

The Board of Education, Rochelle Elementary District #231, met in regular session on Tuesday, December 8, 2015, in the middle school media center. Prior to the regular meeting there was a hearing on the 2015 tax levy. President Casey called the hearing to order at 6:45 PM with the following members in attendance: T. Vaughn, E. Van Hise, J. Zepeda, S. Builta, S. Reif. Also present: T. Prusator, supt. Absent: J. Tess. Supt. Prusator reviewed the proposed levy with the Board. President Casey asked if anyone in the audience had comments, none were voiced. The hearing closed at 6:59 PM.

President Casey called the regular meeting to order at 7 PM with the following members answering roll call: T. Vaughn, E. Van Hise, J. Zepeda, S. Builta, S. Reif. Also present: T. Prusator, supt. Absent: J. Tess.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – An addendum was presented with additions to personnel. S. Reif made and S. Builta seconded a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Yes: 6; No: 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – T. Vaughn made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2015, meeting as presented. E. Van Hise seconded.

Yes: 6; No: 0

COMMUNICATIONS – 1) Vic Worthington was recognized for winning the nationwide Farmers’ Insurance \$100,000 Grant, “Full Steam Ahead”. 2) Supt. Prusator informed the Board that the District was recognized at the Raising Student Achievement conference for outstanding work in implementation of common core standards, and continuous school improvement.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – Accepted for study.

TILTON SCHOOL – FAMILY READING NIGHT – Karen McMahon showed a short video of the Tilton School Family Reading Night that is sponsored by the Tilton PTS.

ROCHELLE BRANDING UPDATE – Three members of the Branding Leadership Team, Dave Tess, Tricia Wagner and Marisol Martinez, gave a presentation on the Branding plan for the city.

REVIEW ACTION PLANS-VISIONARY LEADERSHIP – Supt. Prusator reviewed said plan with the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA – S. Builta made a motion that was seconded by T. Vaughn to approve the consent agenda as amended that includes the following:

Personnel (16-12-2077)

Employ

Hannah Busching	ESL teacher RMS effective 1/6/16
Arely Hickey	Part-time secretary effective 11/30/15

Resignations

Elizabeth Belmonte	Part-time secretary/lunchroom supervisor/HUB secretary effective 11/17/15
Lisset Fresco	ELL aide RMS effective 10/21/15

Yes: Builta, Vaughn, Van Hise, Zepeda, Reif, Casey; No: 0

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS (16-12-2078) – S. Reif made and S. Builta seconded a motion to approve the current bills for payment.

Yes: Reif, Builta, Vaughn, Van Hise, Zepeda, Casey; No: 0

ADOPTION AND CERTIFICATION OF THE 2015 TAX YEAR LEVY **(16-12-2079)** – T. Vaughn made a motion to approve the 2015 levy as presented, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. E. Van Hise seconded.

Yes: Vaughn, Van Hise, Zepeda, Builta, Reif, Casey; No: 0

APPOINT AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW CLOSED SESSION MINUTES **(16-12-2080)** – President Casey appointed S. Reif and S. Builta to said committee.

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENTION TO ISSUE \$2,000,000 WORKING CASH BONDS OF COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 231, OGLE AND LEE COUNTIES, IL, FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE WORKING CASH FUND OF SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND DIRECTING THAT NOTICE OF SUCH INTENTION BE PUBLISHED IN THE MANNER BY LAW **(16-12-2081)** – Bond consultant Jamie Rachlin was present to explain the process and answer questions from the Board. S. Builta made and T. Vaughn seconded said resolution, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Yes: Builta, Vaughn, Van Hise, Zepeda, Reif, Casey; No: 0

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2016-2017 – Preliminary discussion on said calendar.

SCHOOL BOARD CONFERENCE – Board members that attended the conference highlighted some of the key sessions they attended.

FEASIBILTYYT STUDY – Supt. Prusator informed the Board that Kings District has approved participation in the study but have no interest in consolidation. The High School has yet to vote on the issue.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2016-2017 - Going into the 2016-17 school year the financial outlook continues to have significant deficits in the education fund. It is the recommendation of the superintendent that even with the projected deficits that no major reductions in staffing occur for the 2016-17 school year. The major considerations are as follows: 1) any significant reduction to impact the deficit would require significant changes to class sizes at the elementary level and restructuring of placement for students and teachers. We have gone through various changes over the last few years and continued changes will impact instructional delivery and adjustments. 2) The main cause of the deficit is state funding which is affecting many districts. A restructuring of state funding continues to be a discussion. To make changes when there is a possibility of state aid restructuring to mitigate our response could result in unnecessary changes. 3) Though the education fund balance is diminishing, there are still healthy reserves in the operations and maintenance fund as well as 1.3 million in working cash that can be used to withstand another year of deficit without completely exhausting overall fund balances. 4) **If** there would be any consideration of consolidation after reviewing the results from a feasibility study, there could be significant changes for students and teachers in the near future and we would be stacking up significant changes that could have a detrimental impact for students and teachers during this process. A year from now, we should have a better understanding of two major issues that will impact future long term budgetary considerations, state funding changes and whether consolidation would be a beneficial option.

ALLERGY GUIDELINES - Over the past few years, we have been an allergy aware district and have been conscious of the allergies of our students and limiting the exposure to allergens while maintaining the practices of having food as part of holiday activities, along with classroom and birthday celebrations.

As much as we have attempted to limit the exposure, we have found it increasingly difficult to monitor not only what foods have potential allergens, but also what foods may have been exposed to allergens. For example, currently at Wal-Mart, they have a sign at their bakery that says "Our stores may use some of the following ingredients, peanuts, eggs, soy, tree nuts, wheat, dairy products, fish and/or shellfish. Even if these are not listed on the ingredient label, please be aware that all products may have come in contact with these ingredients."

Therefore, we are now going to be more restrictive regarding the possible exposure of students to allergens. We are no longer going to allow any food for holiday, classroom, or birthday celebrations, or as incentives or rewards. The only food that will be allowed to be brought in is individual snacks brought in by students that will not be shared. In classrooms with severe allergies, a letter may be sent home outlining food restrictions for a particular classroom.

We know that this is a change from some long standing practices, but we believe that these are measures that we must move towards to ensure the safety of all students.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION – S. Reif made a motion at 8:26 PM to adjourn to closed session to consider and discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees and to discuss the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District, pursuant to Section 2(c) of the Opens Meetings Act. J. Zepeda seconded.

Yes: Reif, Zepeda, Van Hise, Vaughn, Bulta, Casey; No: 0

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION – T. Vaughn made a motion at 8:32 PM that was seconded by S. Reif to reconvene in open session.

Yes: Vaughn, Reif, Bulta, Zepeda, Van Hise, Casey; No: 0

ADJOURNMENT – S. Reif made and S. Bulta seconded a motion at 8:33 PM to adjourn.

Yes: 6; No: 0

_____ President

_____ Secretary