

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE ST. BERNARD-ELMWOOD
PLACE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON JANUARY 25, 2010**

The St. Bernard-Elmwood Place Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, January 25, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Office, 105 Washington Avenue, St. Bernard, Ohio. The meeting was called to order by President Steven Rutemueller and was opened with the Pledge to the Flag.

Roll Call

Present: Steven Rutemueller, Tricia Hackney, Linda Radtke, Gabe Sanders, and Deborah Steidel

Also present: Dr. Mimi Webb, Bruce Helwagen, and Michael Mays

Visitors (who signed in): Janet Haarman, Diane & Tommy Ellison, Becky Balzer, Denise Haarman, Paul Strotman, Diane Statt, Crystal Prather, Judy Witt, Leslie Pembaur, Pam Cain, Jessica Miller, Andre Evans, and Nona Waldeck

St. Bernard-Elmwood Place Education Association President – Mrs. Leslie Pembaur

Mrs. Leslie Pembaur, President of the St. Bernard-Elmwood Place Education Association, gave the following speech:

“Tonight we are here on behalf of the Education Association to speak about our decision concerning the Race to the Top dollars. There was a lot of apprehension expressed by the members about the vague and insufficient information supplied about the grant proposal. Also, the length of time to discuss, research, and review the proposal was totally insufficient, especially considering the lack of readily available requirements.

Our decision to forgo the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding was most importantly based on our unwillingness to blindly sign an agreement that would certainly affect our contract and the rights of our members. To do so, would have been imprudent and not in the best interest of our members, or of the school district. The lack of clarity concerning dollar amounts, the sustainability of those dollars, and the possible uses of the funds also played a part in the trepidation of the members to participate in the Race to the Top Grant Program.

While this district faces many challenges in insuring that all students have an excellent learning opportunity, the members of the Association have accepted those challenges and are working very hard to meet the needs of students. This work is being done outside the traditional role of just “teaching” in the classroom.

We wish to express our continued desire to strive for the student achievement on which our district has been focused. We are always open to discussion and ideas aimed at district improvement and will continue our professional directive to educate all students to the degree of success to which they are entitled.”

Public Participation

Pam Cain, 193 Harvey Court, addressed the Board concerning Open Enrollment.

10-17 Executive Session

Mr. Sanders made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hackney, to enter into Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes – Mr. Rutemueller, Mrs. Hackney, Mrs. Radtke, Mr. Sanders, and Mrs. Steidel

Regular session reconvened at 7:40 p.m. with all members present.

10-18 Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting on December 14, 2009 and Minutes of the Budget Hearing and Organizational Meeting on January 11, 2010

Mrs. Radtke made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Steidel, to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting on December 14, 2009 and minutes of the Budget Hearing and Organizational Meeting on January 11, 2010. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes – Mr. Rutemueller, Mrs. Hackney, Mrs. Radtke, Mr. Sanders, and Mrs. Steidel

10-19 Financial Reports

Mr. Sanders made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Radtke, to approve the following:

Financial Report for December 2009

Investments for December 2009

<u>Investments as of 12/31/09</u>	\$ 3,196,565.67
<u>Investments Redeemed</u>	\$ -0-
<u>Investments Purchased</u>	\$ -0-
<u>Interest Income</u>	\$ 709.00

Donations

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>School/Club</u>
Ivan Byers	1,000.00	007	Robert Carroll Scholarship
St. Bernard Eagles	1,496.30	001	General Fund
Paul Finkes	100.00	007	Student Aid
Lisa Vanderbilt	100.00	007	Tina Siegel Scholarship
St. Bernard Eagles	75.00	200	Class of 2011
Paul Finkes	100.00	300	Athletics
St. Bernard Eagles	150.00	300	Athletics
Paul Finkes	100.00	300	Music
St. Bernard Eagles	75.00	300	Music

Invoices with Then and Now Certificates in Excess of \$3,000

Fifth Third Bank	\$ 3,511.36
Ohio School Boards Association	4,776.00

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes – Mr. Rutemueller, Mrs. Hackney, Mrs. Radtke, Mr. Sanders, and Mrs. Steidel

10-20 Resignation

Mrs. Steidel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Radtke, to accept Robin Sayers' letter of resignation, effective December 30, 2009.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes – Mr. Rutemueller, Mrs. Hackney, Mrs. Radtke, Mr. Sanders, and Mrs. Steidel

10-21 Employment of Teachers

Mr. Sanders made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hackney, to approve the following:

- a. Lori Schott, Kindergarten Teacher, Bachelors Degree, Step 1, effective January 7, 2010 through June 4, 2010.
- b. Sheena Niehaus, Intervention Specialist, Bachelors Degree, Step 1, effective January 4, 2010 through June 4, 2010.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes – Mr. Rutemueller, Mrs. Hackney, Mrs. Radtke, Mr. Sanders, and Mrs. Steidel

10-22 Employment of Tutor

Mrs. Radtke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sanders, to employ Kevin Hoover as a tutor at Elmwood Place Elementary on an "as needed" basis for the 2009-2010 school year.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes – Mr. Rutemueller, Mrs. Hackney, Mrs. Radtke, Mr. Sanders, and Mrs. Steidel

10-23 Transfer of Paraprofessional to Transportation Department

Mrs. Hackney made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Steidel, to approve the transfer of Sandra L. McPartlin from a Paraprofessional position to a Transportation position, Step 4, effective February 8, 2010.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes – Mr. Rutemueller, Mrs. Hackney, Mrs. Radtke, Mr. Sanders, and Mrs. Steidel

10-24 Urban Appalachian Council Agreement

Mrs. Radtke made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Steidel, to approve the Urban Appalachian Council Agreement as presented.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes – Mr. Rutemueller, Mrs. Hackney, Mrs. Radtke, Mr. Sanders, and Mrs. Steidel

10-25 Master Contract Agreement between the St. Bernard-Elmwood Place Education Association and the St. Bernard-Elmwood Place City School District Board of Education

Mr. Sanders made some clarifications, comments, and discussions regarding the contract, specifically in regard to the payment of the stipends. Mrs. Radtke stated that she was opposed to the contract categorically, discussed potential conflicts of interest of Board members, and stated her reasons for being opposed to the contract, specifically in regard to the payment of the stipends.

