

BROWN COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
Mt. Sterling, Illinois
July 9, 2014

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, July 9, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Office at 503 NW Cross Street, Mt. Sterling, Illinois. The meeting was called to order by President Philip Krupps. The minutes were recorded by Tracy Flowers, Secretary.

On roll call, the following members answered present: Kackley, Koch, Krupps, Meservey and Miller. Blakeley and McCaskill were absent.

Public Comment none

1. Motion by Koch, seconded by Kackley, to approve the minutes of previous meeting.

Roll call: Kackley, yea; Koch, yea; Krupps, yea; Meservey, yea; Miller, yea.
Motion carried.

2. Motion by Koch, seconded by Miller, to approve the fees for 2014-15 as presented.

Roll call: Koch, yea; Krupps, yea; Meservey, yea; Miller, yea; Kackley, yea.
Motion carried.

Advisory Period discussion: All students, grades 7-12 will meet with their teacher advisor and advisory group at least once a week for a minimum of 45 minutes throughout the school year. During the advisory time, students will be participating in character and leadership development activities. While outside work will not typically be required of students, regular participation in the group activities is expected. Students will be given a pass/fail grade for participation in their advisory activities. This grade shall not count in GPA but will be included for purposes of extra-curricular eligibility. Each school year, students in grades 9-12 will earn ¼ of a credit towards an elective credit.

3. Motion by Koch, seconded by Kackley, to approve the addition of the Advisory Period to the curriculum as presented.

Roll call: Krupps, yea; Meservey, yea; Miller, yea; Kackley, yea; Koch, yea.
Motion carried.

Discussion on the Use of Facilities form to be updated: Mrs. Phillips discussed the fact that the current Facilities Use Form has not be updated since 2002 or 2003, and she is reviewing it in collaboration with the district attorney to insure it

Discussion on the Use of Facilities form (cont.):

meets the current needs of the Brown County School District. An updated agreement should be ready for the board to review and possibly approve at the August Board of Education Meeting.

Discussion on the Textbook Rotation: Since 2009, the State of Illinois, has suspended the Textbook Loan Program funding which allowed for districts to purchase a prorated dollar amount of new textbooks every year. This typically rotated from year to year between each building (elementary, junior high/middle grades, and high school). Since that funding was extinguished by the General Assembly, textbooks have not been replaced except when an entire new curriculum has been implemented such as the “Go Math” curriculum. When reviewing each Brown County Schools’ book inventory, Mrs. Phillips found that some of the districts’ textbooks are more than ten years old and some are even older than fifteen years. Mrs. Phillips stated, “This is fine if it is a book such as a chapter book or novel, which doesn’t become obsolete over time. However, for some content areas, textbooks older than ten or fifteen years can be either uninteresting to students due to the dated pictures or just inaccurate such as an old world geography book, which was one of our older books. Names of countries and such change in other parts of the world, and it is important to dispose of inaccurate texts and utilize materials that are correct and provide up to date information. The internet provides opportunities for much of this, but it is still, in some cases, the text book that teachers utilize to assist them in their teaching. The textbook shouldn’t be the driver of the curriculum, the Illinois Learning Standards and the teachers’ expertise and teaching techniques should be the drivers of what students are learning, but the textbooks are one tool that teachers have at their access and when their tools are out of date, they are not as helpful as they could be.” Board Member Koch asked about the use of online books rather than traditional textbooks. Mrs. Phillips responded that she does believe we are headed in that direction over time, but even in those situations, there will be a cost of a license or some other way for the book companies to recoup their loss of sales on traditional books. Consequently, it is important for Brown County CUSD #1 to begin developing some type of review process by which it is determined which curriculum texts should be replaced, when, and criteria of such. This is usually done with some type of textbook rotation along with the advisement of the building principals.

The purpose of this item on the meeting agenda was to inform the board members and the public of the administration’s intentions to begin moving forward and ask if the BOE Curriculum Committee saw any need to be involved in the day-to-day working of this ongoing project. The board decided it was not necessary for the Curriculum Committee to do so and that the principals and superintendent would have the expertise to do the appropriate reviewing and vetting of the textbook needs of the buildings so that sound recommendations can be provided to the board as needed.

Discussion on the Team Uniform Rotation: The administration has been approached by two coaches requesting to order new uniforms for their team—HS girls basketball and HS volleyball. The dates of the last purchases of new uniforms for every BC athletic team showed that these two teams had the oldest uniforms dating back six or more years. Both of these sports have a number of matches or games, so the uniforms have a good deal of wear and were beginning to look old, faded and not reflecting the school spirit the board of education and school district would want teams to exhibit during competition. Therefore, the ordering of new uniforms for these two sports teams have been placed. However, in the future, it is important to have a systematic rotation of which sports/teams can expect new uniforms. Should the rotation need to be suspended for a year or two because of lack of finances, then the rotation can pick up again with the next year of the team that due next to get new uniforms. Or, if it is a team’s year to get new uniforms and their current uniforms are in excellent shape, then that may be a year of hiatus for the rotation. This provides less guessing by coaches, players, and parents of when “their” team will get to have new uniforms.

Discussion on the Naming of School District Facilities: After discussion, the board directed the superintendent and board secretary to include an action item on the August Board Agenda in order to officially name the football field, “The Hornet Field” and the press box, “The Hornet’s Nest.”

- President Krupps appointed the following Board of Education Members:

Curriculum

Deb Meservey
Kevin Kackley
Alt: Philip Krupps

Technology

Philip Krupps
Alan Koch
Alt: Ryan Miller

Operations/ Building

Matt McCaskill
Kevin Kackley
Alt: James Blakeley

Certified Negotiations

Philip Krupps
Ryan Miller
Alt: James Blakeley

Finance

Ryan Miller
Philip Krupps
Alt: Kevin Kackley

Educational Support Personnel

Negotiations
Alan Koch
Kevin Kackley
Alt: Deb Meservey

Transportation

Matt McCaskill
James Blakeley
Alt: Deb Meservey

Four Rivers Special Education Representative – Philip Krupps

Discussion by the BOE and Superintendent concluded that the Finance Committee would request the BCEA (teachers' union) to invite a couple of interested teachers to work with the BC administrative staff, namely the superintendent, and the Finance Committee of the BOE to become better informed regarding current best practices and decisions surrounding group health insurance in light of the Federal Healthcare Act and upcoming contract negotiations that will begin sometime during this next school year.

4. Motion by Koch, seconded by Meservey, to approve Vicki Phillips as IMRF Authorized agent, effective July 1st, 2014.

Roll call: Meservey, yea; Miller, yea; Kackley, yea; Koch, yea; Krupps, yea.
Motion carried.

5. Motion by Kackley, seconded by Miller, to remove Stan Adcock and add Vicki Phillips to all district financial accounts.

Roll call: Miller, yea; Kackley, yea; Koch, yea; Krupps, abstain; Meservey, yea.
Motion carried.

Administrative Report:

Mrs. Phillips provided a report regarding the following items:

- a. A new requirement for childcare facilities and preschools by DHS/DCFS includes that the providers of childcare facilities or preschools have a "Gateways to Opportunity" ECE Credential. This is a very new requirement for day care facilities and preschools from DHS/DCFS. In response to this new requirement, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Logan, and Mrs. Waggoner met with JWCC recently to begin conversations on ways they could work together to insure the high school and community college programs are aligned so that students who complete the BCHS Family and Consumer Science program and/or the ECE program at JWCC will earn one of the Levels of Credentialing through the Gateways to Opportunity ECE Credential Framework. More to come on this in the future, as this will take appropriate planning and preparation to put in place, hopefully, for the 2015-16 school year. More information regarding the Gateways to Opportunity Credentialing Framework can be found at www.ilgateways.com
- b. A meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 14, 2014, with various community members who are interested in rejuvenating the band program. Mrs. Phillips explained an "out of the box" idea she was planning to present to the attendees regarding starting a small

“drum line” at the high school that would hopefully be a fun experience and an integral part of the home football games and basketball games to increase the opportunity for advancement of the band and fine arts, but to also add school spirit to the games. Eventually she hopes the drum line can grow into a full pep band and be the catalyst that provides a positive experience for students as well as a self-perpetuating part of the school experience for students.

- c. The HVAC project is on track to be completed as close to August 14 as possible with minor projects and trainings to be provided to staff after that date.
 - d. Mrs. Phillips shared with the board a recent meeting she had with FS regarding a promotion they are interested in initiating in August. This promotion would allow FS to donate 1cent of every gallon of gas purchased at the Mt. Sterling Fuel 24 Station to go to the school district. At this meeting it was decided that these funds would be committed to the following schools and programs throughout the upcoming school year: First Quarter funds to FFA; Second Quarter Funds to Jr. High School Student Council for the Jr. High students; Third Quarter Funds to purchase books for the PK-6 grades; and Fourth Quarter Funds split evenly between band, BCHS Student Council, and drama. Depending on the amount of gas sales per month, the monthly average would most likely be around \$500 or approximately \$1500 per quarter. It could be more or less depending on the amount of gas sales.
 - e. The District is still looking for a qualified full-time Agriculture or Industrial Technology Teacher.
6. Motion by Koch, seconded by Krupps, to go into closed session to discuss and possibly take action upon employment, retention, dismissal or non-renewal of employees and reduction in force, collective bargaining, possible litigation and student discipline at 7:53 pm.

Roll call: Kackley, yea; Koch, yea; Krupps, yea; Meservey, yea; Miller, yea.
Motion carried.

7. Motion by Miller, seconded by Kackley, to go out of closed session at 8:56 pm.

Roll call: Koch, yea; Krupps, yea; Meservey, yea; Miller, yea; Kackley, yea.
Motion carried.

8. Motion by Koch, seconded by Krupps, to approve the minutes of closed session.

Roll call: Krupps, yea; Meservey, yea; Miller, yea; Kackley, yea; Koch, yea.
Motion carried.

9. Motion by Miller, seconded by Koch, to approve the recommendation of Student Discipline.

Roll call: Meservey, yea; Miller, yea; Kackley, yea; Koch, yea; Krupps, yea.
Motion carried.

10. Motion by Kackley, seconded by Krupps, to accept the resignation of Brandi Patton, Math teacher.

Roll call: Miller, yea; Kackley, yea; Koch, yea; Krupps, yea; Meservey, abstain.
Motion carried.

11. Motion by Krupps, seconded by Miller, to approve the employment contract for Ray Driskell, Principal, with the duties as presented by the Superintendent for one year.

Roll call: Kackley, yea; Koch, yea; Krupps, yea; Meservey, yea; Miller, yea.
Motion carried.

12. Motion by Meservey, seconded by Koch, to approve an addendum to the contract for Vicki Phillips, Superintendent.

Roll call: Koch, yea; Krupps, yea; Meservey, yea; Miller, yea; Kackley, yea.
Motion carried.

13. Motion by Krupps, seconded by Koch, to approve to prepare the memorandum of understanding pending the approval by the BCEA (Brown County Education Association) to include a stipend for Driver's Education Behind the Wheel driving and offer the position to Audrey Hugo at a rate of \$120 per student.

Roll call: Krupps, yea; Meservey, present; Miller, yea; Kackley, yea; Koch, yea.
Motion carried.

14. Motion by Kackley, seconded by Miller, to adjourn at 9:02 pm.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY