

Regular Meeting
Board of Education
September 21, 2009

The Board convened in the Superintendent's Conference Room of the Administration Building at 4:30 p.m. President Debbie Wolfmeyer called the meeting to order. The following members answered the roll call: Butler, Gorenz, Parker, Petelle, Ross, Stowell and Wolfmeyer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION -- Moved by Stowell, seconded by Butler to adjourn into executive session to: approve minutes of the last meeting September 8, 2009 Section 2(c) (21); Student Discipline Section 2(c) (9); Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, Board dismissal of specific employees or legal counsel Section 2(c) (1); Collective negotiating matters Section 2(c) (2); Litigation against, affecting or on behalf of the School District Section 2(c) (11); Purchase or lease of real property, setting of price for sale or lease of property Section 2 (c) (5)&(6). Motion carried. No action was taken in executive session.

ADJOURNMENT – Mrs. Wolfmeyer adjourned the executive session at 5:10 p.m.

The Board convened in regular session at 6:30 p.m. in the Diagnostic Learning Center. The following members answered the roll call: Butler, Gorenz, Parker, Petelle, Ross, Stowell and Wolfmeyer.

MINUTES – There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular meeting of September 8, 2009

ANNOUNCEMENTS – President Wolfmeyer commended the third grade students at Harrison Primary School for their actions when their teacher fell and hit her head.

Mrs. Wolfmeyer announced that for tonight's meeting the public comment sections would be combined into one with the limit on speaking time of three minutes. She stated that because of recent actions to intimidate Board members the Board of Education would not tolerate any disruption or out bursts during the meeting.

PRESENTATION BY AUDIENCE – The following audience members spoke to the closing of a high school –

General Parker, 2101 N. Bigelow
Paris McConnell, 503 W. Armstrong
Latisha Stuckey, 2412 N. Wisconsin
Mark McConnell, 503 W. Armstrong
Hedy Elliott-Gardner, 3811 W. Pagewood
Ryan Williams, 1110 E. Republic
Beth McDaniel, 827 N. Rebecca Place
Bobby Darling, 230 E. Highpoint
Martha Kelly, 3502 N. Peoria
Avery McDaniel, 827 Rebecca Place
Terry Knapp, 922 W. Wilshire Dr.
Tim Swain, 111 E. Morningside Dr.
Dick VanOrmer, 1417 W. Daytona
Jerry Sweet, 6811 Aycliffe
Mike Lewellen, 806 First, Morton, IL
Debbie Ritschel, 401 SW Water
Mary Fran Wessler, 1204 W. Maplewood
Ms. Delgado, 2116 N. Bigelow
Bryan Devine, 1917 E. Knox
Kenesha, 2412 N. Wisconsin
Vicky, 1507 W. Margaret
Karen Atkins Dutro, 2610 W. Barker
Raymond Putnam, 710 Wayne

Dawn Robinson, 116 N. Lewellen
 Gretchen O'Neill, 2840 N. Lehman Rd.
 Kelly Bumgartner, 205 N. Hemlock
 Amy Lands, 228 W. Hanssler
 Raymond Watson, 2910 W. Flint
 Cameron Hill, 907 W. Crystal Dr.
 Jody Wright, 1407 N. Adora St.
 McKayla Grey, 711 W. Hanssler
 Sky Bailey, 1604 N. North St. Apt !
 Chase Curtis, 1604 W. Teton Dr.
 Yolunda McCollum, 1523 W. Willcox
 Gloria Clark, 1204 W. Virginia
 Mike McKenna, 7023 N. Kirwood
 Maria Diaz, 2316 N. University
 Spanky Edwards, 2143 N. Prospect
 Steve Katlock, 709 E. Frye
 Savino Sierra, 1708 S. Stanley
 Terry Knapp, 922 W. Wilshire

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2009 – 2010 BUDGET – Board President Wolfmeyer called the hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. The following individual spoke to the budget.
 Terry Knapp, 922 W. Wilshire Dr.

