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3 **MINUTES**
4 **REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**
5 **CAPE GIRARDEAU SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 63**
6 **Monday, December 15, 2008, 6:00 p.m.**
7 **Board of Education and Administration Offices**
8 **301 North Clark**
9 **Cape Girardeau, Missouri**

10 **Board Members Present:**

11 **Mr. Paul Nenninger, Vice-President, Mr. Charles Bertrand, Ms. Stacy Kinder, Dr. Steve**
12 **Trautwein, Ms. Laura Sparkman, and Mr. Tony Smee.**

13
14 **Board Members Absent:**

15 **Mr. Kyle McDonald**

16
17 **OTHERS PRESENT:**

18 **Dr. James Welker, Ms. Pat Fanger, Dr. Mike Cowan, Ms. Misty Clifton, Ms. Laverne Smith,**
19 **Mr. Neil Glass, Ms. Theresa Hinkebein, Ms. Lindy Bavolek, Ms. Lesa Hinton, Mr. Steve**
20 **Robertson, Mr. Joe Bradshaw, Mr. David Papendick, Mr. Don Howard, Mr. Alvin**
21 **Washington, Mr. Phillip Francis, Mr. Michael Francis, Ms. Joy Francis, Miss Allison**
22 **Vaughn, Mr. Troy Vaughn, Ms. Lori Vaughn, Mr. Elijah Woodson, Mr. Hubert Rutherford,**
23 **Ms. Carol Rutherford, Ms. Megan Sheeley, Mr. Perry Sheeley, Ms. Rhonda Sheeley, Mr.**
24 **Christian Hampton, Mr. Thomas Hampton, and Ms. Amneris Hampton.**

25
26 **A quorum being present and due notice having been mailed and published, the regular**
27 **session of the Board of Education of Cape Girardeau School District No. 63 was called to**
28 **order on Monday, December 15, 2008 at 6:05 p.m. by Mr. Paul Nenninger, Board Vice-**
29 **President.**

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31 **Mr. Nenninger asked the audience to stand and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.**

32
33 **Approval of Agenda**

34 **A motion was made by Mr. Tony Smee and seconded by Ms. Stacy Kinder to amend the**
35 **agenda by removing Business Item VII B “Approval of Technology Projects” from the**
36 **agenda. The amended motion carried with six yeas and zero nays.**

37
38 **A motion was then made by Mr. Smee and seconded by Dr. Trautwein to approve the**
39 **amended agenda. The motion carried with six yeas and zero nays.**

40
41 **Terrific Tiger” Recognition**

42 **The following students received the “*Terrific Tiger Award*” based on service to others,**
43 **leadership and scholarship.**

44
45 **ALMA SCHRADER ELEMENTARY - Zachary Sample, Grade 3(absent)**
46 **BLANCHARD ELEMENTARY – Philip Francis, Grade 4**
47 **CLIPPARD ELEMENTARY - Madison Dush, Grade 4(absent)**
48 **FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY – Allison Vaughn, Grade 4**
49 **JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY – Elijah Woodson, Grade 3**
50 **CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL – Megan Sheeley, Grade 5**
51 **CAPE CENTRAL JUNIOR HIGH – Christian Hampton, Grade 8**
52 **CAPE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL - Angela Morton, Grade 12(absent)**
53 **ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CENTER – Tiera Scott, Grade 12(absent)**

56 **Information, Proposals or Comments from the Audience**

57 Mr. Nenner asked if there was any information, proposals or comments from the
58 audience. Mr. Don Howard addressed the Board with a concern about school not being
59 dismissed on December 15 due to inclement weather.

