

September 25, 2013

A special meeting of the Board of School Trustees was called to order at 6:00 p.m. All Board members were present. Also present were Mr. Brimbury, Mr. Hanson, Mr. Hall, Mr. Vilamaa, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Downs, Mrs. Minard, and Mr. Moon.

On motion by Mr. Stanton, seconded by Mr. Comerford, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

- I. OPERATIONS, BUILDINGS, AND GROUNDS - Mr. Brimbury thanked the Board members for coming to this special session and stated he wanted to start off the meeting by sharing ISTEP comparison information with the Board. He stated the teachers who were once despondent emotionally are pleased with the improved scores but continue to strive for even better scores. Mr. Brimbury stated we should not allow our teachers to feel bad when some of our kids or grades score in the 70's on state assessments. The system is in place and the teachers are pulling together to help our students achieve. Mr. Brimbury stated we are better than the State average even though our poverty rate is high, our single parent home rate is high, and our free/reduced percentage is high. Our teaching staff is remarkable. He asked the Board to acknowledge the teachers and their success.

Mr. Hanson stated the numbers will be bumped up a little bit as we are held accountable for students attending Peru Schools 162 days. He reviewed scores from previous years. He noted next year is the last year of ISTEP. He added we do not know what will replace it. He stated our test scores are good, but there is room for improvement.

TECHNOLOGY - Mr. Brimbury stated Mr. Hanson will review technology needs from copiers to computers to telephones. He stated in October the Board will be presented with the bond needs for buildings, technology, security, and parking lots. He asked the Board to please keep in mind that our kids are achieving at rates unmatched by other schools. He stated what our State is doing to our funding is unconstitutional. A student at PCS will have access to what they need to survive.

Mr. Hanson stated the tech proposal is curriculum based. He stated he is taking our strength in infrastructure and expanding it. He noted corporations with one-to-one have at least a \$1,000,000 budget. He noted we have been getting by on \$350,000. He explained each line item and cost. He stated we need to consider that expenditures would be divided by three for a total of \$650,000 a year. The teachers are sitting good with technology. We need to increase what we are doing for our students. The desktop machines were purchased used 8-10 years ago. We have not had the luxury of spending \$20,000 a year to replace computers. Mr. Brimbury asked Mr. Hanson, "If we don't do something with the computers, what happens with our kids being without computers in our district in one year, to three years, to five years?" Mr. Hanson responded our students and the corporation would be put at a huge disadvantage. Mr. Hanson noted most of the costs for the software/tech service/agreements are to maintain the systems or to keep records that are required of school corporations. Mr. Hanson offered to answer questions the Board may have. Mr. Comerford and Mr. Wolfe asked questions. Mr. Hanson stated he wanted to provide a budget we could live with and yet meet our needs. He stated the digital initiative for our corporation for successful results for our students and infrastructure sets the corporation well for several years. Mr. Hanson stated some of the technology he has outlined could increase our chances of grant opportunities which he will fully investigate.

Mr. Hall stated although we have several areas that need to be addressed, we have a lot to be proud of throughout the corporation. He showed pictures of some of the areas which are in need of repair and have not been addressed for many years. He reviewed the roof repairs and time line noting PHS and Blair

Pointe are the big needs. He noted asphalt repairs, the need for a walk-in kitchen freezer at PJHS, mosaic repair at PHS, ADA access issues, resurfacing the 23 year-old gym floor at Blair Pointe, and handrails at Bengal stadium. He also discussed school security by installing cameras and alarms on doors which are propped open.

Mr. Wilson stated the State allows the procedure to be done in two meetings but the public must have an opportunity to speak; therefore, a 1028 hearing will be held at the October meeting. In November the Board will discuss the 2013 project as well as the 2014 project. As long as the projects, whether building or type of work, are kept under \$2,000,000 we do not have to have a referendum. Approval of resolutions will be requested for each project. If approved, bonds will be sold in December. He noted two bonds will be for the 2013 project while two additional bonds will be for the 2014 project. Mr. Brimbury asked if that can be done at one meeting. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Downs thought it could but would confer with Jane Herndon from Ice Miller to confirm. Mr. Brimbury stated the tax impact will be reviewed at the October meeting. Mr. Wilson responded for a corporation our size the bonds being considered are within the means and norm.

Dr. Quin asked if we are living within our means and not bonding ourselves? Mr. Comerford responded we have cut the budget tremendously the last five years. We are not looking at new buildings. We want to put ourselves in a position of what we are funding is reasonable. Dr. Quin stated he didn't think there is any parent who will not want what was presented tonight for their child, but we have to look at tax rates. Mr. Brimbury stated the issue is that it needs to be legislatively fixed which is not going to happen this year or next year. We cannot allow our buildings to deteriorate more, the technology to fall behind, or take a security risk with our children. Mr. Hanson stated we must maintain our facilities to maintain our student base and hopefully grow.

II. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Secretary,

Tim Comerford

/mm