

Panel Meeting Minutes  
January 27, 2010

MINUTES OF MEETING  
FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT PANEL  
VENICE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3  
JANUARY 27, 2010  
5:00 P.M.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Rudy Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Rudy Wilson, Chairman  
Mary Kane, Member

Absent: Dennis Brueggemann, Member

Also present:

Jeff Endres, Financial Administrator  
Deby Vespa, ISBE Consultant  
Dr. Cullen Cullen, district superintendent  
Carol Reinhardt, district bookkeeper  
Toni Chandler, district secretary  
Shirley Davis, district principal (arrived at 5:25 p.m.)

**REPORTS**

Dr. Cullen Cullen, district superintendent, reported to the FOP that a meeting had been scheduled for February 1, 2010 with area legislators and area district superintendents to discuss the state funding crisis. Rudy Wilson suggested that Dr. Cullen try to schedule a meeting with the FOP and area legislators as well to discuss the future of small districts such as Venice. Dr. Cullen informed the FOP that the Public School Recognition for the district is again "pending further review" with ISBE. He indicated that he hopes to try and resolve those issues that are keeping the district on this status with ISBE. The downstairs of the school has been cleaned up and all of the equipment has been moved out of the building. He also reported that parents in the district now have on-line access available to them through the district website. The sex offender list has been updated as well.

Dr. Cullen Cullen, district superintendent, gave the principal's report in the absence of Ms. Davis. The school district enrollment is now 111 which includes the high school students. The students raised \$540 for Haiti relief and the money will be sent to the American Red Cross.

Jeff Endres, Financial Administrator, informed the FOP that long time custodian Lionel Wiley was retiring effective January 29, 2010. He also reported that the PE teacher, Edmund Jones, had resigned effective February 1, 2010. Mr. Endres informed the FOP that he had met with Dr. Cullen, Carol Reinhardt, and Carl Holman to work on the district's three year financial plan and that it would be presented to them at the February 2010 FOP meeting if ready. He also reported that district revenue and expenditure reports are now being provided to the FOP and that these reports are a good way in reviewing the districts year-to-date totals with the budget totals by line item in each fund.

Deby Vespa, ISBE consultant, gave an update on the state budget that was presented for next fiscal year. She reported on status of state aid, hold harmless, foundation level, construction grants, school maintenance grants and energy efficient grants for next fiscal year as well.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve the minutes from November 24, 2009 was made by Mary Kane. Seconded by Rudy Wilson. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

#### **NEW BUSINESS – JANUARY 21, 2010 BOE REGULAR MEETING**

Motion to approve the January 21, 2010 Accounts Payable list in the amount of **\$163,253.09** and December 2009 payroll in the amount of **\$119,653.52** was made by Mary Kane. Seconded by Rudy Wilson. Jeff Endres, Financial Administrator, indicated that the payroll total was for three (3) payrolls and that the accounts payable list included the final payment for the roof. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve three (3) members of the Venice BOE to attend the National School Board Association Annual Conference in Chicago on April 10, 11, and 12, 2010 at a cost **not to exceed \$5,180.00** was made by Mary Kane. Seconded by Rudy Wilson. Discussion followed: Rudy Wilson commented that the board needs to have a purpose for wanting to attend conferences and that they need to submit such requests well in advance of the conference dates. Mary Kane commented that the board members had attended the state conference in November and that she didn't feel comfortable approving this request in light of the crisis with the state funding. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Rudy Wilson - NO, Mary Kane – NO MOTION FAILED**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion to go into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** to discuss personnel and employment, collective bargaining and possible litigation was made by Mary Kane at 5:55 p.m. Seconded by Rudy Wilson. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

#### **RESUMPTION**

Motion to reconvene to **OPEN SESSION** was made by Mary Kane at 6:02 p.m. Seconded by Rudy Wilson. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

**PERSONNEL – JANUARY 21, 2010 BOE REGULAR MEETING**

Motion to approve the employment of Laronda Cole, teacher's aide, at a rate of **\$11.66/hr. effective January 25, 2010** was made by Mary Kane. Seconded by Rudy Wilson. She replaces Angela Moore, who resigned in December. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve the employment of Raymond J. Robertson, PE teacher, at a salary of **\$29,042 (BA, step 1) to be prorated effective starting date no later than February 8, 2010** was made by Mary Kane. Seconded by Rudy Wilson. He replaces Edmund Jones who resigned effective February 1, 2010. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The FOP and Venice BOE will schedule a joint meeting sometime in March 2010 to discuss district benchmarks and the three year financial plan. Mr. Endres will send the FOP possible dates and times for March once Deby Vespa, ISBE consultant, checks her schedule.

Jeff Endres, Financial Administrator, asked if the FOP would consider moving the February meeting to another date as Dennis Brueggemann cannot make the Wednesday, February 24, 2010 meeting due to a conflict. The FOP members present were in agreement to change the next FOP meeting to **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Mary Kane at 6:12 p.m. Seconded by Rudy Wilson. Unanimously passed by voice vote.