Mr. Sanders made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hackney, to approve the Master Contract Agreement between the St. Bernard-Elmwood Place Education Association and the St. Bernard-Elmwood Place City School District Board of Education as presented.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes – Mrs. Hackney, Mr. Sanders, and Mrs. Steidel

No – Mrs. Radtke

Abstain – Mr. Rutemueller

10-26 Resolution to Continue Open Enrollment for the 2010-2011 School Year and Approve Revised Guideline Procedures

Mrs. Steidel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Radtke, to approve the Resolution to Continue Open Enrollment for the 2010-2011 School Year and Approve Revised Guideline Procedures.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes – Mr. Rutemueller, Mrs. Hackney, Mrs. Radtke, Mr. Sanders, and Mrs. Steidel

10-27 Facilities Usage Requests

Mrs. Hackney made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Radtke, to approve the following facilities usage requests:

1. Elmwood Place Elementary Cafeteria, Girl Scouts of Western Ohio, Roberta Sams, Wednesdays, January 13, 2010 through June 2, 2010, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
2. High School Pool, St. Bernard Recreation Department Swim Team Practice, Paul Strotman, Mondays, March 1, 2010 through May 24, 2010, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., and Saturdays, March 6, 2010 through May 22, 2010, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

3. High School Pool and Classroom, Cincinnati Pool Management, March 5, 2010 through March 14, 2010, Friday, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Fee: \$1,185.00)

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes – Mr. Rutemueller, Mrs. Hackney, Mrs. Radtke, Mr. Sanders, and Mrs. Steidel

10-28 2010-2011 School Calendar

Mrs. Steidel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sanders, to approve the 2010-2011 school calendar as presented.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes – Mr. Rutemueller, Mrs. Hackney, Mrs. Radtke, Mr. Sanders, and Mrs. Steidel

Miscellaneous/Liaison Reports

- a. Curriculum Council Representative – Deborah Steidel discussed Flex Credit.
- b. Student Achievement Representative – Deborah Steidel discussed an article about small group projects.
- c. Education Hall of Fame Committee Representatives – Tricia Hackney and Gabe Sanders announced that nomination forms were distributed to all staff via email. A tentative committee voting date is scheduled for April 26 at 3:30 pm.
- d. Alumni Association Representative – Steven Rutemueller stated that the Alumni Association would be meeting on January 26, 7:00 p.m., at the Board Office.
- e. Great Oaks Institute of Technology & Career Representative – Tricia Hackney reported that the Great Oaks Board meeting was held on January 13. Minutes of that meeting were distributed. All thirty-five of the new board members were sworn in. Mrs. Hackney was elected to the Great Oaks Education Committee. The Great Oaks Board meetings will be the second Wednesday of each month. Various other statistics, awards, programs, and grants were discussed.
- f. Legislative Liaison Representative – Linda Radtke discussed the following possible grants or legislation: Race to the Top Grant; House Bill 366 which has an exemption for spending requirements under House Bill 1; Senate Bill 167 and House Bill 387 which changes how districts are lowered from school ratings i.e. Excellent to Effective; House Bill 353 which would allow school districts to sell advertising space on school buses; House Bill 192 which permits school districts to terminate their transportation; and Senate Bill 8 called the *Frivolous Levies Law* which would allow boards of election to charge back not only the cost of elections but wear and tear on permanent assets.

- g. President's Report – Steven Rutemueller asked if it would be possible to post the Board agenda and minutes on the web site. Mr. Helwagen will take care of this request.
- h. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Mimi Webb reported that the high school scheduling for next year will begin in February. We started the Fast ForWord Program at St. Bernard and the High School. The literacy initiative with Sharon Cooley is progressing very well at the high school and at Elmwood Place Elementary. We are still looking for a gifted teacher for two days a week and for an alternative placement teacher. Lastly, Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services is doubling their fees next year. It is projected that our seven students could cost us as much as one million dollars. We are discussing setting up our own units with other districts.
- i. Treasurer's Report - Michael Mays stated we have a lot of challenges in our school district. We have the normal challenges of the day-to-day operations of the business. For our district that means expenses increasing over \$300,000 every year, but revenue is not increasing sufficiently or actually projected to start decreasing. Some of the things that did not happen to us this year: We did not have the projected reductions of 10% in FY10 (\$294,000) and 15% (\$452,000) in FY11 because the legislature postponed the scheduled personal income tax reduction for Ohio residence. We did not have the projected reductions because of House Bill 66 passed in 2005 in which we were scheduled to lose \$434,000 this year, \$580,000 next year, but we did not because the legislature extended the tangible property tax guarantee at 100% for two additional years. Unless the legislature extends the guarantee further for 2012, we are scheduled to lose \$1,352,786.48. Also, our budget includes 6.5% in federal stimulus money for FY10 and FY11, which will have to be replaced by the State beginning FY12. And finally, for the years 2008 to 2009, our enrollment went down approximately 80 students. For 2009 to 2010, it went down another 40 students, but open enrollment increased by over 70 students, so our total enrollment increased by approximately 30 students.

10-29 Adjournment

Mrs. Hackney made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Steidel, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes – Mr. Rutemueller, Mrs. Hackney, Mrs. Radtke, Mr. Sanders, and Mrs. Steidel

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.