

Panel Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2009

MINUTES OF MEETING
FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT PANEL
VENICE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3
MARCH 25, 2009
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 (arrived at 5:10 p.m.)

Also present:

Jeff Endres, Financial Administrator
Carl Holman, ISBE
Dr. Cleveland Hammonds, district superintendent
Shirley Davis, district principal
Carol Reinhardt, district bookkeeper
Toni Chandler, district secretary
Janet Wiley, Venice board president

REPORTS

Dr. Hammonds, district superintendent, reported the preliminary results of the district compliance visit which was recently conducted by the ROE and there were no major findings during the visit. He informed the FOP that the district would be holding summer school at Brooklyn this summer because of the removal of the asbestos in the Venice school before the installation of the exterior doors. The Venice school will be closed from June 8 through July 26, 2009 for this project. He also informed the FOP that a school choice letter will be sent to both Madison SD #12 and Granite City SD #9 for Venice high school students to attend either one of those districts next school year but he anticipates both districts' answers will be NO. He presented to the Venice BOE information regarding the start up costs for cafeteria services compared to the current agreement with Brooklyn SD. Dr. Hammonds also reported that there would be a ceremony on May 17, 2009 involving the Venice bell and a time capsule.

Shirley Davis, district principal, reported that a tentative date for graduation has been set for May 29, 2009. She also indicated that the 3rd testing of ThinkLink showed improvement in the student scores. She reported that the Venice basketball team would be honored with a ceremony. She also indicated that the staff continues to attend professional development workshops when available.

Jeff Endres, Financial Administrator, informed the FOP that the computer system in the business office was now operating without any significant problems. This will allow Carol Reinhardt, district bookkeeper, to begin providing the FOP with financial reports. She has also been able to submit the quarterly grant expenditure reports now and all grant funds are not frozen. He also reported that he and Carol were in Springfield last week attending an IASBO workshop and were able to talk to several representatives and senators regarding the Hold Harmless funding. It appears that the Hold Harmless funds will eventually be eliminated from state funding and the best guess right now is that it will be a 20% reduction over 5 years. It could be as early as the 2009-10 fiscal year. This will mean a reduction in funding for Venice SD #3.

There was no ISBE consultants report.

Chairman Rudy Wilson asked whether Venice SD should be looking at other districts of similar size as Venice to compare their budgets, staffing needs, and other data that would be helpful in determining whether Venice SD should continue to operate in the future. The district needs to prepare 3 year and 5 year financial projections without the Hold Harmless funding in order to see how much revenue they will have in order to operate the district. Carl Holman, ISBE consultant, indicated that these projections, along with a district budget for 2009-10, would be needed before the FOP could be dissolved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from February 25, 2009 was made by Dennis Brueggemann. Seconded by Rudy Wilson. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS – March 19, 2009 BOE Regular Meeting

Motion to approve the March 19, 2009 Accounts Payable list in the amount of **\$71,956.99** and February 2009 payroll in the amount of **\$81,707.08** was made by Dennis Brueggemann. Seconded by Mary Kane. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve the Abatement Project Design from APSI in the amount of **\$4,100.00** was made by Dennis Brueggemann. Seconded by Mary Kane. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve Mr. Wiley, lead custodian, to attend the Safer Pest Control Workshop for Schools on April 14, 2009 in Rockford at a total cost of **\$398.00** was made by Mary Kane. Seconded by Dennis Brueggemann. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss employment, collective bargaining and possible litigation was made by Dennis Brueggemann at 5:28 p.m. Seconded by Mary Kane. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

RESUMPTION

Motion to reconvene to open session was made by Dennis Brueggemann at 5:41 p.m. Seconded by Mary Kane. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

PERSONNEL – March 19, 2009 BOE Regular Meeting

No personnel action was taken at the March 19, 2009 BOE regular meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next FOP meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Dennis Brueggemann at 5:42 p.m. Seconded by Mary Kane. Unanimously passed by voice vote.