

Panel Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2010

MINUTES OF SPECIAL WORK MEETING
FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT PANEL
VENICE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3
MARCH 12, 2010
1:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rudy Wilson called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Rudy Wilson, Chairman
Dennis Brueggemann, Member
Mary Kane, Member (arrived at 1:55 p.m.)

Also present:

Jeff Endres, Financial Administrator
Deby Vespa, ISBE Consultant
Carl Holman, ISBE Consultant
Dr. Cullen Cullen, district superintendent
Carol Reinhardt, district bookkeeper (arrived at 2:40 p.m.)

BENCHMARKS FOR FOP & DISTRICT NO. 3

The purpose of the special work meeting was to discuss the benchmarks for the district and what expectations the FOP had for the future of the district. Discussion centered on various aspects of the benchmarks that were reviewed by the FOP. Deby Vespa, ISBE consultant, lead the discussion and pointed out relevant financial information from the state that would be affecting the district in the future. She told the FOP that the education budget for FY11 was projected to be cut by \$1.3 billion (governor's budget). State aid is expected to be cut but not as drastically as once feared. Hold Harmless aid is completely gone. Categoricals such as special education and transportation will be prorated 75%. While the three year financial plan that was presented by Dr. Cullen Cullen at the February 23, 2010 FOP meeting took into account all of these reductions, there is still concern that perhaps the projections for the district will be further reduced in the future. Dr. Cullen Cullen indicated that asbestos issues remain in the district and are estimated to cost \$508,000. The gym floor and bleachers still need to be repaired and/or replaced. The four bathrooms are in desperate need of repairs as well. Deby Vespa, ISBE consultant, suggested that the district might want to do a study of the residents regarding the future of the school. Would reorganization be a possibility in the future? Dr. Cullen indicated that the school board is currently doing a self-assessment with ISBA. As for the current needs of the district, Mary Kane, FOP member, questioned whether or not the district should hire a principal for next school year. She does not believe that a district the size of Venice needs a full time superintendent and a full time principal. Dennis Brueggemann, FOP

member, stated that the board and FOP should let Dr. Cullen do what he was hired to do in three years to fix the district. If he needs a full time principal to help him accomplish this, then the board and FOP should support him in hiring the full time principal. Rudy Wilson, FOP chairman, agreed with Mr. Brueggemann and suggested that a full time principal would help Dr. Cullen in his efforts to get the district where he expects it to be in three years.

The discussion on the benchmarks covered the areas of financial stability, administrative leadership, board of education, teaching & learning and labor relations. Suggestions were made for each of these areas and the FOP will meet with the Venice board of education in May 2010 to review and discuss these benchmarks.

FOP member Dennis Brueggemann excused himself at 3:10 p.m. as he had to leave for another appointment.

No formal action was taken at the end of these discussions.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Mary Kane at 4:00 p.m. Seconded by Rudy Wilson. Unanimously passed by voice vote.