

Brighton Area Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2009
7 PM - BECC

A G E N D A

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Roll Call**
- IV. Approval of Agenda**
- V. Recognition**
- VI. Call to the Public**
 - A. Comment Card**

Time extended to provide individuals an opportunity to address the Board of Education. Time allotment is up to 30 minutes, individuals may speak for three minutes each. Individuals must identify themselves by name and address. The Board may hear issues, but is not required to answer questions or make statements and will refer most issues on to the Superintendent.
- VII. Old Business**
- VIII. Consent Agenda**
 - A. Bills of February 13-27, 2009**
 - B. Minutes of February 23, 2009**
- IX. New Business**
 - A. Other**
 - 1. 5/6 and 7/8 Reconfiguration Report and Recommendation**
 - 2. Elementary Research Team Recommendation**
 - 3. Resolution, LESA Consortium Agreement for Copier Equipment**
 - B. Finance**
 - 1. Financial Statements, February 2009 - All Funds**
 - 2. Cash Flow Borrowing**
 - 3. Deficit Reduction Plan**
 - C. Curriculum**
 - 1. Resolution, LATEC**
 - D. Human Resources**
 - 1. Leave Request**
 - 2. Resignation**
 - 3. Resignations for Retirement Purposes**
- X. Communications and Reports**
 - A. From Superintendent**
 - B. From Board**
 - C. Announcements**

This is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in agenda item "Call to the Public."

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Anderson at 7:02 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Members present: William Anderson, Joe Carney, Jay Krause, Cheryl Leach, Beth Minert, Joyce Powers and Greg Rassel.

Also present: Interim Superintendent Riutta, Assistant Superintendent Maria Bolen, Interim Assistant Superintendent Peggy Moyer, Executive Director of Curriculum Baiba Jensen, Attorney William McCrie, staff, press and visitors.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Leach, supported by Krause to approve the agenda as presented. Voice vote: 7 ayes. Motion carried.

V. Recognition

VI. Call to the Public

Noreen Owens, SOC parent from Hartland, addressed the Board concerning savings from closing Miller. She also asked that an outside committee be convened to conduct an analysis of the district and make recommendations concerning district efficiencies.

Bob Brown addressed the Board concerning school boundaries for attendance areas.

Nancy DeWolf addressed the Board concerning the recommendation to close Miller. She does not want to see a neighborhood elementary building closed.

Lisa Bozio addressed the Board concerning the closing of Miller, the replication of the Miller program at other buildings, schools of choice and that more families are being disrupted with the configuration of 5/6 and 7/8 buildings.

Courtney Bellanti addressed her concerns of the financial data presented for Miller and Lindbom. She also stated that an outside committee should study the schools and make recommendations to the Board.

Mrs. Alraid addressed the Board concerning closing of Miller and replicating the program at all the elementary schools.

Mrs. Cardoni addressed the Board concerning there needs to be more of an effort to communicate with parents.

Keith Williams, Hornung parents, addressed the inconsistency with staff wage increases and the district's deficit. He also stated that the 5/6 and 7/8 configurations causes disruption to many families. There is more of a financial savings if Lindbom is closed rather than Miller.

Steve Siddal addressed the Board questioned the data used in the Elementary Research Team's recommendation to closed a building.

Jodi Cook addressed the Board with her concerns related to the closing of a building.

Kelly Lovelady addressed the Board concerning closing a building.

Kelly Moustakeas addressed the Board with her issues such as transportation, extended day program, science center, VMI program, and moving costs that need to be resolved regarding the closing of Miller.

Jack Money asked that a building not be closed and that community members work with the district in addressing the deficit.

Jason Stanza addressed the Board concerning the closing of any building.

Mary Beth Wenzel stated that the Research Team had to consider academic and financial items before recommending that a building be closed. She further stated that academics had to come first.

Kelly Moustakeas asked the Trustees not to rush their decision in considering the Research Team's recommendation.

John Conely addressed the Board concerning the operational revenues and expenditures. He suggested that the budget be in order before the closing of a school.

Scott Turner indicated that he would close Lindbom and redistrict to keep the kindergarten program at Miller.

Gaylyn Ray Brown suggested the sooner a school district addresses early childhood problems and institutes interventions, special education costs can be reduced.

Sanford Ross suggested that closing Lindbom would increase class sizes throughout the district. Miller teachers will be relocated throughout the district's elementary buildings and still be teaching kindergarten.

Barry Goode, President of BEA and a member of the Leadership Team, stated it was his opinion that Leadership Team would have a say in reviewing the recommendation to close a building. He further suggested that the district's deficit is not due to employee wages, health care but rather due to inadequate funding levels from the state. In addition, he stated that cost savings haven't been proven and staffing efficiencies haven't occurred for years. It was his opinion that the sister school concept should be in place for the 2010 school year.

John Conely addressed the Board regarding Barry Goode's statements.

Steve Popa asked the Board to make the best decision possible and take sufficient time to make the decision.

VII. Old Business

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. Bills of February 13-27, 2009

Moved by Powers, supported by Rassel to approve the bills as presented. Voice vote: 7 ayes. Motion carried.

