

**HAMILTON COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.328
TAX LEVY HEARING AND
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 2009**

The tax levy hearing and the regular Board meeting of the Hamilton Community Consolidated School District No.328 Board of Education was held on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 in the Safford Auditorium. Executive session began at 6:30 p.m., the tax levy hearing began at 7:00 p.m., and the regular meeting began after the tax levy hearing.

CALL TO ORDER

President Mark Menn called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

On roll call the following Board members answered present: Bliss, Huls, Leffler, Menn, Schilson, Starr, and Summers. Seven members were present.

Others present: Dr. Steven Breckon, Carol Mullens, Steve Schlatter, Joel Schlatter, Amanda Mason, Mary & Dale Mulch, and Joy Swearington.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Schilson and seconded by Bliss to enter into executive session. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Huls and seconded by Starr to exit executive session and return to open session. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Starr and seconded by Schilson to adjourn executive session. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The Board would like to thank Tom Schilson for the donation of 5-7 tons of steel for the welding class.

TAX LEVY HEARING

CALL TO ORDER

President Mark Menn called the tax levy hearing to order.

ROLL CALL

On roll call the following Board members answered present: Bliss, Huls, Leffler, Menn, Schilson, Starr, and Summers. Seven members were present.

Others present: Dr. Steven Breckon, Carol Mullens, Steve Schlatter, Joel Schlatter, Amanda Mason, Mary & Dale Mulch, and Joy Swearington.

REVIEW OF ESTIMATED 2009 TAX LEVY

Dr. Breckon reviewed the estimated 2009 tax levy.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING TAX LEVY

Dr. Breckon and Board members answered questions from the public.

ADJOURN TAX LEVY HEARING

A motion was made by Summers and seconded by Schilson to adjourn the tax levy hearing. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

President Mark Menn called the regular meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

On roll call the following Board members answered present: Bliss, Huls, Leffler, Menn, Schilson, Starr, and Summers. Seven members were present.

Others present: Dr. Steven Breckon, Carol Mullens, Steve Schlatter, Joel Schlatter, Amanda Mason, Mary & Dale Mulch, and Joy Swearington.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Breckon read a thank you letter from the Hamilton VFW in regards to our 8th grade choral group, who participated in their Veterans Day activities.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO SPEAK

No one asked to speak to the Board.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

LIFE SAFETY AMENDMENT – ELEMENTARY FIRE ALARM

Steve Schlatter spoke to the Board about the fire alarm at the elementary building. It is outdated and it is hard to find parts to repair it. It needs to be replaced. Dr. Breckon told the Board that he would have the architect, Darin Prost, do an amendment under Life Safety. Dr. Breckon asked the Board for their authorization to proceed with this.

Mark Menn, Board President, recommends moving ahead with the architect, Darin Prost, to determine a cost estimate that we can share with the Board for a Life Safety Amendment at the January meeting.

RECOGNITION OF BOARD MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED THE IASB/IASA PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS IN CHICAGO: SEMINAR ON SCHOOL FINANCE AND THE BASICS OF SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCE

Five Board members attended the IASB/IASA pre-conference workshops in Chicago. Rebecca Bliss and Matthew Starr attended The Basics of School District Finance and Mark Menn, Jerrod Leffler, and Doug Summers attended The Seminar on School Finance. Those who attended felt that it was beneficial.

CHANGE IN ASSESSMENTS

The Hancock County Supervisor of Assessments has informed the Board of an increase of the assessed value of the District-owned farm. It is a 10% increase. The farm land assessment laws restrict the increase (or decrease) on farm land to a maximum of 10% per year.

ENROLLMENT

The current District 328 enrollment is 659. Pre K-13, Pre K At Risk-40, Kindergarten-40, 1st grade-41, 2nd grade-45, 3rd grade-42, 4th grade-54, 5th grade-40, 6th grade-42; 356 elementary total. 7th grade-41, 8th grade-58; 99 junior high total. 9th grade-39, 10th grade-55, 11th grade-59, 12th grade-36; 189 high school total. The District total is 644 students.

STORM WATER DRAINAGE ON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROPERTY

Steve Schlatter talked to the Board about the storm drainage water on the elementary school property. He is working with the City of Hamilton. The city engineer recommends using a couple of rows of big wire baskets of rocks on the school yard to slow down the rush of water. Steve is getting quotes and will keep the Board informed.

