

Panel Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2012

MINUTES OF MEETING
FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT PANEL
VENICE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3
JANUARY 25, 2012
5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rudy Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Rudy Wilson, Chairman
Dennis Brueggemann, Member
Mary Kane, Member

Also present:

Jeff Endres, Financial Administrator
Cullen Cullen, district superintendent
Carol Reinhardt, district bookkeeper
Shirley Davis, district principal
Deb Vespa, ISBE Division Administrator (via conference call)

REPORTS

Dr. Cullen Cullen, district superintendent, updated the FOP members about the Region I Special Education Coop and the possible reorganization that is being proposed. He indicated that the three member schools of the coop and the board members are taking steps to reorganize the coop. He also informed the FOP that he and Mr. Endres, Financial Administrator, have updated the district benchmarks which will be reviewed at today's meeting. Dr. Cullen also reported that he had been working with SDS, the district's financial software provider, to resolve the matter of the accruals being carried forward on the balance sheets. He informed the FOP that there will be three district teachers attending the NCLB Conference February 7 – 10, 2012 in Chicago. He also plans to attend the conference. Dr. Cullen reported that a student had been injured during PE class and that the student appears to be fine. The district's insurance carrier was notified immediately about the accident as well.

Shirley Davis, district principal, reported that the district enrollment is currently 151 students. The breakdown includes K – 8 (113), special education (4), and high school (34). She stated that the increase in enrollment this year has increased class sizes, especially in the lower grades. She reported that teacher evaluations have started and that she would be finishing them in the next few weeks.

Jeff Endres, Financial Administrator, reported that he and Dr. Cullen had updated the district benchmarks and that they would be reviewed later in the meeting. He also mentioned that a future joint meeting with the Venice BOE would need to be held either in April or May to discuss the updated benchmarks. He indicated that dates had been set to begin teacher negotiations, with the first date being in February 2012. He also informed the FOP that the Venice BOE had approved a motion to establish a plan to pay off the balance of the ISBE Emergency Loan by June 30, 2012. The Venice BOE also approved a motion to terminate any further action regarding the Feasibility and Reorganization Study with Brooklyn SD.

Deb Vespa, ISBE Division Administrator, suggested that if the district is going to pay the Emergency Loan early, then the Venice BOE should look at doing it at their May 2012 board meeting. The FOP would then be able to finalize everything at their June 2012 regular meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from November 22, 2011 regular meeting was made by Dennis Brueggemann. Seconded by Mary Kane. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS – JANUARY 19, 2012 BOE REGULAR MEETING

Motion to approve the January 19, 2012 Accounts Payable list in the amount of **\$133,472.09** and December 2011 payroll in the amount of **\$119,267.37** was made by Mary Kane. Seconded by Dennis Brueggemann. Discussion followed: Jeff Endres, Financial Administrator, indicated that the Accounts Payable list included 1st Quarter tuition payments to East St. Louis District #189 (**49,829**) and to Brooklyn SD (**\$15,244.16**), and the annual audit payment to Kerber, Eck & Braeckel (**\$15,000**). He also stated that there were three (3) payrolls in December 2011. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

NO ACTION REQUIRED on the district seeking RFP's for annual audit proposals. This is informational only.

PERSONNEL – JANUARY 19, 2012 BOE REGULAR MEETING

No personnel action taken by FOP.

OTHER BUSINESS

Review/discussion followed regarding the updated district benchmarks. The discussion centered on the improvements in each of the areas by the district since March 2010, when the benchmarks were last reviewed. Dr. Cullen indicated that he believed that the district has improved in each of the areas significantly during his tenure. While there has been tremendous improvement in the district's financial condition, the district still fails to meet AYP, although there have been improvements the last few years. Rudy Wilson asked about the continued employment of the current superintendent and wondered if the board had begun any discussions on a new contract with Dr. Cullen. He stated that nothing had been done yet but that he hoped something would begin soon. Mary Kane indicated that the superintendent

might have to set the standard in salary increases when a new contract is set. Dennis Brueggemann mentioned that he thought Key Indicator #2 under Administrative Leadership needed to be further updated. The FOP and Venice BOE will set a future date to hold a joint meeting to review and discuss the updated benchmarks.

The next FOP meeting will be Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Dennis Brueggemann at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Rudy Wilson. Unanimously passed by voice vote.