

Panel Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2009

MINUTES OF MEETING
FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT PANEL
VENICE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3
July 22, 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

Also present:

Jeff Endres, Financial Administrator
Deby Vespa, ISBE
Carl Holman, ISBE
Dr. Cullen Cullen, district superintendent
Toni Chandler, district secretary
Janet Wiley, Venice BOE vice chair

REPORTS

Dr. Cullen Cullen, district superintendent, reported on the Summer Bridges program which had 53 students enrolled. A field trip to the library to obtain library cards was taken by the students. The cost for the farewell assembly for Dr. Cleveland Hammonds totaled \$214.36. He updated the panel on the construction project in the district. The asbestos abatement has been completed and the remaining six exterior doors will be installed in late August. The network installation will occur within the next two weeks. He told the panel that summer cleaning began yesterday, July 21, 2009 in the building as two custodial staff returned to begin getting the school ready for the first day of school. The school calendar has been amended to delay the start of the 2009-10 school year. The teachers will report on August 20 and 21 for teacher institute days. The first day for student attendance will be August 24, 2009. He reported that the faculty attended five days of RTI training that was provided through Madison County ROE. The internet math instruction will begin and the program is only used in Canada as of now. Venice will be the first district to use this program in the USA. Dr. Cullen has been asked to participate in an educational summit that is being sponsored by the Madison County ROE office on July 30, 2009. The EPA has contacted Dr. Daiber's office regarding a phase study on the old school site. Dr. Cullen updated the panel on the status of teacher negotiations. He told the

panel that they have met two times with the attorney and that the teachers have asked for a federal mediator. However, Dr. Cullen has met with them two additional times in an effort to avoid mediation. He is working within the parameters that the Venice BOE had approved at an earlier meeting. Dr. Cullen informed the panel that the Venice BOE agreed not to make any additional payment to ISBE for the Emergency Financial Assistance Loan this fiscal year.

There was no principal's report.

There was no financial administrator's report.

Deby Vespa, ISBE, reported to the panel that the state board budget that was passed yesterday included a \$160 increase to the foundation level. However, the Hold Harmless funding was reduced to 43% of last year's amount. The district will lose approximately \$280,000 as a result of this reduction. The mandated categoricals are to be funded at 100% provided the state has the money to pay these claims. Other programs that were reduced in funding included Early Childhood programs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from June 24, 2009 was made by Mary Kane. Seconded by Dennis Brueggemann. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS – July 16, 2009 BOE Regular Meeting

Motion to approve the July 16, 2009 Accounts Payable in the amount of **\$101,711.15** and June 2009 payroll in the amount of **\$66,014.62** was made by Mary Kane. Seconded by Dennis Brueggemann. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve the ISBE Emergency Financial Assistance Loan repayment for 2009-10 in the amount of **\$28,405.77** was made by Dennis Brueggemann. Seconded by Mary Kane. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve the lease agreement proposal for district copiers from Watts Copy System at a cost of **\$465.00/month for 60 months (5 years) plus excess fee of \$.005 per copy** was made by Dennis Brueggemann. Seconded by Mary Kane. Further discussion followed. Mary Kane asked about the length of the lease and wondered why it was for 5 years. Dr. Cullen explained that by having a 5 year lease then the cost of the machines would be prorated over a longer period allowing the district to budget equally for the cost the next 5 years. It was also noted by Dennis Brueggemann that Watts Copy System is a reputable company that services many school districts in the immediate area. The lease will be for four (4) copiers. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve the purchase of a Dell workstation laptop for Dr. Cullen at a cost of **\$1,707.58 plus software purchase of \$51.51** was made by Dennis Brueggemann. Seconded by Mary Kane. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

NO EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD

PERSONNEL

Motion to approve the employment of Shirley Davis as principal/curriculum consultant for 2009-10 at a cost of **\$70,000 (200 days)** effective August 6, 2009 was made by Mary Kane. Seconded by Dennis Brueggemann. Mr. Brueggemann asked whether the 200 days would affect the maximum TRS requirement of 120 days for retirees. Dr. Cullen stated that it would not since TRS informed the district that the curriculum consultant position is not covered by TRS. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve a Reading Specialist position for 2009-10 was made by Mary Kane. Seconded by Dennis Brueggemann. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve posting the PE Teacher position for 2009-10 was made by Mary Kane. Seconded by Dennis Brueggemann. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Motion to approve the financial administrator (Jeff Endres) contract for 2009-10 at a cost not to exceed **480 hours at \$100/hr. plus expenses of \$5,000.00** was made by Dennis Brueggemann. Seconded by Mary Kane. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve the FOP budget for 2009-10 as presented was made by Mary Kane. Seconded by Dennis Brueggemann. Total budget for fiscal year 2010 remains the same as last fiscal year **\$58,000.00 total**. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

The next FOP meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at Venice Elementary School.

ADJOURNMENT

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

