INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 813

LAKE CITY, MN

REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2009

6:00 P.M.

LINCOLN HIGH MEDIA CENTER

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dawn Balow, Andrea Hamilton, Randy Meincke, Michael Noll (arrived at 6:05 p.m.), Heath Oeltjen, Douglas Pflaum, Karen England

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Craig Junker, Greg Berge, Jim Borgschatz, Margie Harkins, Patricia Arndt, Jim Klennert, Valerie Loppnow, Andrew Eggenberger, Tracy Oliver, Becky Reich, Becky Siems, Kara Majchrzak, Cindy Martin, Marlin Greer, Ed Snyder, Jim Brooks, Todd Siewert, Jim Schmitt from Springsted, Michael David and Brent Jones of Johnson Controls Incorporated.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Douglas Pflaum at 6:02 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Motion by England, seconded by Hamilton, to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: England/Hamilton to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting on November 16, 2009
2. Payment of bills as presented by the Superintendent for audit.
3. Approve Treasurer’s Report

Motion carried unanimously.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION/REPORTS: The schedule of upcoming meetings was reviewed. The Organizational meeting will be held on Monday, January 4, 2010 in the library at Lincoln High School. The Regular January meeting will be held on Thursday, January 21, 2010, at Lincoln High School.

TRUTH IN TAXATION

Superintendent Junker provided an overview regarding the current budget; taxes payable for the next year (2010); information pertaining to the sources of revenue and distribution of the revenue and expenditures; and the proposed increase and the reasons for the change. The public was given time to comment and ask questions. Superintendent Junker clarified that the state legislature has the sole authority to create levy options for school districts. The state legislature establishes the overall tax policy for the state, including: income and sales tax levels, property tax classifications, and rates. Every school district operates under the same laws. The School Board of Independent School District 813 resolved that the levy to be levied in 2009 and to be collected in 2010 was set at $2,673,087.37. The main reason for the increase was due to the facilities improvement project (Alternative Facilities Levy).

ALTERNATIVE FACILITIES

Jim Schmitt, Vice-President at Springsted, provided an overview of the options for selling the alternative facilities bonds: tax-exempt bonds, Build American Bonds (BABS), and Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCBs). Tax exempt bonds are the most common form of bonding for school districts. This type of bond will likely have the highest tax impact of the three options. BABS are only available in 2009-2010 and are part of the ARRA program. In the present market, the net cost to the Lake City tax payers would be less than tax-exempt bonds, provided the district submits the application for 35% of the interest cost and the district uses that money to pay a portion of the debt service payment. QSCBs are only available in 2009-2010 and are also part of the ARRA program. It is likely that QSCBs will have a tax impact similar to the other options but will cost less over the term of the bonds. The MDE is currently uncertain if it will open the application process for QSCBs in 2010.

Jim recommended that the school board delay a decision until the January 21 meeting. He pointed out that a fourth option may be available involving bill H.R. 2847. Jim will keep abreast of this option and keep Superintendent Junker posted.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS: High School Principal Greg Berge proposed the following change for fall conferences in 2010 as recommended by the High School Site Team:

October 18 (MEA Monday) -- Scheduled conferences for at-risk students (4 hrs.) October 20 (MEA Wednesday) -- Staff Development (3 hrs.)

November 16 at Quarter Break -- (3 hrs.)

November 18 at Quarter Break -- (3 hrs.)

Principal Berge wanted to make the Board aware and thank all the staff who sent sixty-three “Baskets for the Troops.” A special thanks to Joanne Gilmore for organizing this program. Mr. Berge, Mr. Borgschatz and several teachers attended a Statewide Technology Conference. Everyone who attended thought it was very informative and provided many ideas for the future.

Elementary Principal Jim Borgschatz reported that K-6 collected 1300 pounds of food for the food shelf and $750 in cash. It was a joint effort with staff and students. Mr. Borgschatz is developing a plan to provide extra reading help for sixth graders that are at risk of not passing the MCA test. Parents will be contacted prior to starting any extra help. This would take place after school for one day a week. Native American Jack Peel will once again be spending a week with the fifth grade students. He will be here the week of January 11th-14th. Our 5th and 6th grade band concert and our 4th -6th grade choir concert were very well attended. Our fifth grade DARE graduation also took place this month.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION REPORT: Margie Harkins, Community Education Director, reported the Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) fall classes and events finished with a Grandparent’s Christmas event on December 10, 2009. Some of the winter classes are already full. The ECFE will be holding a garage sale on Saturday, February 27, 2010. This will let families recycle slightly used toys and clothes. Parents must sign up for a table and are responsible for their sales. Latchkey will be open on December 28, 29, and 30. The next Early Childhood Screening will be in February. All community members playing basketball, walking in the halls or using the weight room are asked to sign an insurance waiver. These forms are located outside the Community Ed office and in the weight room.

OLD BUSINESS

Facilities Improvement Plan Phase II: Within the Board Packets, School Board members were provided with a written report, clarifying the rational for each of the Phase II projects that the Facilities Committee is recommending. This summary covered each area of work and listed the major projects in each area. The board reviewed the report and discussion ensued. If every project remains in Phase II, the total cost will be $4,760,557, which includes an $800,000 buy down of Phase I. The tax impact equals $2.20/month per $100,000 home value (including the buy down). The total tax impact of Phase I and Phase II for the average house in the district is approximately $126.00.

Superintendent Junker pointed out that ideally the school board will vote on the scope of Phase II at the January 4 school board meeting, so a referendum is able to take place in late April or early May. Ultimately, however, he noted that it was important for the school board to feel comfortable with Phase II before going to vote. Chairman Pflaum thanked the members of the Facilities Committee for the significant number of hours spent determining the scope of Phase II projects.

Superintendent Junker shared with the school board a discrepancy between the scope of Phase I’s health and safety projects and the maximum amount the district is able to bond and asked Michael David, of Johnson Controls Incorporated (JCI), to address this concern. Michael noted that although these projects total about $14 million, the amount of the alternative facilities bonds for District 813 cannot exceed $13,620,000. Michael felt that a significant amount of this difference could be made up with interest earnings on the bond proceeds and by receiving competitive bids on the projects.

NEW BUISINESS

Motion by England, second by Hamilton, to accept Michael Griebenow’s resignation from his eighth grade baseball coaching position. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Meincke, second by Hamilton, to accept John Zimmerman’s resignation from his eighth grade girls’ basketball coaching position. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Hamilton, second by Meincke, to approve John Zimmermann’s letter of resignation for his Head boys’ track and field coaching position. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Oeltjen, second by Meincke, to approve Erin Madson as the new eighth grade girls’ basketball coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by England, second by Oeltjen, to approve Eric Averbeck as the long-term substitute in the math department. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Meincke, second by Oeltjen, to certify the final 2009 pay 2010 tax levy as follows:

General Fund $1,705,178.26

Community Service 122,883.49

General Debt Service 845,025.62

$2,673,087.37

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Meincke, second by England, to approve the 2009-2010 seniority list and authorize its posting for staff review. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Meincke, second by England, to approve and support the District’s application to the Minnesota State High School League Foundation for a grant to offset the cost of AED/CPR training for coaches and the purchase of a mobile(off-campus) AED and storage cabinet. Motion carried unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Race to the Top: Superintendent Junker explained that Race to the Top (RTTT) is a federal competitive grant that will award a total of $4.35 billion to about 10 – 15 states. The MDE feels confident that Minnesota will receive this grant. The final selection criteria are grouped around six assurance areas: State Success Factors, Standards and Assessment, Data Systems to Support Instruction, Great Teachers and Leaders, Turning Around Low Achieving Schools, and General Selection Criteria. Even though Minnesota will not find out if it was awarded the grant until March/April, school districts need to commit to the grant by signing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) by January 13.

According to the MDE, Lake City stands to gain about $1,667,390 over four years. Of this amount, $1,344,460 would come via the state’s Q-Comp program and approximately $322,930 would come via RTTT over four years.

School board members, teachers, and administrators need to discuss RTTT and Q-Comp to determine our district’s level of interest. Superintendent Junker pointed out his belief that the money should not necessarily drive the decision to pursue RTTT or Q-Comp. If there are positive components in these opportunities that we (as board members, teachers, and administrators) deem as important and constructive to student learning, our district should consider pursuing them. The school board will need to further discuss this matter on January 4.

District Strategic Plan: Based on the district’s efforts to develop a district wide strategic plan this past fall, Superintendent Junker reported that he and the administrative team have continued to develop the district’s core beliefs – to go along with the already established vision, priorities, and goals. Based on data, Dr. Junker hopes to present the core beliefs at the January 21 school board meeting.

BOARD REPORTS: None.

CLOSED SESSION: Motion by Hamilton, seconded by England, to go to closed session to discuss strategy regarding teacher negotiations. This motion was made at 8:41p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Oeltjen, second by Balow, to return to open session. This motion was made at 9:42 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Meincke, second by England, to adjourn, 9:43 PM.

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Douglas Pflaum, Chairperson Andrea Hamilton, Clerk