



Mt. Vernon Township High School District #201
March 18, 2008
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M.

1. President Hoffman called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members answering roll call were: Greg Backes, Ron Copenhaver, Pat Garrett, Karen Goodwine, Jon Hawthorne, Ron Stewart, and Dan Hoffman. Also present were Superintendent Terry Milt, Principal Ron Daniels, representatives from the Register News and Mt. Vernon Sentinel, guests and Board Secretary Shirilyn Holt.

2. Recognition of Public Comments
There were no public comments.

3. Approval of the Consent Agenda:

- A. Minutes – Open and Closed Minutes from February 18, 2008
- B. Bills
- C. Treasurer’s Report

Goodwine made a motion to approve the consent agenda with a second by Backes.

Roll Call: Yes – Goodwine, Backes, Copenhaver, Garrett, Hawthorne, Stewart, Hoffman
No - None **Motion Carried**

4. Administrative Reports: Principal/Superintendent

- Principal Daniels passed out names of judges for the Oehm Scholarship
- Superintendent Milt mentioned the important dates for the remainder of the school year was included in the board packet.
- Last year the school hosted a summer lunch program for qualified students and will continue this again this summer
- Included in the packet was a facility plan tasks sheet from FGM

5. Old Business:

5.1 In-house behavior disorder center (discussion/action)

Milt recommended proceeding with the in-house behavior disorder center.

Backes made a motion to proceed with the in-house center with a second by Copenhaver.

Roll Call: Yes – Backes, Copenhaver, Garrett, Goodwine, Hawthorne, Stewart, Hoffman
No - None **Motion Carried**

6. New Business:

6.1 Closed session student discipline situation- parent request (discussion/action)

6.2 Closed session for employee discipline hearing (discussion/action)

Backes made a motion to enter Closed Session for the purposes of student discipline 5ILCS 120/2(c)(9) and employee discipline - 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) with a second by Stewart.

Roll Call: Yes – Backes, Stewart, Copenhaver, Garrett, Goodwine, Hawthorne, Hoffman
No - None **Motion Carried**

8:50 p.m. Open Session

Backes made a motion to enter Open Session with a second by Copenhaver.

Roll Call: Yes – Backes, Copenhaver, Garrett, Goodwine, Hawthorne, Stewart, Hoffman
No - None **Motion Carried**

Backes made a motion to terminate Custodian Ben Stuckey with a second by Stewart.

Roll Call: Yes – Backes, Stewart, Copenhaver, Garrett, Goodwine, Hawthorne, Hoffman
No - None **Motion Carried**

6.3 Information on school broadband FCC license (discussion)

Superintendent Milt explained he had talked with attorney Don Musick regarding the FCC license and Musick had contacted attorney Todd Gray from Washington, D.C. who deals with these regulations. There is a question as to if the school is under contract for this license and what does the license do for the school. Superintendent Milt stated the question, is school interested in working with Mr. Gray who will charge a reduced fee of \$500 an hour.

After discussion Garrett made a motion to work with the law firm of DowLohnes on a 5% basis with a second by Goodwine.

Roll Call: Yes – Garrett, Goodwine, Backes, Copenhaver, Hawthorne, Stewart, Hoffman
No - None **Motion Carried**

6.4 Student teacher request from McKendree College

Copenhaver made a motion to approve the student teacher request from McKendree College with a second by Backes.

Roll Call: Yes – Copenhaver, Backes, Garrett, Goodwine, Hawthorne, Stewart, Hoffman
No - None **Motion Carried**

6.5 Presentation of School Improvement Plan (discussion/action)

Principal Daniels handed out the changes to the school improvement plan and gave a short overview.

After discussion Backes made a motion to approve the school improvement plan with a second by Copenhaver.

Roll Call: Yes – Backes, Copenhaver, Goodwine, Hawthorne, Stewart, Hoffman
No - Garrett **Motion Carried**

6.6 Seeking of permission loan working cash to education fund (discussion/action)

Superintendent Milt stated he was seeking a loan of \$345,000.00 to the education fund from the working cash. Milt mentioned at the end of the school year the Board would need to investigate the possibility of the abolishment of the working cash fund, if the school could not pay back the outstanding loan. Milt mentioned there is over \$350,000 remaining in working cash, \$355,000 and a \$25,000 C.D. Milt is requesting use of only \$345,000, if necessary, in April to meet obligations. After discussion Milt read the resolution regarding the loan.

Backes made a motion to approve the loan with a second by Goodwine.