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INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Elementary School: Mr. Snowden reported that the elementary students collected food for the WGEM Fall Harvest Food Drive. Kelly Celandia organized the event and did an outstanding job. Our school collected 3,662 items and won the challenge. The school received a laptop computer for the teachers and \$500 in computer equipment from Computing Made Easy. Ethan Whitt, a 5th grade student, won a laptop computer for collecting the most items. Our school was featured on WGEM news on Tuesday, December 15, 2009. Students in grades 4, 5, and 6 participated in the math-a-thon to raise money for St. Jude's Children Hospital. Erin Biery organized this event and did an excellent job. They raised a total of \$2,125. Bill Knowles is organizing the "Running Club". 299 students made the 5 minute club and 59 students have won a medal by running for 30 minutes. There are a number of very positive things taking place at Hamilton Elementary.

Junior-Senior High School: Mr. Gilbert reported that we can now send student transcripts to all Illinois State Colleges through Lumens. Thank you to J.I. Case for donating three new engines and hydraulic accessories to our vocational program. Mr. Buelt held a student financial meeting last night in the Safford Auditorium. The ARRA grant has been approved so we can purchase Reader Plus software in the high school which is part of our District Response to Intervention Plan. Mrs. Huckstep is sponsoring a math-a-thon program to raise money for St. Jude's Hospital. She is also sponsoring a math contest that will be held in Payson on April 24, 2010. Jr. High volleyball numbers look good, 22 players to date. The Jr./Sr. High School Winter Chorus/Band Concert and Art show was held on December 13, 2009. A big thank you goes out to Mrs. Carlisle (Chorus Director), Mr. McDermott (Band Director), Mrs. Hardy (Art Instructor), and all of our students for a successful production.

ADOPT 2009 TAX LEVY

A motion was made by Summers and seconded by Huls to adopt the 2009 Tax Levy as presented. Roll call: Bliss, yes; Huls, yes; Leffler, yes; Menn, yes; Schilson, yes; Starr, yes; Summers, yes. Motion carried: 7-0

APPROVE TO LOAN FROM WORKING CASH TO BOND AND INTEREST FUND FOR \$11,068

A motion was made by Leffler and seconded by Summers to approve to loan from Working Cash to Bond and Interest Fund for \$11,068. Roll call: Bliss, yes; Huls, yes; Leffler, yes; Menn, yes; Schilson, yes; Starr, yes; Summers, yes. Motion carried: 7-0

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM C

A suggestion was made by Bliss to pull consent agenda item C for discussion: Appoint the Superintendent as the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) Officer for Hamilton School District #328. Approval was unanimous by the Board members.

PULL CONSENT AGENDA ITEM C FROM AGENDA

A motion was made by Huls and seconded by Summers to pull item C from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

WITHDRAW MOTION

A motion was made by Huls and seconded by Summers to withdraw the previous motion. Roll call: Bliss, yes; Huls, yes; Leffler, yes; Menn, yes; Schilson, yes; Starr, yes; Summers, yes. Motion carried: 7-0

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APPOINT THE SUPERINTENDENT AS THE FOIA (FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT) OFFICER FOR HAMILTON SCHOOL DISTRICT #328

A motion was made by Starr and seconded by Huls to appoint the Superintendent as the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) Officer for the Hamilton School District #328. Roll call: Bliss, yes; Huls, yes; Leffler, yes; Menn, yes; Schilson, yes; Starr, yes; Summers, yes. Motion carried: 7-0

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Summers and seconded by Schilson to approve the Consent Agenda items:

A. Approve the Regular Minutes of November 4, 2009, Special Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2009, and Special Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2009. B. Approve the Payment of Payroll and Bills. D. Approve 1st Reading of Board Policies; 2.20, 2.40, 2.70-E, 2.110, 3.40, 4.30, 4.40, 4.100, 4.110, 1.140, 5.30, 5.90, 5.100, 5.120, 5.250, 5.280, 5.330, 6.110, 6.300, 6.310, 6.320, 6.340, 7.190, 7.240, 7.300, and 8.100.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

RESIGNATIONS

A motion was made by Leffler and seconded by Schilson to accept the resignation of Shawn Whitaker as the High School Drama Sponsor. Roll call: Bliss, yes; Huls, yes; Leffler, yes; Menn, yes; Schilson, yes; Starr, yes; Summers, yes. Motion carried: 7-0

A motion was made by Starr and seconded by Leffler to accept the resignation of Jack Curry as a Bus Driver. Roll call: Bliss, yes; Huls, yes; Leffler, yes; Menn, yes; Schilson, yes; Starr, yes; Summers, yes. Motion carried: 7-0

The Board thanks Jack Curry for his years of service to Hamilton School District #328.

EMPLOYMENT

A motion was made by Summers and seconded by Bliss to hire Randy Whitaker as the high school Drama Club sponsor. Roll call: Bliss, yes; Huls, yes; Leffler, yes; Menn, yes; Schilson, yes; Starr, yes; Summers, yes. Motion carried: 7-0

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Huls and seconded by Schilson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

President Mark Menn declared the meeting adjourned.