



# TONICA GRADE SCHOOL #79

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 16th, 2012 7:30 pm

The following minutes were recorded for the Regular Board of Education Meeting of the Tonica Community Consolidated Grade School District #79, LaSalle County, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 7:30pm in the Media Center.

#### I. ROUTINE BUSINESS

President Dan Arkels convened the board meeting at 7:30pm. Scott Obermiller, Dusty Freeman, Marty Wiesbrock and Kim Goodbred were present. Jeremy Hillyer and Brian Marcinkus arrived at 7:45pm. The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Additional Attendees: Dr. Ty Wolf, John Suarez, Kirsten Augspols, Chris Volk, Morena Andrade-Duncan, Cindy Weiland, Janie Hoffmann, Lois Beenenga, Amy Cacciatori, Lynn Anderson, David Downing, Trudy Parsons and Linda Hejl. David Pistouris from First Midstate was also present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Goodbred, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Obermiller, to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting that was held on April 18th, 2012. *Motion Carried*

Financial statements/bills reviewed. Motion by Freeman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wiesbrock, to approve the invoices/payments as presented for the month of May 2012. *Motion Carried.*

#### II. NEW BUSINESS

- Board Policies 2:120, 2:120-E2, Delete 2:190, 4:170, 5:220, 5-220AP, 5:285, 5:285-AP, 6:50, 6:120-AP3, 6:120-AP3, E1 Exhibit were presented for adoption at next meeting.
- Motion by Goodbred, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wiesbrock to approve the use of school parking lot for Tonica Fest parade staging. *Motion carried.*
- Several teachers were present to discuss their concerns with proposed technology integration. Some key points of discussion:
  - Push collaboration with computers as a way to integrate instead of replace
  - Teachers will be focusing on common core and other large scale changes
  - This will require more planning time due to outdated textbooks
  - PBIS implementation will also be beginning next school year, along with a new superintendant
  - New staff members will need to be mentored
  - The staff would like to remain as effective as they have in the past (academic excellence school last 5 years, outstanding test scores)
  - Which is more important? Teachers implementing Common Core or teaching technology skills
  - Teacher performance is soon to be tied to test scores and they would hate to see scores suffer if the focus is on the wrong areas
  - Excited about the amount of technology in the school, but with technology comes issues that having a specialized instructor is helpful
  - Teachers fear that the technology that they have been learning will be decreased
  - Scheduling will be tighter without the planning period (loss of intervention time and collaboration)

- Computer skills require more work at the lower levels (repetition etc)
- Teachers would be willing but feel that it may not be in the best interest of the students
- Professional development is the key to making this work
- Many local schools do not have dedicated computer teachers
- Common core and technology go hand in hand
- Technology should be taught by someone who was trained in technology
- If we are shifting to more tech savvy, then wouldn't we be better served to move the positions that will be obsolete e.g. media center/art?

Board took all comments into consideration and would like to re-visit this for 2013-2014 school year.

- Motion by Goodbred, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Obermiller to table the approval of the Art/Ag Shop extension with the Village. *Motion carried.*
- Motion by Hillyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wiesbrock to table the employment of Middle School Science/Language Arts/Science fair advisor. *Motion carried.*
- Motion by Obermiller, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hillyer to approve compensation of confidential secretary (.50/hr) and bookkeeper (.60/hr) starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. *Motion carried.*

### III. OTHER BUSINESS

Presentation of Working Cash Bonds by First Midstate-rates are locked in at the time of issue

- Interest rates are the lowest they've been in years (3-4% expected rate if we were to do an issue)
- Taxable bonds come in about 1% higher than tax exempt bonds
- First Midstate only gets paid if bonds are issued
- As a grade school we can get 6.9% of our EAV in bonds
- The maximum time frame on a bond is 20years
- Life safety bonds would be used for bigger building projects
- Working cash bonds can be done tax exempt if they are going to be projects with a life expectancy over one year
- Net capacity for working cash bonds for us would be \$645,000
- The authority to issue the bonds is good for 3 years once they pass the petition period
- The expense of the issuance is paid back in the interest
- Two publication fees and a surety bond on the treasurer of the district would have to be paid out of pocket.
- There will be a bond registrar fee every year until the bonds reach maturity (typically around \$500/yr)

Dr Wolf discussed finances:

- Adverse factors for next year's state aid
  - We have 10 fewer students
  - State has proposed to pro-rate the state aid to 92% of promised funds, governor changed the amount to 85% (\$35,000 difference for us)
- The government is considering lumping transportation funding into general state aid
- The pension plan is potentially going to be pushed back down to the local districts (\$77,000 for Tonica last year)
- Four options:
  - Work more efficiently
  - Cut programs and staff
  - Raise taxes
  - Wait it out and see what happens with the legislation

**IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Hillyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marcinkus to enter executive session at 9:33pm to discuss compensation of secretary and bookkeeper. *Motion Carried*

Motion by Hillyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Goodbred to exit executive session at 10:36pm and resume regular session. *Motion Carried*

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Hillyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marcinkus to adjourn at 10:40pm. *Motion carried.*

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Secretary

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President