Roll Call: Yes – Backes, Goodwine, Copenhaver, Garrett, Hawthorne, Stewart, Hoffman
No - None **Motion Carried**

6.7 Seeking of permission to issue warrants (discussion/action)

Milt stated he was seeking permission to issue warrants in the amount of \$1.25 million. Copenhaver made a motion to issue warrants in the amount of \$1.25 million with a second by Stewart.

Roll Call: Yes – Copenhaver, Stewart, Backes, Garrett, Goodwine, Hawthorne, Hoffman
No - None **Motion Carried**

6.8 Action upon the dismissal of non-tenured personnel/Resignation (discussion/action)

Superintendent Milt stated English teacher Roxanna Crain and CTE teacher Jason Patterson had submitted their resignations effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

Backes made a motion to accept the resignation of Roxanna Crain with a second by Goodwine.

Roll Call: Yes – Backes, Goodwine, Copenhaver, Garrett, Hawthorne, Stewart, Hoffman
No - None **Motion Carried**

Copenhaver made a motion to accept the resignation of Jason Patterson with a second by Backes.

Roll Call: Yes – Copenhaver, Backes, Garrett, Goodwine, Hawthorne, Stewart, Hoffman
No - None **Motion Carried**

Superintendent Milt read resolutions of honorable dismissal for the following non-tenured personnel: Amanda Payne, Physical Education; Kendra Hopkins, Foods; Audrey Lemke, Counselor.

Backes made a motion to approve the honorable dismissal of Amanda Payne with a second by Goodwine.

Roll Call: Yes – Copenhaver, Backes, Garrett, Goodwine, Hawthorne, Stewart, Hoffman
No - None **Motion Carried**

Goodwine made a motion to approve the honorable dismissal of Kendra Hopkins with a second by Copenhaver.

Roll Call: Yes – Goodwine, Copenhaver, Backes, Garrett, Hawthorne, Stewart, Hoffman
No - None **Motion Carried**

Stewart made a motion to approve the honorable dismissal of Audrey Lemke with a second by Backes.

Roll Call: Yes – Stewart, Backes, Copenhaver, Garrett, Goodwine, Hawthorne, Hoffman
No - None **Motion Carried**

6.9 Accept resignation of classroom aide (discussion/action)

Backes made a motion to accept the resignation of Donnesha Thomas with a second by Copenhaver.

Roll Call: Yes – Backes, Copenhaver, Garrett, Goodwine, Hawthorne, Stewart, Hoffman
No - None **Motion Carried**

6.10 Discussion of ¼ cent sales tax and possible for use for college tuition (discussion)
Superintendent Milt mentioned at a recent meeting the county board ¼ cent sales tax was mentioned. Board member Garrett had recommended using this ¼ cent sales tax to invest in our children and provide Jefferson County high school graduates with money to attend Rend Lake College. This tax generates about \$900,000 a year and has been active for three years, but will end at the end of this year. For the tax to continue, it must be voted on by the public. Garrett is seeking support for the concept from the Board. The consensus of the Board was that the concept was good, but more information would be needed before there could be agreement.

6.11 Accept resignation of Rockin' Ram sponsor (discussion/action)
Backes made a motion to accept the resignation of Susan Talley with a second by Goodwine.
Roll Call: Yes – Backes, Goodwine, Copenhaver, Garrett, Hawthorne, Stewart, Hoffman
No - None **Motion Carried**

6.12 Setting of date to discuss closed campus, uniforms and other related issues (discussion/action)
The meeting was set for April 10, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

6.13 Student accident coverage (discussion/action)
At this time the cost has increased. The board recommended deferring this until the April meeting.

6.14 Discussion of waiver to allow staff to enroll their child tuition free within the district they teach (discussion)
After discussion the consensus was the Board would like to continue coverage, but would like to get more options to review.

6.15 Employer contribution for employee IMRF payback (discussion/action)
Superintendent Milt explained an employee was on a workers compensation leave and that his IMRF coverage had lapsed for four months. The employee would like to pay the lost months and the school would then need to pay their portion. This portion would have been paid if the employee had been working.
Backes made a motion to approve the payback with a second by Goodwine.
Roll Call: Yes – Copenhaver, Backes, Garrett, Goodwine, Hawthorne, Stewart, Hoffman
No - None **Motion Carried**

7. Adjournment – 10:20 p.m.
Backes made a motion to adjourn with a second by Copenhaver.
All stated yes. **Motion Carried**

Dan Hoffman, President

Shirilyn Holt, Board Secretary