

**UTICA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
Bemis Junior High School  
12500 19 Mile Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48313  
April 25, 2011**

**Attending: C. Klenow, G. Klida, C. Territo, M. Templeton, D. Meyers, J. Prybys**  
**Absent: R. Ross**

**1.-2. Meeting Call to Order**

Dr. Klenow called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance performed by Bemis Junior High School students.

**3. Minutes**

Motion by Klida, supported by Meyers, to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

**4A. Bemis Junior High School Student and Staff Presentation**

Dr. Christine M. Johns introduced Tom Yaw, Principal of Bemis Junior High School. Mr. Yaw introduced students and staff who demonstrated how Bemis Learners are Tomorrow's Leaders.

Through their presentation, the Bemis students and staff highlighted instructional programs and strategies that ensure increased student achievement for all students.

Comments from the Board of Education were entertained. Board members thanked the Bemis Community for hosting sharing a glimpse of how their caring and committed learning community comes together to meet the needs of all children.

**4B. Outstanding Teachers of the Year – National Board Certification**

Mr. Robert Van Camp, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, introduced the recognition of the Outstanding Teachers of the Year and the National Board Certified Teacher.

Mr. Van Camp began with the Macomb County Outstanding Teacher of the Year Awards are given annually to honor and reward teachers who have achieved the highest standards of excellence in their profession. The awards program was created out of a conviction that a quality public education system is essential to the health and vitality of our community.

Mr. Van Camp continued by introducing the districts Outstanding Teachers at the elementary, junior high and high school levels. The honorees for 2010-2011 are Dayna Thompson, second grade teacher at Browning Elementary School; Sarah E. Miller, who teaches English at Shelby Junior High School and Kristi Black, English teachers at Henry Ford II High School.

Mr. Van Camp stated that all teachers make a difference. Excellent teachers make a profound difference in the lives of children and young people.

Mr. Van Camp continued by introducing Theresa Hasenauer, as one of the outstanding educators in the Utica Community Schools. Theresa achieved a milestone accomplishment by becoming a National Board Certified Teacher of Literacy: Reading-Language Arts/Early and Middle Childhood.

National Board Certification is an advanced teaching credential. It complements, but does not replace, a state's teacher license. National Board Certification is achieved upon successful completion of a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize effective and accomplished teachers who meet high standards based on what teachers should know and be able to do.

As part of the certification process, candidates complete 10 assessments that are reviewed by trained teachers in their certificate areas. The assessments include four portfolio entries that feature teaching practice and six constructed response exercises that assess content knowledge. Mrs. Hasenauer was assessed in six areas including: reading comprehension; oral language acquisition skills for learners of English as a new language; emergent literacy; analyzing student reading; interpreting visual text; and writing development

Comments from the Board of Education were entertained.

#### **4C. Henry Ford II Academic Scholars**

Mr. Robert Monroe, Executive Administrator of Schools, presented the Academic Scholars at Henry Ford II High School. These seniors have distinguished themselves by electing a rigorous program of study and maintaining a high academic standing during the past seven semesters.

In addition to their commitment to academic excellence, the Ford II Academic Scholars have participated in many curricular and extracurricular activities, including National Honor Society, Athletics, Student Council, Marching Band, Key Club, SkillsUSA, DECA, SADD and Foreign Language Clubs. As well, several of these scholars have been recognized for their work in Drama, Choir, Forensics and much more. All of these superb students plan to continue their education in the fall at the university level.

Mr. Steven Beyer, principal of Ford II High School, introduced the Ford II scholars. Assistant Principals, Mark McLoughlin, Lisa McDill and Ken Mardon read the names of the scholars.

Comments from the Board of Education were entertained.

#### **4D. Macomb Daily County Wide Spelling Bee**

Mr. Robert Van Camp introduced the Havel Elementary student who took third place in this year's Macomb Daily County Wide Spelling Bee recognition. Spelling bees are thought to have originated from Noah Webster's spelling books, first published in 1786. Because Webster's spelling books were important parts of the school curriculum of American elementary-school students for many generations, it's easy to see how spelling bees developed over time. To be successful, a student needs more than good rote memorization skills. Successful spelling comes more from understanding the origins of words. For more than 10 years, the Macomb Daily has been sponsoring spelling bees for county students.

Comments from the Board of Education were entertained.

#### **5. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Christine Johns, Superintendent of Schools, reported to the Board that she would recognize and celebrate student achievement in our schools.

First, she recognized students and staff for the recent Michigan Educational Assessment Programs (MEAP) scores and stated how pleased she is that the scores have once again shown that UCS students demonstrate strong and stable performance on standardized tests. She continued by saying there are 11 schools where students earned 100 percent in specific areas of the test.

As these results indicate, our students achieve at a higher level in our classrooms and she was happy to report that they continue to experience that same level of success outside our classrooms in statewide academic tournaments. Dr. Johns highlighted some of the recent successes:

- Four Utica Community Schools teams are competing in the state Science Olympiad finals after taking top county honors, including two first place finishes. Teams from Stevenson, Utica Academy for International Studies, Heritage Junior High School and Malow Junior High School will be traveling to Lansing this weekend for the state competition.
- Five Shelby Junior High School students have earned a Best of Show in the Michigan Student Film and Video Festival. The students earned the first place finish in the sixth through eighth grade division for a music video they created for the song "Telephone."
- A Utica Academy for International Studies team has won the 2011 State Championship High School Quiz Bowl tournament. More than 700 Michigan high school students competed in this Jeopardy-style competition which covers all areas of study.
- Nine UCS teams have earned honors in the statewide Destination Imagination program, including a team from Henry Ford II High School that qualified for the Global finals. Other teams honored include groups from DeKeyser, Graebner and Havel Elementary Schools, Utica Academy for Academic Studies, and Eisenhower and Utica High Schools. Destination Imagination is a tournament that challenges students to think on their feet, work together and devise original solutions for a specific tournament challenge.
- Two UCS students have been named to the All State Journalism Team by the Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association, placing them among the state's 15 best student journalists.

Dr. Johns also acknowledged the successful Annual K–12 Fine Arts Festival held earlier this month at Ewell Elementary. The festival featured more than 2,000 pieces of student art work from all of our schools and was extremely well received by everyone who attended the six public showings.

Dr. Johns concluded her report by reminding the community about the sixth annual College Fair held Tuesday, April 26 at Henry Ford II High School. Universities and colleges from Michigan and surrounding states provided students and parents with information and answered questions.

**6. Community Correspondence**

Community correspondence from Mr. Gingery was acknowledged.

**7. Public Communication**

No requests for public communication were presented.

**8A. Career Focus Luncheon**

Board of Education President, Dr. Carol Klenow presented the resolution for the Career Focus Luncheon. She stated that more than 2,000 Utica Community Schools sixth graders will learn about careers and the importance of education plays in achieving important goals when they meet with area business leaders at the annual Focus Luncheon May 4 – 5, 2011.

Career Focus is co-sponsored by the Utica Community Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence, the Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Advisor & Source Newspapers.

To show the district's support of this event, a resolution recognizing the significance of the Career Focus Luncheon is recommended.

Motion by Klida, supported by Territo, that the Board of Education adopt the resolution in support of the annual Career Focus Luncheon, scheduled for May 4 and 5, 2011 at the Sterling Inn.

Mrs. Templeton called the roll. All yeas: Klida, Territo, Meyers, Prybys, Klenow, Templeton.

Absent: Ross

Motion carried.

**8B. National Teacher Day – May 3, 2011**

Dr. Klenow presented the National Teacher Day resolution. Tuesday, May 3, 2011 is designated as National Teacher Day and dedicated to acknowledging the contributions and dedication of Michigan Teachers and Teachers across the nation.

Utica Community Schools is grateful to its dedicated group of teachers for their ongoing work to educate the district's nearly 30,000 students. Few professionals impact the lives of children and community members as do our teachers.

They are educational leaders who are committed to student achievement with the expectation that all children have the right to a rigorous, high-quality education that meets their individual needs. UCS teachers encourage and empower each and every student to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to be successful, contributing members of a diverse community and global society.

Motion by Meyers, supported by Klida, that the Board of Education approve a resolution proclaiming May 3, 2011 as National Teacher Day in Utica Community Schools.

Mrs. Templeton called the roll. All yeas: Klida, Territo, Meyers, Prybys, Klenow, Templeton.

Absent: Ross

Motion carried.