60

61 **Informational Reports**

62 **Board President's Report:**

63 No Report

64

65 **Superintendent's Report:**

- 66 ➤ Dr. Welker commended the high school students and staff involved in the production
67 of the Madrigal Feast recently held at Central High School. He reported it was a
68 fantastic experience and one he thoroughly enjoyed.
- 69 ➤ Dr. Welker reported that he and several others attended a "Take it Back" march on
70 December 13 in the South Cape area.
- 71 ➤ "Read" at Blanchard Elementary was another enjoyable experience for Dr. Welker.
72 Dr. Welker thanked everyone that took part in this excellent activity where members
73 of the community and staff read a special book to the students at Blanchard.
- 74 ➤ Dr. Welker reported that the Central High School Band has been invited and will
75 participate in the governor's inaugural parade in Jefferson City. Congratulations go
76 to our excellent undefeated band!
- 77 ➤ Dr. Welker invited the Board members and the public to come out and support our
78 upcoming student activities.
- 79

80

81 **CTA Organization:**

82 Ms. Lesa Hinton reported that during this holiday season, hundreds of students from schools
83 throughout our district perform Christmas or holiday programs for parents and the
84 community. We know that music enhances teamwork skills and discipline and helps students
85 learn the value of sustained effort to achieve excellence. Recent studies have shown that
86 students who study the arts are more successful on standardized tests. Ms. Hinton and the
87 CTA extended their appreciation to the Board for their commitment to our music programs
88 and to the dedicated teachers for providing these enriching opportunities for our students.

88

89 **Treasurer's Report**

- 90 ➤ Ms. Misty Clifton presented a Treasurer's report, which included the district's
91 revenue and expenses to date, transfers, and ending fund balance of November 30,
92 2008 of \$17,454,804.23 with an unrestricted fund balance of \$ 3,236,709.55.
- 93 ➤ Ms. Clifton's report also included District investments and balances and monthly
94 expenditures summary.
- 95

96

97 **Board Reports:**

98 **Legislative and MSBAR Report:**

- 99 ➤ Dr. Trautwein informed Board members that MSBA will be offering a "Collective
100 Bargaining" workshop on February 4, 2009 at the CTC Building in Cape.
- 101 ➤ Dr. Trautwein also informed the Board members of information from MSBA
102 "*Critical Information Alert*" concerning last week's meeting in Washington regarding
103 Social Security status for Missouri teachers.

103

104 **Cape Public School Foundation:**

- 105 ➤ Ms. Kinder reported the Foundation's Penguin Party will be held on February 7,
106 2009 and encouraged everyone to support Cape Public Schools and attend.

107

108

109

110 **Approval of Consent Agenda**

111 A motion was made by Mr. Smee and seconded by Ms. Sparkman to approve the consent
112 agenda consisting of:

- 113 1. Minutes of November 17, 2008 (regular and special)
114 2. Payment of Bills

115
116 The motion carried with six yeas and zero nays.

117
118 **Business Items**

119 A motion was made by Dr. Trautwein and seconded by Mr. Smee to approve the prospectus
120 for Dual Credit Advanced placement European History at Central High School. Dr. Welker
121 gave the Board a brief overview of the prospectus. Dr. Cowan confirmed that this will make
122 15 Advanced Placement Courses offered at Central High School. Dr. Welker also informed
123 the Board that they worked collaborative with Southeast Missouri State University to offer
124 dual credit for this course. Discussion followed and the motion carried with six yeas and
125 zero nays.

126
127 A motion was made by Mr. Smee and seconded by Dr. Trautwein to amend the 2008-2009
128 budget as presented to accurately reflect projected expenditures and revenues through June
129 30, 2009. Ms. Clifton explained the budget amendments to the Board. Discussion followed
130 and the motion carried with six yeas and zero nays.

131
132 **Information and Proposals from Board Members**

133 Dr. Trautwein sent the following email to Board members during the week of December 11:

134
135 “Board members—

136 Here is preparatory information for our discussion this Monday evening on possible
137 enhancement of reading through targeted training. I understand that this discussion will
138 take place during the “Information from Board members” section of the agenda.

