

Nauvoo - Colusa Community Unit School District # 325

Board of Education
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Carla Yager - Counselor

“Striving for Excellence”

Board of Education
Regular Meeting Agenda Report
Monday, May 17, 2010 Time: 7:00 P.M.
Place: Nauvoo-Colusa Jr. High School Audio-Visual Room
2461 North County Road 1000, Nauvoo, Illinois 62354
Website: <http://www.nauvoo-colusa.com>

(Please call or email me before the board meeting with questions for the agenda items.)

1.0 Call to Order

Board meeting called to order at _____ p.m.

2.0 Roll Call

Boyles____ Cox____ Knipe____ Knoke____ Pack____ Sinele____ Snyder____

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

4.0 Agenda

4.01 Adoption of the Agenda

Motion_____ Second_____ Ayes_____ Nays_____

5.0 Recognition, Members of the Audience

5.01 Public Comment

6.0 Approval of Minutes

*6.01 Approve Regular Meeting Minutes for April, 2010

6.02 Approve Closed Session Minutes

Motion_____ Second_____ Ayes_____ Nays_____

7.0 Financials

*7.01 Pay Bills for April, 2010

Motion_____ Second_____

Boyles____ Cox____ Knipe____ Knoke____ Pack____ Sinele____ Snyder____

(Administrative Recommendation- The Board of Education pays the bills for the month.

Please call or email me prior to the board meeting if you have any questions about the bills.)

***7.02 Approve Financial and Treasurer Report for April, 2010 (This year N-C has spent \$2,314,389 in the education fund compared to \$2,167,199 spent in the education fund last year which is a 6.7% increase. In the operation and maintenance fund, N-C has spent \$261,351 this year compared to last year the district had spent \$219,324 which is a 19% increase. The district has spent \$207,557 in the transportation fund compared to \$236,905 last year in which is a 14% decrease.**

This year's education fund balance is \$251,615 compared to a fund balance of \$472,941 last year. In the operation and maintenance fund, this year's balance is \$98,262 compared to \$100,131 last year. In the transportation fund, this year's fund balance is \$89,501 compared to a fund balance of \$95,077 last year. This year the working cash fund balance is \$124,935 compared to a balance of \$96,927 last year.

The school district has hundreds of line item accounts so it would take me a long time to compare each item from last year to this year. I skimmed each line item from this year and noticed a few large differences in which I recorded below that can explain why the district has spent more money this year compared to last.

Last year the tuition bill to Warsaw was \$192,502 compared to \$246,190 this year so the district has paid \$53,688 more to Warsaw at this time of the year compared to this time last year. We still have one more payment in tuition to Warsaw in June.

Last year at this time we spent \$1,598,295 in salaries compared to \$1,640,354 this year for an increase of \$42,059 more in salaries.

Last year we spent \$87,864 in the Title I and have spent \$99,040 this year for an increase of \$11,176.

We have spent \$106,923 more this year compared to last in just those three line item accounts in the education fund.

The operation and maintenance fund we spent \$22,509 last year in services and repairs compared to \$58,699 this year for a difference of \$36,190. In that difference, we had a large bill of \$17,480.68 to fix the driveway at the junior high school and a bill of \$11,170 for the lighting upgrade to the junior high school. However, our electric bill is less this year than last year even though we had a longer, harder winter requiring more use of heat. We also spent \$5,134 in plumbing from the junior high school to the baseball diamond for the concession stand for the sports' boosters. Supplies have been \$3,053 higher this year.

The majority of expenditure items have remained even or decreased. Some of the line items are out of our control such as tuition to Warsaw, health care cost increases, needed maintenance, plumbing and electrical issues.

We run a fiscally tight district. We do not waste funds on purpose.

We cannot help the state is not paying us or we have had a decrease in revenue and an increase in expenditures. Currently, the Comptroller's

office has a backlog of more than 27,000 ISBE vouchers totaling nearly \$1.4 billion. This will likely continue to grow as we get closer to the end of the fiscal year.

We cannot freeze salaries if we want to remain competitive with other districts. We have a hard time replacing the staff that retire or leave currently, let alone if we freeze pay for the staff. In my financial opinion we need to raise revenue. We have the lowest tax rate in the county and one of the lowest in the state. We can only levy what is allowable by law unless the community passes a referendum to increase the education levy but that would probably not happen, especially in these economic times.)

8.0 Superintendent's Report

8.01 Superintendent's Report (Mr. Young)

a. First Midstate- Dave Pistorius Discuss Working Cash Bonds (The board needs to seriously consider getting working cash bonds to survive over the next several years. In 2004, the district received \$397,512 in tuition from Dallas City and \$485,944 in hold harmless money. This year we received \$122,751 in hold harmless, next fiscal year we are supposed to get 40% of that and \$0.00 in FY 12. The state still owes us money from October 13, 2009, but we cannot show a negative balance at the end of the year in funds. Many districts in the state are using the WC option as a way to survive the lack of payment by the state.

We do have a line of credit from the State Bank of Nauvoo but that does nothing to generate new revenue.

The staff at N-C work hard and they need a salary raise. Health insurance increases are hurting the district as well as other expenditure increases.

The principal amount of working cash fund bonds to be issued cannot exceed 85% of the taxes permitted to be levied for educational purposes for the current year plus 85% of the last known personal property replacement tax entitlement minus the greater of the principal amount of the district's working cash fund bonds outstanding in which we have none at this time. The bonding capacity for the district is \$960,000. I recommend that we bond for the maximum amount in the resolution. We can sell the amount we need over the three year period.

The Financial Profile is weighted and the days' cash on hand has a higher weight than the long-term debt. The district does not have WC bond debt and it does not get a high score because of the days of cash on hand.

The district did sell working cash bonds in the mid 90's and they were paid off in 2003. In 1998, the earliest audit report I could find without going through boxes in the shed, the district had \$368,000 in outstanding bonds.

The tax rate was 3.47 in 1996, comparable to this year's. In 2007, the rate was 3.41. We may be able to keep the tax rate close to the same if the board chooses to sell WC bonds since we have paid down the bonds we sold for the roof. Dave will bring different schedules of payoff. Our roof payoff is on a seven year schedule.)

- b. Mrs. Elschlager- Library Report (**The district bought 11 Kindle's with funds from the technology grant. A Kindle is an electronic book that allows a person to download books, newspapers, and magazines within a few minutes from almost anywhere.**)
- c. Annual Conference (**Please let me know if you plan to attend the conference, what day you plan to leave, and if a spouse, girlfriend, boyfriend, or child plan to attend.**)
- d. 8th Grade Boys' Track Sectional Championship and State Meet Track Participants

8th Grade Boys Sectional Winners

7th Grade Boys 5th Place

8th Grade Girl's 5th Place

7th Grade Girl's 6th Place

This is out of 13 Teams

Congratulations to he following who are going to the IESA State Track Meet Friday, May 14 and Saturday, May 15th.

7th Grade Girls:

Alexis Dooley - Discus 1st place

Keaghan Shacklett - High Jump 1st Place

Aleetha Mulch - 1600 1st Place (running as an 8th Grader)

8th Grade Girls:

Amanda Whitcomb - Discus 2nd Place

6th Grade Boys:

Luke Beeler - 400 2nd Place (running as a 7th grader)

7th Grade Boys:

John Koehler - Shot Put 1st Place

8th Grade Boys:

Dylan Matthews - 110 Hurdles 1st Place, 400 1st place

Jon Grow - 1600 1st Place, 800 2nd Place

Jonah Terrell - 1600 2nd Place

Drew Beeler - High Jump 2nd Place

4x400 Relay Team - 1st Place

Lamar Gimmeson, Jon Grow, Dylan Matthews, Jonah Terrell and Drew Beeler (alternate)

Others who placed at Sectionals:

8th Grade Girls:

Allison Dewald - 100 Hurdles 3rd Place, 400 5th Place

Shelby Koehler - Shot Putt 3rd Place, 200 6th Place

4x200 Relay Team - 4th Place

Allison Dewald, Shelby Koehler, Amanda Whitcomb and Keaghan Shacklett

7th Grade Girls:

Ariel Clough - 1600 4th Place

Alexis Dooley - 400 5th Place, Shot Putt 4th Place

8th Grade Boys:

Drew Beeler - 800 3rd Place

Lamar Gimmeson - 400 and Long Jump 4th Place

4x200 Relay Team - 3rd Place

Lamar Gimmeson, Jonah Terrell, Jonathan Ferguson, Drew Beeler

7th Grade Boys:

John Koehler - 100 4th Place

Chase Kirchner - 400 4th Place

Matteo Lopez - Discus 4th Place

Michael McCarty - 800 5th Place

Will Lucie (6th Grader) - 1600 5th Place

4x200 Relay Team - 3rd Place

Luke Beeler (6th grader), John Koehler, Chase Kirchner and Michael McCarty

4x400 Relay Team - 4th Place

Chase Kirchner, Will Lucie, Luke Beeler and Michael McCarty

e. Health Care Provider's Job Duties

f. Paperless Board Meetings (With the proposed new copier we will have the option for scanning documents within seconds. If we went to paperless board packets, we could easily save money in paper, ink, mileage, and time it takes to deliver them. The board packet would be to you earlier as well. We would send a PDF email attachment that includes everything in your board packet. This will be free for you to look at from your home computer. If there are parts of the packet that you wish to print, you would be able to do so from your computer or we could print certain parts for you as well. Annie would be willing to set your home computer up for you and show you how the paperless packet works. This feature would not be any extra cost and would save us money as well. There is software available that cost over \$2000 per year, but we can do it without this software.)

8.02 Curriculum Director's Report (Ms. Dennison)

8.03 Elementary Principal's Report (Mr. Ayer)

9.0 Action Items

9.01 Consider Hiring a Junior High School Cheerleader Coach (Administrative Recommendation- The board of education hires Annie Baxter as cheerleader coach. Yvonne Hoenig will also help with the cheerleaders. There are a lot of girls and one boy interested in cheerleading and they plan to have fund raisers to support themselves. There will be little or no cost to the district.)

9.02 Consider the Final Reading of the Board Policy Updates (Administrative Recommendation- The board of education approve the final reading of the board policy update. The policy committee started working on this last July and held several meetings to update the policies. The majority of updates were legal policies set forth by state and federal laws.)

9.03 Consider Approving the Amended Calendar for the 2009-2010 School Year **(Administrative Recommendation- The board of education amends the calendar for this school year. We had six snow days but only make up five of those days. The last day of school is May 28, 2010.)**

9.04 Consider Approving the Calendar for the 2010-2011 School Year **(Administrative Recommendation- The board of education approves the calendar for next school year. This calendar can be changed at any time.)**

9.05 Consider the Resignation of the Health Care Provider **(Administrative Recommendation- The board of education accepts the retirement of Susan Ruble as health care provider. I know we had mentioned that we would have a health care provider in the deactivation process to Warsaw, but Warsaw has never had a nurse or health care provider on staff. Warsaw has cut staff at the high school level for next year. The administration believes that other staff can pick up the extra duties and the staff are willing to do this for the district. When in doubt, we will call 911.**

I would like to assign Annie the duty of the health care clerk We had paid a person in the past before Susan to take care of the records. Annie will be responsible to submit all State Reports to me relating to this job.)

9.06 Consider Hiring a Half-day Pre-school Teacher **(Administrative Recommendation- The board of education hires Melissa Bolton as half day pre-school teacher. There are enough pre-k students to have a half day teacher. We can pay for her through the pre-k grant if the projection of \$109,000 in revenue is approved by the state. If the state does not give us the projected revenue for the grant, we will have a decrease in salaries by not replacing Maxine, Susan, and half of Stan. No matter the financial situation, we need to educate our children to the best of our abilities. Educationally, we cannot lose our students by having large class sizes especially at the lower levels.)**

9.07 Consideration and Action on a Resolution Declaring the Intent of the School District to issue Working Cash Fund Bonds

9.08 Consider the Resignation of the Counselor **(Administrative Recommendation- The board of education accepts the resignation of Carla Yager. We will need a half-time counselor and if we cannot find one, Carla is willing to work half-time.)**

9.09 Consider a New Lease with IKON Copiers **(Administrative Recommendation- The board of education accepts the proposal from IKON.)**

9.10 Consider the Life Safety Amendment for the Junior High School **(This is amendment is for the “doorbell” and camera on the south side of the building. This will make our building at the junior high school safe. We currently have \$141,042.83 in the life safety fund. FYI: When the district spends any money out of the life safety fund it has to be approved by the architect, the superintendent of schools, the board of education, the regional superintendent, and finally the state superintendent. Once the district receives the approval of all those it can start the project.)**