CONSENT AGENDA –

ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR -- Moved by Petelle, seconded by Butler adoption of the consent calendar.

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

GIFTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT – Moved by Petelle, seconded by Butler, that the following donations be accepted and letters of appreciation sent to the donors.

\$250.00 for classroom supplies donated by Thomas & Lynn Perkins to Charter Oak Primary School
 \$300.00 to apply to yard sign cost, donated by Hardin Signs to Franklin Edison Primary School
 School uniforms, valued by the donor at \$350.00 donated by St. Phil's PTO to Hines Primary School
 Computer, valued by the donor at \$200.00, donated by Gary Stevens to Kellar Primary School
 Five kitchen cabinets and counter top, valued by the donor at \$300.00 donated by Lisa Kokos to Kellar Primary School
 11 computers, valued by the donor at \$3,300.00 donated by Robert Morris College to Peoria Alternative High School

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS -- Moved by Petelle, seconded by Butler approval of the payment of the following bills.

FUND	DESCRIPTION	BAL.SHEET	REV	EXPENSE	TOTAL
10	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$32,829.25		\$270,222.68	\$303,051.93
20	OPERATIONS, BLDG & MAINT			\$86,605.73	\$86,605.73
40	TRANSPORTATION			\$4,133.16	\$4,133.16
60	CAPITAL PROJECTS			\$152.86	\$152.86
90	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS			\$17,309.55	\$17,309.55
95	MID CENTRAL ASSOCIATION			\$4,457.15	\$4,457.15
99	PPS ADMIN OUTREACH PROG			\$2,058.51	\$2,058.51
				<u>\$384,939.64</u>	<u>\$417,768.89</u>

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE - Moved by Petelle, seconded by Butler approval of the following Request to Purchase.

1. Change Order – Jamieson School, Pavement - Requested by Pat Carrigan.

Deduct – Labor and materials for undercut sub-grade areas, CA-6 Type B base course, broken curb removal and replacement, concrete removal and replace w/ PCC pavement. \$2,288.00

Original contract amount \$39,940.00
The contract Sum will be decreased by - \$ 2,288.00

New contract sum including this Change Order \$37,652.00
Southeastern Construction

2. Change Order – Rolling Acres, Pavement - Requested by Pat Carrigan.

Deduct – Sidewalk removal/replacement and added bituminous remove and replace w/ PCC pavement \$1,565.00

Original contract sum \$87,196.00
The contract Sum will be decreased by - \$ 1,565.00

New Contract Sum including this Change Order \$85,631.00
Southeastern Construction

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS – Moved by Petelle, seconded by Butler approval of the following bids.

Fuel for Transportation - Request for bid was sent to five (5) vendors. Bids were returned as follows:

Table with 5 columns: Vendor, Gasoline Markup, Gasoline Freight, Diesel Markup, Diesel Freight. Rows include Ag-Land FS, Cady Oil, Herr Petroleum, and Petroleum Traders.

The above bids were opened on Thursday, September 3, 2009, at 1:30 pm by Julie Cramer, Debbie Brown and Mike Sullivan. It is recommended to award the lowest bid from Ag-Land FS. This bid will be charged to Transportation Dept.

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

HUMAN RESOURCE REPORT -- Moved by Petelle, seconded by Butler approval of the following human resource report as presented by the administration.

