

BROWN COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
Mt. Sterling, Illinois
October 22, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, October 22, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the Brown Co Elementary Music Room 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, Board Secretary.

On roll call, the following members answered present: Blakeley, Kackley, Krupps, McCaskill and Meservey. Miller arrived at 6:03 and Koch arrived at 6:30.

Public Comment Speakers: Dan Brilley, who is no longer working at the Democrat Message, wanted to thank everyone for all their help and time with any information he was needing help with over the past three and a half years. As a citizen he wanted to applaud the work the board, administrators, teachers and staff do at the school.

1. Motion by Blakeley, seconded by Kackley, to approve the consent agenda.

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

Correspondence: Mrs. Vicki Phillips let the board know it was Principal Appreciation Week.

Committee Reports: none

2. Motion by Meservey, seconded by Krupps, to approve the PRESS Plus School Board Policy Issue #86.

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

3. Motion by Miller, seconded by Blakeley, to set the Truth in Taxation Levy Hearing for Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 5:45 pm.

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

Discussion on early HS completion: Mrs. Phillips responded to the concerns raised by a board member that the students who were requesting to complete their high school requirements at the end of the seventh semester have had ample opportunity to discuss and plan their career plans. She noted that students who opt to complete their high school requirements at the end of the seventh semester are not yet high school graduates, therefore, not eligible for state or federal college financial aid. Consequently, if their reasoning to complete their high school requirements is to go on to college earlier, they must be informed and be aware that they will not be able to receive financial aid should they have need or qualify for it otherwise. Mrs. Phillips stated that she was aware that Ms. Logan had explained these facts to the students and had conversation with Ms. Yingling at JWCC who thought the students would still be eligible for the Tracy Family Foundation Grants for JWCC courses which would be helpful to those who are planning to take JWCC classes.

4. Motion by Krupps, seconded by Blakeley, to approve the early completion of students as requested and recommended by the high school principal based on contingency and completion of credits.

Roll call: McCaskill, yea; Meservey, yea; Miller, yea; Blakeley, yea; Kackley, yea; Krupps, yea.

Motion carried.

Discussion on the bus rebate program – Mrs. Phillips was looking into this as an option but it is not a viable option at this point.

Discussion on maintenance tractor- Chad will be here at the next board meeting to give more definite numbers and some options on what we might do in regards to replacing the tractor.

Administrators Reports and Raising Expectations Speakers: Ms. Logan, Mr. Driskell and Mr. Ellefritz had included their reports in the board packets. They were unable to attend the meeting due to parent-teacher conferences being held in their buildings tonight. Mr. Gallaher provided a summary of a number of updates that have recently been completed to the virtual infrastructure. Prep work is underway for applying for another round of funding from the Tracy Family Foundation to extend the 1:1 teacher training program that was started in early 2013. This program was created to ensure that teachers in targeted areas were equipped to incorporate an increased amount of technology in the classroom in an effective and appropriate way. Finally he discussed some issues that are beginning to arise with some of the older laptop carts that will need to be addressed in the near future.

Administrators Reports (cont.) Mrs. Phillips reported that we are partnering with Schuyler-Industry and Astoria school districts to do host an Anti-bullying speaker. The speaker will be Phil Chalmers who will be speaking to our students in grades 7-12 from 8:30-9:30 on November 20 in the BCHS Auditorium. Mrs. Phillips read the following about the speaker from his website, “he addresses destructive decisions, and his fast-paced and funny assembly will get your students thinking about the decisions they will be making in middle school and high school. Topics covered are numerous, and include sexual abstinence, avoiding drug use, the dangers of drunk driving, the dangers of using tobacco, violence prevention, the dangers of bullying, teen suicide, violent entertainment, online dangers, crime prevention, and how to respect yourself and other students. Most school administrators and principals tell Phil they have never heard their student body so quiet during an assembly, and a typical response from students is that Phil kept it real, and we wished he had more time. One student said "You saved a life today at the talk you did at my school-MINE. Thanks for saving my life" and another said "It will be two years since I stopped using drugs. I still thank God every day for having you come to my town two years ago. If it wasn't for you man, I wouldn't be here."

Make a difference in your school, and your community, and bring Phil Chalmers into your school system. Phil addresses both middle school and high school, and can also speak to parents. This not only is a good idea to get your students thinking about the decisions they will be facing in life, but it will keep your school safer, as Phil addresses bullying, school safety, and the consequences of school violence”

She also said she has written a grant to Cargill to help offset the costs of the activities. She updated the board on the Tracy Family Foundation grants, handed out her professional development goals, a sampling of an administrative report and a list of happenings in the district since July 1st. She noted that we received word recently that our Pre-K/Early Childhood program has earned the Gold Circle of Quality in ExceleRate Illinois, which is something that is not easily attained nor attained by the majority of ECE programs.

5. Motion by Koch, seconded by Kackley, to go into closed session to discuss and possibly take action regarding a) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the School District at 6:34 pm.

Roll call: Meservey, yea; Miller, yea; Blakeley, yea; Kackley, yea; Koch, yea; Krupps, yea; McCaskill, yea.

Motion carried.

6. Motion by McCaskill, seconded by Krupps, to go out of closed session at 7:06 pm.

Roll call: Miller, yea; Blakeley, yea; Kackley, yea; Koch, yea; Krupps, yea; McCaskill, yea; Meservey, yea.

Motion carried.

7. Motion by Koch, seconded by McCaskill, to approve the minutes of closed session.

Roll call: Blakeley, yea; Kackley, yea; Koch, yea; Krupps, yea; McCaskill, yea; Meservey, yea; Miller, yea.

Motion carried.

8. Motion by Krupps, seconded by Blakeley, to accept the resignation of Rebecca Davis as part-time high school secretary, effective November 1, 2014.

Roll call: Kackley, yea; Koch, yea; Krupps, yea; McCaskill, yea; Meservey, yea; Miller, yea; Blakeley, yea.

Motion carried.

9. Motion by Koch, seconded by Meservey, to adjourn at 7:23 pm.

Motion carried by acclamation.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY