

Panel Meeting Minutes  
June 24, 2009

MINUTES OF MEETING  
FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT PANEL  
VENICE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3  
JUNE 24, 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 5:02 p.m.)

Also present:

Jeff Endres, Financial Administrator  
Deby Vespa, ISBE  
Carl Holman, ISBE  
Dr. Cleveland Hammonds, district superintendent  
Carol Reinhardt, district bookkeeper  
Toni Chandler, district secretary  
Dr. Cullen Cullen, district superintendent effective July 1, 2009  
Barney Mundorf, legal counsel

**REPORTS**

Dr. Cleveland Hammonds, district superintendent, updated the panel on the asbestos project that is currently underway at Venice Elementary School. He stated that the project is ahead of schedule and may be completed a bit early. He also reported that the district test scores improved for the current school year and both he and Ms. Davis were happy with the improvement.

There was no principal's report.

There was no financial administrator's report.

Deby Vespa, ISBE, reported to the panel that the state budget continues to be monitored by everyone as the legislature struggles to approve a budget for next year. She indicated that her department continues to monitor what is being recommended in the funding areas and it appears that the Hold Harmless State Aid will be reduced for next year.

Dr. Cullen Cullen, district superintendent effective July 1, 2009 presented the panel with a summary report of several activities that he has begun working on in the district. Included in those projects are a Digital Divide Partnership Grant with several other entities that will provide the district with a new computer lab, the ISBE/DOE EETT (E2T2) Technology Partnership Grant which will provide the district with technology and software upgrades and E-Rate application for wiring and internet infrastructure. He also reported that the next negotiations session with the teacher union is July 1, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. He also indicated that he would be posting open positions for a physical education teacher and an elementary principal.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve the minutes from May 27, 2009 was made by Dennis Brueggemann. Seconded by Mary Kane. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

#### **NEW BUSINESS – June 18, 2009 BOE Regular Meeting**

Motion to approve the June 18, 2009 Accounts Payable in the amount of **\$34,778.40** and May 2009 payroll in the amount of **\$76,591.64** was made by Mary Kane. Seconded by Dennis Brueggemann. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement with East St. Louis District #189 for Venice high school students to attend during school years 2009-10 through 2011-12 at the current tuition charge of **\$6000 per student OR no more than a 3% increase** was made by Mary Kane. Seconded by Dennis Brueggemann. Additional discussion followed concerning the “administrative fee” charged by the district (**\$3000 per quarter**). Deby Vespa, ISBE, indicated that this was a fee mutually agreed upon by both districts regarding a lawsuit settlement and that the fee was to be phased out over a three year period. The panel suggested that the district superintendent inquire as to the status of this settlement fee for 2009-10 through 2011-12. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement with Brooklyn District #188 to provide food service for 2009-10 school year at the following costs: **\$1.7482 per lunch, \$1.35 per breakfast, \$.33 extra milk, and \$75/month administrative fee** was made by Mary Kane. Seconded by Dennis Brueggemann. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to **TABLE** the additional payment of **\$25,000** towards the Emergency Assistance Loan to the state was made by Dennis Brueggemann. Seconded by Mary Kane. It was the consensus of the FOP that this matter should be brought back by the new superintendent, Dr. Cullen Cullen, after he has had time to study the district’s finances to see if this would be prudent for the district to do considering the uncertainty of the state funding. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve tuition reimbursement for Kristina Dallas, special education teacher, who has been accepted into the SIU-E Graduate Literacy Education program, was made by Dennis Brueggemann. Seconded by Mary Kane. The current teacher contract allows up to **70%** reimbursement for tuition and if this changes in the new contract, then any teacher currently employed would be grandfathered for reimbursement. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve the resolution to allow service credit for military service through IMRF for Lionel Wiley, lead custodian at Venice SD #3 was made by Dennis Brueggemann. Seconded by Mary Kane. The cost to the district cannot be determined at this time as this will be factored into the district employer rate for calendar year 2010. It will allow Mr. Wiley to receive an additional two years of service credit with IMRF to be used towards his retirement. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

#### **NEW BUSINESS – June 23, 2009 BOE Special Meeting**

Motion to approve the amended budget for 2008-09 as presented was made by Dennis Brueggemann. Seconded by Mary Kane. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve the end of the year Accounts Payable in the amount of **\$65,654.47** was made by Dennis Brueggemann. Seconded by Mary Kane. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss employment, collective bargaining and possible litigation was made by Mary Kane at 5:48 p.m. Seconded by Dennis Brueggemann. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

#### **RESUMPTION**

Motion to reconvene to OPEN SESSION was made by Dennis Brueggemann at 6:45 p.m. Seconded by Mary Kane. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

#### **PERSONNEL**

Motion to approve the superintendent contract for Dr. Cullen Cullen for three years, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012 as presented was made by Dennis Brueggemann. Seconded by Mary Kane. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve the Venice BOE action of paying Dr. Cleveland Hammonds, interim district superintendent, for additional days worked during 2008-09 school year with the total additional days being **15 days @ \$517 per day = \$7755.00 with last date of employment being June 26, 2009** was made by Mary Kane. Seconded by Dennis Brueggemann. The panel also recommended that Dr. Cullen Cullen and Barney Mundorf, legal counsel, should inform the Venice board president of the FOP's action regarding the total number of additional days and that cost to the district since their approval did not include any specifics. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve Lisa Williams to provide clerical support to the administrative assistant to assist in updating the district webpage, student handbooks and scanning student records at a rate of **\$11.87/hr. (for 24 days, eight ( 8 ) hrs. per day)** was made by Dennis Brueggemann. Seconded by Mary Kane. This will be done from June 11, 2009 through August 19, 2009. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve Lisa Williams for Summer Bridges program as both a clerical assistant and cafeteria server was made by Dennis Brueggemann. Seconded by Mary Kane. This will be for a total of 22 days (June 18, 2009 through July 20, 2009). The rate of pay will be **\$10.40/hr. cafeteria server (1.75 hours per day) and \$11.87/hr. clerical assistant (6.25 hours per day) with the exception that two (2) days at the start of the Summer Bridges program will be eight (8) hours per day for clerical assistant duties.** Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve employment of Wilbert Glasper, Jr. as extra summer custodian for the period of July 23, 2009 through August 17, 2009 at the rate of **\$10.00/hr.** was made by Dennis Brueggemann. Seconded by Mary Kane. The extra help will be needed to get the school ready for opening day once the asbestos project is completed. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The FOP agreed to keep their monthly meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month which follows the Venice BOE regular board meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. Next FOP meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. with location to be determined if the school is not open.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Dennis Brueggemann at 6:52 p.m. Seconded by Mary Kane. Unanimously passed by voice vote.