B. Minutes of February 23, 2009

Moved by Rassel, supported by Carney to approve the minutes as presented. Voice vote: 7 ayes. Motion carried.

IX. New Business

A. Other

1. 5/6 and 7/8 Reconfiguration Report and Recommendation

The Board received an update on the 5/6 and 7/8 reconfiguration recommendation. Mr. Brenner reviewed academic teams, encore classes, building logistics, lunch periods, staffing levels (55.83 currently and reduced to 51 FTE for 2009/10 school year.), student enrollment projections, and fine arts.

Mrs. Minert asked about moving costs and outside equipment for fifth grade students. It was reported that the Sinking Fund is \$3.3 million.

Mrs. Powers is concerned at less art and physical education at this level but would support the reconfiguration.

Mr. Vecchioni reviewed the 7/8 configuration and stated that the current staffing level is 47.64 and the 2009/10 year would increase staffing by .5 FTE which would give the 7/8 building 2 counselors, 1 media and 1 tech support position. The staffing ration for all core content classes would be 30:1 ratio. He also discussed the mock scheduling process, common core electives, transportation savings, special education costs and projected student enrollments.

Moved by Rassel, supported by Krause to adopt the 5/6 and 7/8 building reconfiguration recommendations as presented. Voice vote: 7 ayes. Motion carried.

2. Elementary Research Team Recommendation

Mrs. Riutta addressed the Board concerning the Elementary Research Team's recommendation, the purpose of the Research Teams, and the budget deficit.

Mrs. Minert shared her concerns about the recommendation to close Miller.

Moved by Rassel, supported by Carney to adopt the K-4 building configuration and close the Miller Early Childhood Center. Roll call vote: 6 ayes, 1 nay-Minert. Motion carried.

Meeting recessed at 9:30 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:45 p.m.

3. Resolution, LESA Consortium Agreement for Copier Equipment

Mr. Liu presented the LESA Consortium Agreement for copier equipment. The consortium provides the mechanism to obtain machines and contract services at more favorable rates. The agreement will be placed on the March 23, 2009 agenda for Board consideration.

B. Finance

1. Financial Statements, February 2009 - All Funds

Assistant Superintendent Maria Bolen presented a draft of the financial statements so that the Board will have "real time" monthly budget information on each fund.

2. Cash Flow Borrowing

Mrs. Bolen reported that there were no purchasers of the district's \$9.2 million borrowing note. The district requested advances on its state aid payments for March and April to address cash flow needs. The plan to participate in the Michigan Municipal Bond Authority's next borrowing opportunity occurs in early April. The resolution to participate in the MMBA was presented for Board consideration.

Moved by Rassel, supported by Leach to adopt the Resolution as presented. Voice vote: 7 ayes. Motion carried.

3. Deficit Reduction Plan

The first draft of the Deficit Reduction Plan was presented for review and discussion. There is a \$323,000 savings for the 2008/09 year. The district will continue to explore the sister school concept and other avenues to reduce the deficit.

Moved by Rassel, supported by Carney to adopt the conceptual Deficit Reduction Plan as presented. Voice vote: 7 ayes. Motion carried.

C. Curriculum

1. Resolution, LATEC

The LATEC Resolution expires June 30, 2010 but the agreement requires that a successor agreement be in place by February 28, 2009. The agreement has been presented to the county superintendents for review and has been submitted to legal counsel for review.

Moved by Krause, supported by Rassel to adopt the LATEC Resolution which extends the time line for negotiating a successor agreement from February 28, 2009 to April 30, 2009. Voice vote: 7 ayes. Motion carried.

D. Human Resources

1. Leave Request - Moved by Leach, supported by Minert to approve the general leave of absence received from Jennifer Ziewacz for the 2009/10 school year. Voice vote: 7 ayes. Motion carried.

2. Resignation - Moved by Powers, supported by Krause to accept the resignation Erin Mastroianni effective June 30, 2009 with appreciation for her service to Brighton Area Schools. Voice vote: 7 ayes. Motion carried.

3. Resignations for Retirement Purposes - Moved by Powers, supported by Rassel to accept the retirement resignations of Norm Lampi, Kathy Brownlee and Mary Ann Herek with regret and appreciation of their service to the Brighton Area Schools. Voice vote: 7 ayes. Motion carried.

X. Communications and Reports

A. From Superintendent

1. Mrs. Riutta reminded the Board of the March 25, 2009 Livingston County School Board Association Dinner meeting.
2. Moved by Rassel, supported by Krause to reschedule the regular April 14, 2009 Board meeting to April 16, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room at BECC, 125 S. Church Street. Voice vote: 7 ayes. Motion carried.

3. The Board will conduct a work session on March 12, 2009 for the purpose of meeting with Mike Wilmot, Michigan Leadership Institute, regarding the Superintendent Search process.

B. From Board

1. Joe Carney, Jay Krause and Beth Minert will be in Lansing for the Legislative Breakfast.
2. The Finance and Human Resource Committees' minutes were enclosed in the Board packet.

C. Announcements

Meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.