I. Certified Personnel Appointments Effective Date

Teachers – Full Time

Chenoweth, Nicole – Manual/Math Coach	9/14/2009
Edwards, Laurie – Woodruff/History (Part Time to Full Time)	9/22/2009
Hempstead, Jeffrey – Woodruff/Math & Science	9/21/2009
Jackson, Debra – Trewyn/5 th Grade (Sub to Full Time)	9/21/2009
Weisenberg, Barry – Manual/Industrial Technology	9/14/2009

Teacher – Part Time

Stone, Jacqueline – Hines/Writing Prep	9/22/2009
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Psychologist – Part Time

Ferrero-Baker, Brooke – Manual	9/22/2009
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Administrative Officer

Barnwell, Dave	9/14/2009
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Resignations

Adams, Jamie – Trewyn/ Other Employment	9/08/2009
Brackney, Charles – Manual/ Other Employment	9/09/2009
Lipski, Kelly – Woodrow Wilson/Employment in Washington SD	9/16/2009
Roark, Chad – Manual/Other Employment	9/14/2009

II. **Non-Certified Personnel**AppointmentsMaintenance

Walden, Travis - Indefinite	9/22/2009
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Return From Military LeaveMaintenance

Smith, Terry - Indefinite	9/22/2009
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Transportation

Pine, Ann – Driver/Reinstatement of Employment	9/16/2009
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ResignationsAccompanist

Slaymaker, Carma – Roosevelt/Relocation	8/24/2009
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Para-Professional

Verner, Diann – Developmental Case Manager (Off Schedule)	9/11/2009
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RetirementsClerical

Bordner, Donna – Administration	6/11/2010
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Maintenance

Custer, Rickee – Buildings & Grounds	6/30/2010
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Para-Professionals

Norman, Christine – Calvin Coolidge	6/30/2010
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TerminationsTransportation

Barlow, Antonio – Did Not Return for 2009-2010 School Year	8/19/2009
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Bohls, Angela – Did Not Return for 2009-2010 School Year	8/25/2009
Dixon, Fred – Did Not Return for 2009-2010 School Year	8/19/2009
Gillespie, Allison – Did Not Return for 2009-2010 School Year	8/19/2009
Grandson, Charles – Did Not Return for 2009-2010 School Year	8/19/2009
Haslett, Michelle – Did Not Return for 2009-2010 School Year	8/19/2009
Hicks, Steven – Did Not Return for 2009-2010 School Year	8/19/2009
Jackson, Stephanie – Did Not Return for 2009-2010 School Year	8/19/2009
Kirksey, Martha – Did Not Return for 2009-2010 School Year	8/19/2009
Matheny, Kindra – Did Not Return for 2009-2010 School Year	8/19/2009
McCreary, Ricky – Did Not Return for 2009-2010 School Year	8/19/2009
Pannell, Annette – Did Not Return for 2009-2010 School Year	8/19/2009
Pates, Stanley – Did Not Return for 2009-2010 School Year	8/19/2009
Rutherford, Tiffany – Did Not Return for 2009-2010 School Year	8/19/2009
Salgado, Jaime – Did Not Return for 2009-2010 School Year	8/19/2009
Trevino, Daniel – Did Not Return for 2009-2010 School Year	8/19/2009
Walls, Charles – Did Not Return for 2009-2010 School Year	8/19/2009
Williams, Cleveland – Did Not Return for 2009-2010 School Year	8/19/2009

III. Certified Substitutes

Appointments

Nurses

Cunningham, Pamela	9/22/2009
Witzig, Leila	9/22/2009

Teacher

Adams, Joyce	9/22/2009
Adams, Richard	9/22/2009
Alsene, Abigale	9/22/2009
Cummins, David	9/22/2009
Decker, Matthew	9/22/2009
DeMoss, Nicholas	9/22/2009
Flanders, Scott	9/22/2009
Hartmann, Patricia	9/22/2009
Hayward, Natalie (from Honorable Dismissal)	9/10/2009
Johnson, Trent	9/22/2009
Motteler, Jacob	9/22/2009
Purifoy, Richard	9/22/2009
Riddle, Todd	9/22/2009
Robins, Robin	9/22/2009
Sheets, Katherine	9/22/2009
Tinsley, Nicole	9/22/2009
Vallas, Lori	9/22/2009
Walker, Cynthia	9/22/2009
Wetterow, Glen	9/22/2009
Winget, Patricia Ann	9/22/2009