9.11 Consider the Life Safety Amendment for the Elementary School (**This amendment is for the playground at the grade school. At this time the architect had not given me the amendment to approve.**)

9.12 Consider IESA Membership and Fees (**Administrative Recommendation- The board of education approves the membership for the IESA Membership. Fees are \$660.**)

9.13 Consider Approving the Race to the Top (**Below was copied from ISBE.net on 05/13/2010.**)

Race to the Top

Going the distance for ILLINOIS STUDENTS

▲ **Why is the “Race to the Top” so Valuable to the Illinois Education Community?**

The “Race to the Top” is a competitive federal grant program that will provide resources to states that are leading reform efforts in four areas: Improving the use of standards and assessments, increasing the use of data, increasing the effectiveness of teachers, and improving struggling schools.

Illinois is already on course for strategic reforms that align with the four areas of “Race to the Top”. If we win the race, it could bring \$400 million for the state and its schools to help more quickly implement the reforms to which we are already committed. Teachers and administrators will be pursuing many of these reforms regardless of the outcome of Illinois’ “Race to the Top”.

If Illinois receives \$400 million from “Race to the Top” it will allow us to more rapidly develop a statewide shared technology infrastructure, provide teachers and administrators with real-time access to data and reduce duplicative reporting requirements. In addition, teachers and principals will receive high quality induction and mentoring, including intensive training in the use of data to improve student growth.

▲ **How does the “Race to the Top” Benefit Illinois?**

“Race to the Top” will help Illinois support reforms designed to improve outcomes and opportunities for Illinois students and foster improved effectiveness of educators.

Illinois is one of the states leading the Common Core State Standards Initiative which will use internationally benchmarked learning standards to better prepare students for college and career readiness. The state-driven Common Core will mean fewer, clearer and higher Illinois Learning Standards and the “Race to the Top” will provide professional development for teachers and administrators to implement the new state standards, improve student growth measures and better align standards and assessments from preschool through post-secondary.

Students will be able to earn a Career Readiness Certificate, aligned with the needs of the marketplace and increasingly used by businesses around the state in hiring.

How does “Race to the Top” Benefit Classroom Teachers?

“Race to the Top” funding will allow for the construction of a statewide technology infrastructure to provide teachers real-time access to student growth data and assist in their professional development to use that data. “Race to the Top” will also assist teachers by enabling them to more efficiently customize instruction and provide educators with tools to measure student growth and inform instruction and interventions. It will provide support for districts and teachers as Common Core Learning Standards go into effect and district curriculum is revised. In addition, “Race to the Top” funding will allow Illinois to develop frameworks and processes to support teachers and principals in the implementation of new evaluations, which will be tied in part to student growth data.

How does “Race to the Top” Benefit Administrators?

“Race to the Top” helps support the reforms in districts that will be moving forward regardless of whether or not Illinois receives “Race to the Top” funding. Districts will benefit from new statewide supports to bring relevance and practical application to more rigorous standards – steps that will help our students successfully compete on a global stage and will provide funding for teacher and administrator professional development.

The development of a statewide technology infrastructure will also allow administrators to reduce district Information Technology (IT) costs through “cloud computing”. Educators will be able to follow students through their entire educational career, from preschool through college graduation.

In addition, it will reduce district administrative burdens through the faster development of a Longitudinal Data System which will reduce and simplify district reporting to the State.

How do we improve Illinois’ position in the “Race to the Top”?

While districts agreeing to participate in Illinois’ Phase I “Race to the Top” application enroll 74% of our students and 80% of our low-income students, it was pointed out by federal reviewers these districts only represent 42% of all districts. Reviewers noted statewide reform requires broad support from management and labor.

It is critical that Illinois demonstrate additional support for our Phase II “Race to the Top” application. The two states that received “Race to the Top” grants in the first round had 100% participation. Support is needed from teachers, administrators and local board members to access these federal resources at a time state funding for education is dwindling.

9.14 Consider Putting the Amended FY 10 Budget on Display for 30 Days (**We need to put the amended budget on display for 30 days and approve it at the June meeting. We are pretty close on the budget except for the O&M expenditures. We legally cannot be over on the budget without amending it or the auditor will have a finding.**)

10.0 Communications and Correspondence

10.01 Regular School Board Meeting- June 21, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

11.0 Adjournment

* Indicates Consent Agenda