Teutopolis Community Unit No. 50
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Location: Board of Education Office
Special Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
September 6, 2018

President Jim Buhnerkempe called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All board members were present except Chad Hewing who arrived at 6:15 p.m. Guests included Effingham Daily News, Effingham-Teutopolis News Report, WXEF Radio, Scott and Carrie Copple, John Abel, Jamie Habing, and Angie Sheehan. Brad Koester left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Recognize person who wish to speak on agenda or non-agenda items.

The Board of Education discussed the following items:

Transportation and Maintenance Departments - Supt. Fritcher discussed the need to begin thinking about replacements for the current Transportation Director and Maintenance department personnel when they retire. Mr. Fritcher also mentioned that the district is not getting applicants for bus driver position. He suggested that he may bring to the Board a request to hire a combination bus driver/maintenance worker.

The Need for a Handbook Review - The need for a thorough review of the handbook was needed. The Board suggested that from now on, at least one school bard member is involved in the annual handbook review meeting usually held each spring. Additionally, Board members would like to be given a copy of the handbook in February of each year. It was also suggested that all handbook changes be approved by the district attorney prior to approval. Another suggestion was to keep track of changes made to the handbook each year.

The Need for Gender Balance in Teaching Staff - Supt. Fritcher discussed the desire to find more balance in gender at TGS but that few male applicants are available.

School Board Review of Non-Tenured Teachers - The Board suggested that school administrators review performance of all non-tenured teachers at the January meeting.

Unit 50 Grading Scale - Supt. Fritcher reported that the district is interested in giving the letter assigned by Lake Land College for all dual credit classes. An item will be placed on the September meeting agenda. The Board directed the Superintendent to meet with high school staff to gather their thoughts on changing the grading scale. There is concern that we are putting our students at a competitive disadvantage for scholarships with our current grading scale. Mr. Fritcher was also asked to research grading scales across the state and region. This is to be brought back to the February meeting.

Administrator Evaluation Process - Supt. Fritcher was requested to provide a review of principal evaluations at the February meeting.

Unit 50 Curriculum Matters - Carrie Copple spoke at length about the need for more advanced classes. She recommended a curriculum director for the district to aide in avoiding repetition in curriculum being taught at different levels. She advocated for Advanced Placement classes. Supt. Fritcher was asked to gather the following: What does it take to teach AP or can we collaborate with another school to offer AP courses?

Length of the School Day in Unit 50

THS Facitilty and the Next Steps to Take - Discussion was held between BOE members. Supt. Fritcher was asked to put together a FAQ for the THS facility discussion.

Motion to go in to Executive Session

Courtney Tegeler moved and Chad Hewing seconded a motion to go in to Executive Session to discuss A.) Appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the school district; B.)The purchase or lease of real estate property for use of the public body. Roll call vote as follows: Chad Hewing-yes; Courtney Tegeler-yes; Gene Niemerg-yes; Jim Buhnerkempe-yes; Leon Gobczynski-yes; and Troy Ozenkoski-yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion to adjourn

Gene Niemerg moved and Chad Hewing seconded a motion to adjourn. A unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

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Board of Education President, Jim Buhnerkempe

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Board of Education Secretary, Brad Koester