Resignations

Teachers

Publes, Idaliza – Full-Time Employment Outside of District 9/17/2009

IV. Non-Certified Substitutes

Appointments

Behavioral Attendants

Alexander, Sequoia	9/22/2009
Burse, Paul	9/22/2009
Edwards, Sparkle	9/22/2009
Hammer, Christina	9/22/2009
Langhorn, Courtney	9/22/2009
Robinson, Brianca	9/22/2009

Clerical

Smallberger, Kelsey	9/22/2009
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Teacher Aides

Carter, Susan	9/22/2009
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Position Ended/Temporary PositionStudent Workers

Faught, Kaitlyn	9/16/2009
Montford, Maurice	9/16/2009

TerminationsBehavioral Attendants

Fitzpatrick, Katrina – Job Performance	9/10/2009
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On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS - Moved by Petelle, seconded by Butler approval of the travel requests as presented by the administration. (Copy is on file in the board secretary's office.)

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS – Moved by Petelle, seconded by Butler that the Board of Education approves the school improvement plans from Peoria High School, Calvin Coolidge Middle School, and Manual High School as two year plans of action.

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

GREAT PLAINS SPORTS MEDICINE CONTRACT – Moved by Petelle, seconded by Butler that the Board of Education of Peoria Public Schools District 150, authorize the administration to enter into an agreement with Great Plains Sports Medicine to provide athletic trainer and physician services for the school year 2009-10.

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

2009 – 2010 APPLICATION FOR RECOGNITION OF SCHOOLS – Moved by Petelle, seconded by Butler that the 2009 – 2010 Application for Recognition of Schools be approved for each of the schools of the District.

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

AMENDMENT TO THE MEDICAID ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIM AGREEMENT – Moved by Petelle, seconded by Butler that the Board of Education approve the Amendment to the Medicaid Administrative Claim Agreement.

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

SALARY COMPENSATION REPORT – Moved by Petelle, seconded by Butler that the Board of Education accept the 2009-10 Salary Compensation Report, as presented and as required by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.46.

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

DELIBERATION AGENDA - .

Review of Suspensions - Moved by Gorenz seconded by Ross that the Review of Suspensions listed on Report No. 1 dated September 21, 2009 be approved as presented.

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

Expulsions – Moved by Gorenz seconded by Ross that the Expulsions listed on the report dated September 21, 2009 be approved as presented.

On roll call, 6 ayes. Butler, Parker, Spangler, Stowell, Wolfmeyer, Gorenz
1 nay. Ross. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF BUDGET – Moved by Ross, seconded by Butler that the Board of Education approve the resolution to adopt the July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 budget.

Comptroller/Treasurer Schau noted that the budget was discussed at the September 14, 2009 Committee of the Whole meeting.

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

CLOSING OF WOODRUFF HIGH SCHOOL – Moved by Gorenz, seconded by Butler, that the Board of Education approve the closure of Woodruff High School effective at the end of the 2009 – 2010 school year.

Superintendent Hinton began the discussion. He stated that this was the most important and difficult decision a school board could have to make. He noted that the decision has been many years coming, and many cuts to expenses have already been made, including reducing staff, instituting a soft hiring freeze, reducing capital expenditures and changing the schedule of opening times for schools; but the grave financial situation facing the district made the decision necessary. Mr. Hinton stressed that after the decision the District must move forward. He stated that he realizes there will be much hurt and that effort will be made to make this a seamless move.

Mrs. Ross asked why there were two separate votes. President Wolfmeyer explained that Board members asked to have the closing of Peoria High School added to the agenda.

Mrs. Ross stated that she was not so naïve as to think that the District could afford four high schools with the current enrollment. She does feel that the district does not need four traditional high schools, but is concerned about the students. She stated the community has offered many options but there continues to be tunnel vision. There could be schools with grades 7 – 12 and high schools could become schools within schools. She stated she is concerned that we did not look past what we have been thinking and how we could combine schools differently. She stated she is not in favor of closing a high school. She stated that the biggest cost is staffing and the district could tighten its belt and look at other ways of making the same thing happen by looking outside the box.

