**

The Board of Education will approve the biology, chemistry and physics textbook adoption recommendations, as presented by Science Department Chairperson Mike Kupiecki at the April regular meeting.

**Food Service Bids**

Denise Armstrong, G-A Food Service Director has recommended that the food service bids from Prairie Farms Dairy for milk and Nickles Bakery for bread items be accepted for the 2009-2010 school year.

**KRESA Resolution Designating District's Election Representative and Candidate**

The Biennial Election for the Board of Education of Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency is scheduled to be held Monday, June 1, 2009. One vacancy is to be filled and incumbent James Harrington will stand for re-election for a six year term, expiring 2015. Each constituent district must approve and certify a voting delegate to represent the district.

**Transportation Contract**

Superintendent Douglas Newington has recommended that the Board of Education accept the G-A Transportation Contract for the 2008-2010 school years, as reviewed by the Board Personnel Committee.

**Administrators/Directors/Central Office Contracts**

Superintendent Douglas Newington has recommended that the Board of Education accept the G-A Administrators/Directors/Central Office Contracts for the 2008-2009 school year, as reviewed by the Board Personnel Committee.

**Retention Pond**

As an informational item, trustee Chuck Whitman discussed a Board Building and Grounds Committee meeting that was held on May 11, 2009, to review potential issues with the retention pond located at the high school. Those present at the meeting included Mr. Whitman, trustee Curt Case, Superintendent Doug Newington, Garry Henson and representatives from the engineering firm Wightman Ward, the architectural firm Kingscott Associates, the landscape-architectural firm O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates and the Kalamazoo County Drain Commission. The group reviewed the data submitted by Mr. Henson and at possible ways to redirect the pond overflow so that it does not drain onto surrounding properties. It was determined that the water in the pond is the groundwater table and that other Kalamazoo areas are also experiencing high water tables due to this year's heavy rainfall. It is possible that the pond may have been dug deeper than the original design had called for. Bids are out to review the area's topographical maps that will provide a full understanding of the retention pond. This committee will reconvene once the bids have been received.

**Media Honor Roll**

In an effort to promote the fact that public schools are quality places to educate Michigan schoolchildren, and to foster positive relationship-building with local media, Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) is sponsoring the Media Honor Roll. The Media Honor Roll recognizes media representatives in three categories: print, radio and television. The Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools Board of Education would like to nominate Kalamazoo Gazette Reporter Phyllis Rose.

**Business Items – Decision**

1) A motion was made by Mr. Whitman and supported by Mr. Kinas to appoint Ms. Debbie Smith to the G-A Parent Advisory Council for the 2009-2010 school year.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

2) A motion was made by Mr. Way and supported by Mr. Kinas to adopt the biology, chemistry and physics textbooks, as presented by Mike Kupiecki at the April board meeting.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

3) A motion was made by Mr. McCubbin and supported by Mr. Way to accept the recommended Food Service bids for the 2009-2010 school year. Prairie Farms Dairy for milk and Nickles Bakery for bread.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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4) A motion was made by Mr. McCubbin and supported by Mrs. Wells to designate Mr. Chuck Whitman as District's proposed representative and Mr. Curt Case as an alternate in the event the designated representative is unable to attend the June 1, 2009 KRESA Biennial Election. Furthermore, the designated representative is further directed to cast a vote on the ballot on behalf of this Board for James Harrington.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

5) A motion was made by Mr. Kinas and supported by Mr. Whitman to accept the G-A Transportation Contract for the 2008-2010 school years.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

6) A motion was made by Mr. Way and supported by Mrs. Wilson to accept the G-A Administrators/Directors/Central Office Contracts for the 2008-2009 school year.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

7) A motion was made by Mr. Kinas and supported by Mrs. Wilson to nominate Kalamazoo Gazette Reporter Phyllis Rose for the 2009 MASB Media Honor Roll Award.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Public Participation**

Phyllis Rose addressed the Board of Education expressing her gratitude for the MASB Media Honor Roll nomination.

Eric Curtiss addressed the Board of Education extending his thanks to trustee Wells, the Board of Education, and the high school parent group for providing staff lunch and Ram seat cushions in honor of staff appreciation week.

Ardis Cook addressed the Board of Education questioning why the Board did not officially vote on the Strategic Plan process. Mrs. Cook commented that the senior Baccalaureate Ceremony went well tonight and extended her appreciation to all who participated in the Red Cross Blood Drive.

**Board Comments**

Trustee Kinas expressed his displeasure with recent news articles in the Hometown Gazette regarding the superintendent search process. He explained that the search process started in January 2008 and that by law newly elected Board trustees cannot vote until officially seated on July 1, 2009. Mr. Kinas read a statement that clarified his intentions and role during this search process and as a Board of Education trustee.

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Trustee Wells encouraged all to vote in the *Kellogg's Plant A Seed* initiative for Ike Payne Park in Galesburg. *Plant a Seed* is a nationwide competition that will pay for renovations at 30 baseball and softball fields.

Trustee McCubbin commended the *Galesburg-Augusta Education Foundation* for the 2009 senior scholarships and to the *Education For Employment* award breakfast where District seniors were also recognized.

Trustee Way extended his condolences to the family of Dr. Geoffrey Balkam who passed away today as a result of a tragic weekend accident. Mr. Way encouraged community residents to participate in a community survey as part of the District's new strategic planning process. The survey can be found on the District's website and will help guide District decisions during the next three years 2010-2012. Mr. Way extended his appreciation to the Kalamazoo Gazette for an article on G-A high school students nominated for academic excellence and to all who assisted in the Galesburg-Augusta Community Forum. During a recent Food Drive local Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts collected over 1,600 pounds of food for the food bank. Mr. Way also clarified a point for why the District Audit ending June 30, 2008 was submitted late to the state, citing Board priority for Superintendent Newington to settle the Galesburg-Augusta Education Association contract.

**Superintendent's Update - None**

There being no further business, the May regular meeting of the Board of Education was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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Curt Case, President

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Chuck Whitman, Secretary

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Carolyn Meyers, Recording Secretary