139 This link goes to the website for Scientific Learning, who has the software that
140 trains students in ways that may fill in gaps in their perceptual experiences and make them
141 more likely to attend to words and parts of words that may be currently escaping their
142 attention.

143
144 Company Website:

145 <http://www.scilearn.com/index.php>

146 Independent Reviews:

147 <http://www.scilearn.com/results/main=reviews>

148 Case Studies:

149 <http://www.scilearn.com/results/success-stories/case-studies/index.php>

150 Results of school districts in Missouri

151 <http://www.scilearn.com/results/region/midwest/main=home#mo>

152
153 The science behind this software is based on research that shows the experience has a
154 heavy effect on brain development. For a long time, it was assumed that this experiential
155 effect was limited to the period of time during which the nervous system was developing. A
156 classic experiment from the 60’s/70’s demonstrated that cats are unable to “see” vertical lines
157 in their environment if vertical lines had been removed from their environment during a
158 critical part of their development as kittens. (I seem to remember that the experimenters had
159 custom-made blindfolds for the kittens.)

160
161 A few years later another study showed (the data weren’t quite as strong) that adult
162 Eskimos who have lived their entire lives in the polar regions (i.e., no tree or tall buildings) do
163 not respond as easily to vertical lines when presented to them, compared to native New
164 Yorkers whose formative years contained skyscrapers and trees.

165

166 The thrust of these, and many others, experiments was to focus on the critical nature
167 of the timing of the experiential effect, with the mindset that, if the critical period was past,
168 there would be no opportunity to regain the deficit that resulted from the experiential loss.

169 Much more recent experiments, using different techniques, have shown that the
170 brain continues to develop and make connections between its nerve cells, even through adult
171 life, and that this development can be driven by the same types of experiences previously
172 thought to be effective only during critical periods of early brain development.

173 My understanding is that Scientific Learning has developed exercises on the
174 computer that essentially provide the perceptual experiences that most likely have been
175 missing in students' background.

176 If this is something we would like to look into further, we could ask Dr. Welker to
177 appoint a committee of staff members to take a look at it.”
178

179 Dr. Trautwein and Ms. Sparkman both spoke highly of the workshop they attended and
180 requested that Dr. Welker appoint a task force committee of staff members to investigate this
181 information and bring back the recommendations from the committee to the Board of
182 Education. It was also suggested that the test school be Jefferson Elementary.
183

184 Mr. Nenninger also gave an update report on the status of the curriculum audit. A motion
185 was made by Mr. Smee and seconded by Ms. Kinder to bring David Lineberry, from MSBA,
186 to make a presentation on Board use for data for student achievement. The cost of this
187 presentation would be \$350.00. Discussion followed and the motion carried with six yeas and
188 zero nays.
189

190 At 6:48 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Smee and seconded by Ms. Sparkman to adjourn
191 into executive session to consider Legal Purposes, Individually Identifiable Personnel/Student
192 Records, Employment, Personnel Evaluation, discussions of work product, and Real Estate.
193 Authority is Section 610.021, Para, 2, 3, 9 and 13, Revised Statutes of Missouri, as amended.
194 The motion carried with the following roll call vote of six yeas and zero nays:
195

196 Mr. Bertrand	Yea	Ms. Kinder	Yea
197 Mr. Nenninger	Yea	Mr. Smee	Yea
198 Dr. Trautwein	Yea	Dr. Trautwein	Yea

199

200 At 8:26 p.m. the Board returned to open session and Mr. Nenninger stated there was no
201 announcement to be made from executive session.
202

203 Adjournment

204 At 8:28 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Smee and seconded by Ms. Sparkman to adjourn the
205 meeting. The motion carried with six yeas and zero nays.
206

207 The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, January 26,
208 2009 at the Board of Education and Administration Offices located at 301 N. Clark at 6:00
209 p.m.
210

211 Respectfully submitted,
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213
214
215

216 Laverne Smith
217 Secretary, Board of Education