Mrs. Parker noted that the Board had talked about an additional school by Lincoln Middle School to make a K-12 campus, but funding changed. She feels the District needs to take a step back because the closure being proposed tonight is not the only thing that is going to happen – more schools will need to be closed – and she does not want to put people into the same mess over and over. She feels the decision tonight is not what the District is looking for and the Board needs to take the time to make the right decision. She will not support the closing of either high school.

Dr. Gorenz stated that the Board just approved a budget with a \$7.9 million deficit and the one-time revenue of selling property will not fix the problem. He stated that the economy and the loss in revenue has had a great impact on the District. He emphasized that he realizes that staff, students and parents do not want their school to close, but that decision is best for the long term. He stressed that if the District continues to operate with a structural deficit of \$8 million there will be no way to improve student achievement for those students five to ten years from now. He pointed out that plans cannot be developed until we decide which high school to close.

Ms. Petelle expressed concern that the Board has been asked to make the most difficult decision, which has been put off for decades. She stressed that everyone knows how she intends to vote and why. She stated that she has met with and talked with everyone who asked. She has toured both high schools and realizes what an enormous disruption this change will be for many families. She stressed that she has agonized over the right thing to do and has done extensive research and reflection on the issue. She feels that it is crucial that the district work immediately to put an alternative high school in place. She agreed that the District must continue to practice fiscal discipline and put together a budget that will put us on sound financial footing. She shared that one good thing from this process is that she is extremely impressed and inspired with the students at both high schools and knows that they will put this same passion to achieve great things in their lifetimes.

Mr. Stowell stated that he proposed adding Peoria High School to the mix. He reported that he met with Peoria High School and Woodruff High School students in February and told them then what he thought was the best course of action. He noted that the district is losing students in the heart of the city and that part of the city has been neglected. He reported that scattergrams prepared for the Board of Education show that students from all over the city attend all four high schools. He stated that he believes in bringing middle school students to the high schools and having campuses that are vibrant. He believes that we need a vocational/technical school – we need the programs like the computer program at Woodruff High School and IB program at Richwoods High School and to develop programs that include math and science. He feels that these programs could be placed at Peoria High School. He stressed that students need programs that make them feel engaged and offer the opportunity for and hope for a job. Mr. Stowell pointed out that if the revenue had not dropped the District would probably have tried to avoid the issue, but with the current enrollment the District cannot afford to have four high schools. He would like to take one high school off line, then take others off line and bring back the first. He also stressed that if the District does not take action the \$30 million in PBC bonding could be at risk. Mr. Stowell noted that as Ms. Petelle reported, if all staff were willing to take a 3.38% reduction in wages, it would alleviate the need for a closure. Mr. Stowell stated that he would not support the closure of Woodruff High School.

President Wolfmeyer stated that she has heard that the Board does not “care about children” and that is not the case. The Board has to make decisions on a lot of things and she realizes that this decision affects the lives of students, parents, staff and community, but she stressed that it is the responsibility of the Board to make this district financially sound. She reported that Interim Treasurer Durlinger and Interim Comptroller Butts also told the Board that they need to close a high school or even two high schools. Current Comptroller Schau said the same thing – that there is a responsibility to get the District in financial order. Mrs. Wolfmeyer emphasized that she knows there is nothing she can say to either school to convince them that their school should be closed. She also noted that all Board members take information given to them from the administration, talk with others and then look at the entire district. Mrs. Wolfmeyer stated that she is very proud of the high school students, their writing of e-mails, their organized demonstrations, their respectful attitudes and their desire and action to do what was necessary to support their high school. She summarized that a decision has to be made tonight, the budget needs a decision and the Board needs to look at the whole picture tonight and move forward tomorrow.

