

BROWN COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1  
Mt. Sterling, Illinois  
October 28, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, October 28, 2015, 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: Blaesing, Fry, Fullerton, Koch, Krupps, McCaskill. Blakeley arrived at 6:20.

1. Motion by Fry, seconded by Fullerton, to approve the consent agenda.

Roll call: Blaesing, yea; Fry, yea; Fullerton, yea; Koch, yea; Krupps, yea; McCaskill, yea.  
Motion carried.

*Correspondence:* included in packet.

*Committee Reports:* nothing at this time

*Tax Caps and Projects List discussion:* Mrs. Phillips stated that there has been a good deal of discussion among local superintendents about whether or not the tax caps legislation will be passed, signed by the governor, and enacted for this fiscal year or next. Most folks who may be more knowledgeable about this topic due to their proximity to the legislature and exposure to related discussions believe it will happen, without a doubt, but it won't be this fiscal year. Therefore, as the upcoming Tax Levy is prepared, it will be done with the intent that the district will not be heading into Tax Caps until the 2016-17 fiscal year. President Krupps followed up with a similar discussion and explained that he had talked to a lobbyist in Springfield as well as a legislator who both agreed with this perspective. He also noted that the Tax Caps will be an unfortunate situation for the school once enacted so it is important that we do as we have discussed and plan ahead for the best outcome possible.

*1% Facility Use Tax:* Mrs. Phillips noted that she had checked with Judy Ham, County Clerk to find out information about having the 1% Facility Use Tax question added to the next election ballot. Ms. Ham has provided some information including the fact that the last day to file a Resolution and Certification of Ballot for this purpose is December 28, 2015. Therefore, Mrs. Phillips will be asking the Finance Committee which is made up of Philip Krupps and Heath Fullerton to meet and begin to lay out a plan of action moving forward.

2. Motion by McCaskill, seconded by Koch, to set the Truth in Taxation Levy Hearing for Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 5:45 pm.

Roll call: Fry, yea; Fullerton, yea; Koch, yea; Krupps, yea; McCaskill, yea; Blaesing, yea.

Motion carried.

*Public Comment Speakers:* Mrs. Jennifer Ingram, Drama Club sponsor, and 11 of her drama club students attended the meeting to thank the board for the opportunity to continue having a Drama Club and the administration for their complete support. They are pleased have 87 students signed up and participating in Drama this year. Mrs. Ingram mentioned that the auditorium is in great need of updating so it will continue to be usable for the community and future generations. These updates will be very costly so the Drama Club have begun to search for ways to fund the changes. They have three major projects in mind. The first priority is the curtains, they are over 50 years old and will not last much longer. The second priority will be the sound and lights systems to bring it up to date with our current needs. The third will be new seats and refinishing the floor. Several students spoke of why Drama was so important to them. They feel it is a place where the whole student body can come together regardless of their other areas of interest. It unifies them as a group and breaks down other barriers that normally separate them. Whether they are on stage or behind the scenes there is a place for them.

*Discussion on early HS completion:* Mrs. Phillips said this was a practice that begun last year where if high school seniors had planned ahead and have all their credits earned at the end of the first semester of their senior year, they may request board's approval to be finished with high school course studies and not attend school during the second semester. The board's approval is only followed, though, if the student does complete all requirements by the end of the first semester. If not, the student must attend the complete second semester. Board member Fullerton asked if there was a requirement attached to this that the students who are given permission to do this must attend post-secondary schooling. Mrs. Phillips replied that there is not. She explained that that thought process is actually a carry over from when families could only keep their children on their health insurance if they were a full-time student after they turned 18. Obviously that is not the case any longer, so there is no reason to have that as a requirement from the school's perspective or the family's.

3. Motion by Fry, seconded by Blaesing, to approve the early completion of students requested and recommended by the high school principal.

Roll call: Fullerton, yea; Koch, yea; Krupps, yea; McCaskill, yea; Blaesing, yea; Fry, yea.

Motion carried.

*Bus bid info:* Brown County School District will be soliciting bids for two or three 29 passenger buses. The specifications required in the bids are typical to what we have asked for in the past as well as consistent to what is needed. Two different bids are being sought—one for two buses and one for three buses. The thought is that there are times with the more of something purchased, the better the per item price is. Therefore, it is worthwhile to request bids for both amounts of buses in order to see how the Transportation Funds can be best utilized.

4. Motion by Koch, seconded by Krupps, to approve to solicit for bus bids

Roll call: Koch, yea; Krupps, yea; McCaskill, yea; Blaesing, yea; Fry, yea; Fullerton, yea.  
Motion carried.

***Blakeley arrived at 6:20.***

*Title I Plan info:* Mrs. Phillips explained that the district has received information that the federally funded Title I program funds have been reduced, thus causing a need to rewrite the Title I Plan since not as much money will be available to be used to support the Title I services. Consequently, the district will need to pick up the difference in the cost of services provided to students in the middle school and the Title I program will be only available through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Because the district is willing to pay for intervention services for those 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who struggle with reading and math, the students who are already receiving Title I services in those grades will be able to continue to receive services either within the classroom or above what they receive in the classroom. Mrs. Sullivan is working with the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to develop an assistive program that will be best suited for the needs of the children in those grades who need an extra boost in their reading and math skills.

5. Motion by Koch, seconded by Blaesing, to approve the district's Title I Plan.

Roll call: Krupps, yea; McCaskill, yea; Blaesing, yea; Blakeley, yea; Fry, yea; Fullerton, yea; Koch, yea.  
Motion carried.

*Administrators Reports and Raising Expectations Speakers:* included in packet.

6. Motion by McCaskill, seconded by Fry, to go into closed session to discuss and possibly take action regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the School District at 6:26 pm.

Roll call: McCaskill, yea; Blaesing, yea; Blakeley, yea; Fry, yea; Fullerton, yea; Koch, yea; Krupps, yea.  
Motion carried.

7. Motion by McCaskill, seconded by Fry, to go out of closed session at 6:48 pm.

Roll call: Blaesing, yea; Blakeley, yea; Fry, yea; Fullerton, yea; Koch, yea; Krupps, yea; McCaskill, yea.

Motion carried.

8. Motion by Blaesing, seconded by Fullerton, to approve the minutes of closed session.

Roll call: Blakeley, yea; Fry, yea; Fullerton, yea; Koch, yea; Krupps, yea; McCaskill, yea; Blaesing, yea.

Motion carried.

9. Motion by McCaskill, seconded by Krupps, to approve the list below as presented regarding personnel issues.

Roll call: Fry, yea; Fullerton, yea; Koch, yea; Krupps, yea; McCaskill, yea; Blaesing, yea; Blakeley, yea.

Motion carried.

- Approve the maternity leave request of Melissa Ransom, beginning approximately December 15, 2015 for six weeks.
- Hire Doug Allen as Network Administrator (IT Dept)
- Approve to hire Sandy Prather as Title I Director for an extra stipend of \$500 per year as long as funds are available, pending BCEA Union Memorandum of Understanding.
- Hire Dave Woodruff as high school head softball coach
- Hire Evan Harrison as high school head track coach
- Approve a medical leave of absence for Nicole Hester effective September 28, 2015 as needed
- Approve that Billie Moore and Erica Buhlig be granted the same yearly raise in salary as noted for their peers in similar positions which will be 2.25% for the 2015-16 school and fiscal year, retroactive to July 1, 2015

10. Motion by Koch, seconded by McCaskill, to adjourn at 6:53 pm.

Motion carried by acclamation.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY