

Special Meeting  
Board of Education  
September 22, 2008

The Board convened in special session at 6:00 p.m. in the Diagnostic Learning Center. The following members answered the roll call: Butler, Gorenz, Parker, Spangler, Stowell and Wolfmeyer. Board member Ross arrived at 6:05 p.m.

**PRESENTATION BY AUDIENCE ON ACTION ITEMS – None**

**DELIBERATION AGENDA –**

APPROVAL OF BID – Moved by Stowell seconded by Parker that the bid for repair of the boiler at Trewyn Middle School be approved as presented.

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF RESTRUCTURING PLANS FOR HIGH SCHOOLS – Moved by Stowell seconded by Wolfmeyer that the Board of Education of Peoria Public Schools approve the restructuring plans for Peoria High School and Woodruff High School which the District will submit to ISBE.

Dr. Hannah highlighted the work that Academic Officer for High Schools, Mary Davis, Director of Teaching and Learning, Susan Grzanich, Woodruff High School Principal Teri Dunn, and Peoria High School Principal Randy Simmons and staff from 2 Rivers had done to prepare the requested ISBE changes to the restructuring plans. He noted that ISBE had requested to see indicators to know that achievement was occurring. The District will be using the NWEA test and other benchmarks such as Key Train to track progress. Both schools will be using standards aligned curriculum and the CEC will be coming to the schools to audit their curriculum. New this year will be an Instructional Advisor who will assist teachers in the classrooms and provide professional development. Also new this year will be the District, Parent, Family, Community Liaison/Coordinator who will work with parents to increase achievement.

Principal Dunn noted that meetings have occurred with the building leadership team and the entire staff held meetings in their professional learning communities to ensure that they are aware of the changes that will occur. She also stated that her team had looked at data in regrouping students to make sure they were taking the correct courses, even moving some students to enriched classes. Administration is keeping a "data notebook" with weekly and monthly results to track achievement. Also this year student teachers from ISU will be there for the entire year and will be working as "co-teachers" and also offering tutoring to students.

Principal Simmons spoke to the Freshman Academy that was new this year at Peoria High School. All the freshman students take most of their courses on the third floor and a counselor is also on that floor to help students. Their staff also held meetings at the beginning of the year and their school also has a leadership team. Teachers are also learning the importance of and how to interpret data.

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

**INFORMATION ITEMS – REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF –**

1. GOAL 1 – STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
2. Goal 2 – FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY – **DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED HOSPITALITY TIF** – Bobby Gray from the City of Peoria Economic Development Office presented information to the Board on the Hospitality Zone TIF. The area encompassed includes 49 properties and is mostly commercial and builds upon the presence of the Civic Center. The area is in need of revitalization with 84% of the structures being built in 1973 or earlier. The funding could be used to remodel existing structures or build new ones and also to improve infrastructure and streetscapes.

Mr. Cahill presented that this TIF, which is for 23 years, would allow revitalization of the area and allow the area to compete as a conference center. The assessments of the buildings would be frozen, but the District could benefit in the long run with improvements to the area.

Mr. Stowell agreed with the need, but would like to see the City repeal the existing SouthTown TIF. Mr. Cahill stated if there were excess funds in the SouthTown TIF – those excess funds should be distributed back to the taxing bodies and not transferred to another TIF.

There was consensus to approve the forming of the new TIF.

**5 YEAR BUDGET PLAN** - Dr. Gorenz noted that the SBI recommendations had been successfully used, but we are coming to the end of the recommendations and there is need for a new plan. Mr. Cahill reported that the new plan would have a similar "flavor" to the SBI Task Force – people would complete the data collection instrument and give testimonials on how an area of the budget met board goals. Another suggestions from Mr. Cahill was to look over the budget using the sites as a basis. After discussion the Board decided on the first recommendation.

3. **GOAL 3 – QUALITY STAFF – SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH PROCESS** – Dr. Gorenz passed out the information on the "Blue Ribbon Committee" for the Superintendent search. He explained that the committee would work with a search firm to bring candidates back to the Board. He stated that the advantages of a committee would be that they would focus their efforts on the search and they would offer community input and involvement. Board members would submit names and nine would be selected for the committee.

Board members discussed the timeline and the process. The following items would occur in October:

- Board of Education would appoint a Blue Ribbon Committee that would include a chairman and vice chairman.
- Board of Education would establish the desired qualifications for the new Superintendent, establish a salary range and length of contract.
- Board of Education would prepare a charge for the Blue Ribbon Committee, allocate a budget for the committee and assign a staff member to support the committee.

Following those steps the Board of Education would select a search firm and continue the process.

There was consensus on the presented timeline and process.

4. **GOAL 4 – SAFE, CARING ENVIRONMENTS – UNIFORM POLICY** – Board member Spangler presented the draft uniform policy. The policy would require uniforms for primary and middle school students, possibly by the beginning of the next school year. Mrs. Spangler asked that there be one uniform district wide and then additional options for individual schools. Administration would write the procedure for the policy that would include the requirements and exceptions listed in the school code.

Board members discussed the new policy. It was noted that there is no research to substantiate that uniforms improve behavior, but there is also no research to refute the claim. Board members also asked that the dress code for high school students be revisited and updated. Also asked for was for all high school students to wear an ID badge. The next step will be for the initial policy to be prepared and presented for a first reading at a Board meeting. Mrs. Ross also asked that the cell phone policy be reviewed.

5. **GOAL 5 – CULTURE OF CUSTOMER SERVICE – SIX SIGMA PRESENTATION** – Mr. Otto Arcaute, Supervisor of 6 Sigma Projects, updated the Board on the current projects: textbooks, custodial products management and primary school student transportation. The High-School Textbook in Classroom – On Demand (texts on the first day) rolled out in FY08 with schools reporting year-end inventories, and beginning of school needs. An approved list of text has been

compiled and continues to be monitored by the Teaching and Learning Department. School and warehouse staff will be debriefed this fall. The rest of the schools will come under the process in FY09.

The Custodial Products Management project was introduced in a pilot phase at six buildings. Green products, as required by Illinois Green Clean Act, are being tested. Cleaning standards for buildings are in the process of being finalized. There also will be an inspection rubric used to inspect all buildings, with each building being inspected four times a year for compliance with the new standards.

The Primary School Student Transportation project – The project is in the Measure/Analyze phase awaiting software variation data to proceed. Data analysis, gate review and the phase-in will occur soon.

ADJOURNMENT – Dr. Gorenz adjourned the special meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Julia A. Cramer,  
Board Secretary

ATTEST:

David L. Gorenz  
Board President

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