

Nippersink School District 2 & Richmond-Burton Community High School District #157  
Special Joint Board of Education Meeting  
May 19, 2009

MINUTES

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education, Nippersink School District #2 and Richmond-Burton High School District #157, was called to order by President Patty Anderson and President Dennis Holian, respectively, at 6:00 P.M. in the Nippersink Middle School Gymnasium.

D2 Members Present: Bianchini, Bushing, Maurer, Anderson, Samuel, Callaby, Langlois  
Members Absent: None

D157 Members Present: Holtz, Schleibinger, Wisinski, Thomas, Bushing, Busch, Holian  
Members Absent: None

Also Present: Dan Oest, Superintendent and Paul Hain, Business Manager

**Additions to the Agenda**

None

**Public Input**

None

**Re-organization Feasibility Study Presentation**

President Anderson explained that the purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the Unit District Consolidation Feasibility Study, an initiative that began over a year ago. Through the Illinois Association of School Board's, Dr. Oest discovered that grant funds were available for this process. Interviews were held with consultants and Johnson Associates was chosen to provide the study.

Dr. Don Johnson and Mr. Walt Pleviak introduced themselves and distributed bound copies of the study. Dr. Johnson complemented the Boards on being fine stewards of the finances, as well as producing impressive academic scores.

Dr. Johnson began by outlining the steps towards re-organization which begin with a Committee of 10 (made up of Board members and/or community members) being formed and a petition filed by voter signatures or both School Boards. A local public hearing would then be conducted by the Regional Superintendent of Schools. Following State Superintendent approval, a successful referendum would result in the formation of a unit district. This process generally takes between 6 and 18 months.

The incentives for re-organization were presented including supplementary state aid payments which include: 1) The General State Aid Difference Payment, 2) Teacher Salary Difference Payment, 3) Deficit Difference Payment, 4) Supplementary payments for each certified employee for 1,2, or 3 years, equal to \$4,000.

The "purpose" of the study given to Johnson Associates to complete was to review the current districts' organization and to develop a recommendation on reorganization into one district. The study provides a financial analysis of existing district and proposed revenues, expenditure, and fund balances including 5 year projections. Analysis was also made of facilities, curriculum, transportation, and staffing. Existing enrollments and demographic studies were also incorporated into the 5-year plan.

Current economic conditions were taken into consideration when reviewing Education Fund Revenues, Assessed Valuations and Tax Rates, as well as the effects of PTELL. Based on data collected, it is estimated that the D2 Education Fund will show a negative balance in approximately 2-3 years and D157 in approximately 3-4 years.

General State Aid formula differences between Unit Districts and Elementary Schools were discussed. Site and Facility capacities are expected to be sufficient until 2015. Students in both districts are receiving an excellent education based on test scores, with a small drop off at the high school level, which is normal.

Curriculum Opportunities with a Unit District is the main reason for re-organization. Advantages include a vertical and horizontal alignment, the need and benefit of employing a Curriculum Director, articulation from pre-school to college possible, etc.

In conclusion, Johnson Associates recommend that the two districts consolidate into a community unit school district and recommend a tax rate no lower than the current combined rate which should not cause a tax increase for taxpayers in the district, however, due to the effects of tax cap legislation that has eroded the current voter-approved limits in each district, higher rates may be used if a petition is filed (Restoration of the voter approved rate on a new unit district would increase taxes by \$1200 on a \$300,000 home). If using current tax rates, the new district may need a rate increase referendum within five years after formation, based on various assumptions and conservative estimates in the consultants predictions.

A question and answer period followed the presentation. Guests were also invited to make comments and ask questions.

Dr. Johnson thanked the Boards for the opportunity to provide the study. Both Board Presidents, on behalf of their Boards, thanked Johnson Associates for their services and opinions.

### **Adjournment**

Motion by Maurer and seconded by Samuel to adjourn the Joint Board of Education Meeting for Nippersink District 2 at 8:20 p.m.

Roll Call

Ayes: Bushing, Callaby, Bianchini, Maurer, Samuel, Langlois, Anderson

Nays: None

Motion Carried 7 - 0

Motion by Wisinski and seconded by Busch to adjourn the Joint Board of Education Meeting for Richmond-Burton Community High School District #157 at 8:21.p.m.

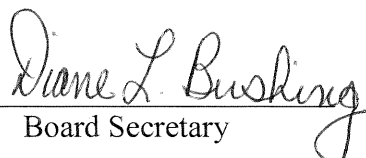
Roll Call

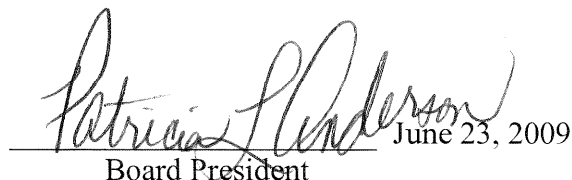
Ayes: Thomas, Schleibinger, Busch, Wisinski, Holtz, Bushing, Holian

Nays: None

Motion Carried 7 - 0

ATTEST:

  
Board Secretary

  
Board President

June 23, 2009