

On Line With the Board

The following actions, comments, or discussions took place at the January 11, 2012 meeting of the board of education.

1. President Leacher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Board Members Chuck Bushart and Russ Billau were absent.
3. Eric Peacock, Jan Kiger, and Diane Hovatter were given the Oath of Office.
4. President Leacher called for nominations to elect board officers for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer for the 2011/2012 school year. The following is the nomination and new officers.
 - Janice Kiger nominated John Leacher for President. Vote was 5-0 to elect John Leacher as President.
 - John Leacher nominated Chuck Bushart for Vice President. Vote was 5-0 to elect Chuck Bushart as Vice President.
 - John Leacher nominated Rita Vershum for Secretary. Vote was 5-0 to elect Rita Vershum as Secretary.
 - Rita Vershum nominated Janice Kiger for Treasurer. Vote was 5-0 to elect Janice Kiger as Treasurer.
5. Symons Elementary teachers Carolyn Wetzler and Jenny Vandael were present at the meeting to present Certificates of Appreciation to the board in recognition of School Board Appreciation Month. The staff and students of Symons Elementary also made a video presentation for the board.
6. The board approved a proposal from Symons Elementary teacher Stephanie Moore for an overnight education fieldtrip to take her class of 3rd grade students to Mackinaw City on May 3 – 4, 2012.
7. Symons Elementary Principal Tammy Reich and Literacy teachers Tonya Saragoza and Melissa Reeves presented information on Symons Reading Initiative Data as well as data in Math and Writing for Symons students. Mrs. Reich and staff will present additional information later in the school year comparing the fall data to the January data to show the students' progress.
8. The minutes of the December 15, 2011 meeting and approval for payment of bills/reimbursement of expenses were approved.
9. The purchase of two new 71 passenger school buses with a cost of \$80,519 each was approved. Bond funds will be used for this purchase.
10. The Best Practices Incentive Resolution was outlined and approved.
11. Superintendent Girbach reported on the following:
 - Student Issues
 - DECA students performed well at their recent District Competition. 19 students attended the competition (14 students were new members this year) and 13 students earned medals. Six students will move on to the State competition.
 - MHS Sophomore student Mark Evans received a Youth of the Year Award for Community Service from the Milan Chamber of Commerce.
 - Mid-Year NWEA testing is underway in grade 1-8.
 - Staff Issues

- The district received a Thank You letter from the United Way. Our district contributed \$7989 to the United Way this year. Our contribution was increased by \$1787 from last year.
 - Pat Huling a longtime volunteer at Milan High School died this past week. Pat and her husband have been providing popcorn at MHS Athletic events for many years.
 - The district has been asked to participate in a new Federal Civil Rights Department report this year. The districts new Data Specialist Maggie Bacon will be completing the report.
 - Speech Pathologist Ann Babcock recently gave birth to a baby boy – Elisha Robert
 - Symons Elementary teacher John Evans’ brother-in-law recently died.
 - High School teacher Steve Porter’s mother-in-law recently died.
 - The district was recently featured in the SET SEG news brochure as one of eight school districts in the State to have earned a Loss Control Award.
- Bond Updates
 - The new Transportation Facility is up and running. They are still waiting for some of their back-ordered furniture and some finish work to be completed.
 - The new high school addition is well underway. The utility work is completed and footings are being poured this week.
 - Foundation work on the new High School addition has been held up due to rain.
12. Assistant Superintendent Helber reported on several curriculum issues. Teachers in several of the buildings are piloting curriculum in Math and Social Studies. Also, the ELA committee meetings are scheduled in January/February. The next District Accreditation meeting is scheduled for January 18th at 4:15 p.m.
 13. Board Member Kiger reminded the board of the Legislative Breakfast scheduled for February 14th.
 14. Board Member Peacock asked about the criteria for choosing new curriculum textbooks for the Social Studies subject. He also inquired about the district’s review of achievement scores of students that are part of a subgroup.
 15. President Leacher adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.