Board Vice President Butler thanked all four high school principals for being present. She presented that tonight’s vote is a very difficult decision which affects the District’s future – a decision so that Peoria Public Schools can continue its mission to offer a quality educational program to the children and families of Peoria. She noted the e-mails and phone calls she has received and that there would be no vote that would make everyone happy tonight. She stressed that she understands the sentimental reasons people share, her childhood school, home and church have all been a part of urban renewal. She also pointed out that with that urban renewal progress has been made; there is a new Lincoln Middle School and a new St. Paul Baptist Church that serves a much larger congregation than could have been possible in the

old building. She encouraged the community to be willing to move past the loss and recreate a new learning environment. She charged each person to ask themselves, "What can I do to make this a good transition for the community." She asked how Board members, school staff, parents and other adult mentors and leaders will show our students and each other how we can work through change. She strongly believes that what students do after this evening will be a reflection of "you and me" and that this is a teachable moment for our kids and that we will teach them something – good or bad. She summarized that the Board took some hard hits regarding this matter and that the Board will individually and as a group heal. She concluded that we all must resolve, if not tonight, if not tomorrow, than sometime soon all need to work toward a better community.

With no further comments President Wolfmeyer called for the vote.

On roll call 4 ayes, Butler, Gorenz, Wolfmeyer and Petelle
3 nays. Stowell, Parker and Ross
Motion Carried.

CLOSING OF PEORIA HIGH SCHOOL – Moved by Stowell, that the Board of Education approve the closure of Peoria High School effective at the end of the 2009 – 2010 school year. Motion did not receive a second.

INFORMATION ITEMS – REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF –

1. GOAL 1 – STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

2. Goal 2 – FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FINANCE REPORTS – Ms. Schau presented this report for the Board's information and review.

PURCHASE ORDERS OVER \$2,500 – Ms. Schau presented this report for the Board's review. Dr. Gorenz asked for an update on CPPRT amounts. Ms. Schau will prepare a report.

3. GOAL 3 – QUALITY STAFF

4. GOAL 4 – SAFE, CARING ENVIRONMENTS

5. GOAL 5 – CULTURE OF CUSTOMER SERVICE - Report of Requests under the Freedom of Information Act and Status of Such Requests – Mr. Hinton reported that there were 3 FOIAs since the last Board meeting, and of those requests 2 were filled and 1 was pulled by the requestor. Of the five pending requests on the September 8, 2009 report, all were filled.

REPORTS AND SUGGESTIONS BY BOARD MEMBERS – Mrs. Parker asked that administration do a district wide facility study to allow for a more comprehensive and strategic approach on which schools to close and why. She would like a plan for the task force and a time line. She would like to see the Board take the time now and put it all on the table rather than wait until the end. Mrs. Schau stated that she feels that is an excellent idea and the task force could begin with the 2005 facilities study. Mr. Hinton noted that Mrs. Schau has already suggested the formation of a five year comprehensive plan for the District. Mrs. Ross favors waiting until there is a new Superintendent in place. Mr. Hinton noted that when then Master Facility Plan was completed there was a target, but everyone needs to keep in mind that when that study was completed we had a stable economy. He stressed that if the District had not made the cuts they have that we would be \$5 million to \$6 million more on the deficit side. He noted that the district has "seats" for 20,000 students and the current enrollment is around 14,000 – leaving 6,000 extra seats – but special education has changed requiring more intensive staffing. He reported that he is asking the Board to get to the financial stability needed and to do that they will have to make more financial decisions. He commended the Board for making a decision and stated that we must come together and move forward. He pointed out that District 150 is doing the

right thing because, unlike other school districts, we have no reserves. He shared his concern that administration has wanted to do student achievement programming, but we do not have the money to hire staff.

Mr. Stowell stated that he would like to know what is being done, what steps, if any, legally can be done to possibly get the city government more oversight into the school district.

ADJOURNMENT - Mrs. Wolfmeyer adjourned the regular meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Julia A. Cramer,
Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Debbie L. Wolfmeyer
Board President