### **8C. Macomb Intermediate School District Budget**

Dr. Klenow presented the Macomb Intermediate School District Budget resolution. The Utica Community Schools Board of Education was asked to comply with Section 624 of the Revised School Code and adopt a resolution expressing its support of the proposed 2011 Macomb Intermediate School District budget. A copy of the budget was previously provided to all board members. Mr. Dan Meyers Board of Education Trustee, was in attendance at the MISD annual budget meeting held on March 31, 2011.

Motion by Territo, supported by Meyers, that the Board of Education adopt the attached resolution for approval of the proposed Macomb Intermediate School District Budget for the 2011-2012 school year.

Mrs. Templeton called the roll. All yeas: Klida, Territo, Meyers, Prybys, Klenow, Templeton.

Absent: Ross

Motion carried.

### **9A. Financial Update**

Ms. Stephanie Eagen, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, reported on the governor's proposal and key 2012 budget factors. Her update included reductions the Board approved in March.

Ms. Eagen stated that future concerns to the district based on the Senate proposal include a kindergarten funding loss of \$4.7 million revenue for all day kindergarten. The healthcare insurance impact could be \$3 to \$3.5 million and the impact of categorical funding due to declining enrollment and the renaissance zone could be \$150,000. She concluded that the total in the change in student blended count would equate to \$200,000.

Dr. Johns added that it is imperative that parents contact their local state legislator regarding the impact the proposals would have on instruction.

Discussion was held on that if all district employees contributed toward healthcare, it could mean an additional \$3 million in savings.

Dr. Johns stated that it is important to remind the public that all groups in Utica Community Schools took a salary step freezes.

The Board of Education accepted the report as presented.

**9B. Budget Reductions – Hand Carry**

Ms. Eagen stated that the governor's proposed reduction in funding has forced Utica Community Schools to develop 2011-2012 budget reductions to reduce costs. The district has identified \$9.1 million in reductions to the general fund budget and is recommending that these reductions be incorporated into the 2011-2012 budget:

Ms. Eagen reviewed the one time fund transfer of emergency building and site, Community Education operating fund transfer and the one time release of benefits obligation for a total savings of \$7,034,000.

She proposed the transfer of school store internal funds, a 25% reduction in building allocations, a 50% reduction of secondary textbook replacements and central office department reductions for a total of \$2,094,000.

Ms. Eagen updated the Board on the budget projections and including the March 14 Board approved adjustments, the remaining 2011-2012 projection would be \$19.8 million.

Motion by Territo, supported by Klida, that the Board of Education approves budget reductions as presented to be incorporated into the 2011-2012 budget.

It was clarified for the Board that the reduction of secondary textbooks is for replacement books only.

Motion carried.

**9C1. Site Acquisition – Policy #7100**

Mr. Mark Davey, Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services, presented for a second reading Policy #7100 – Site Acquisition.

Motion by Templeton, supported by Meyers, that the Board of Education approve the revisions to Policy #7100 - Site Acquisition as presented.

Motion carried.

**9C2. Disposal of Surplus Land or Buildings – Policy #7105**

Mr. Davey presented for a second reading Policy #7105 – Disposal of Surplus Land or Buildings.

Motion by Territo, supported by Templeton, that the Board of Education approve the revisions to Policy #7105 -Disposal of Surplus Land or Buildings as presented.

Motion carried.

**9D. Student Expulsion**

Dr. Johns stated, that based on review of the case, she affirmed the recommendation of Mr. Steven Bernier, principal of Davis Junior High School, for permanent expulsion of a student for criminal sexual conduct. This act is in violation of Board of Education Policies 5100 and 5105: criminal sexual conduct section 1311 (2) of the Revised School Code of the State of Michigan.

The parent of this student received formal notification of the appeal process to the Board of Education. No request for appeal was received.

Motion by Templeton, supported by Meyers, that the Board of Education permanently expels Student # 1160784142 from the Utica Community Schools.

Motion carried.

**10A. Changes in Certified Personnel**

Ms. Eagen presented the Changes in Certified Personnel since the March 28, 2011 Board of Education meeting.

Motion by Templeton, supported by Territo, that the Board of Education approves the changes in certified personnel as presented.

Motion carried.

**11A. Financial Report - Part I and II**

Ms. Jill Tomyn, Budget Director, presented the Financial report on Part I, General Operating Fund as of March 31, 2011, included with the schedule of bills.

Part II, as of March 31, 2011, reports on the status of the Capital Projects, Trust and Agency, Enrichment, Internal Service and Cafeteria funds.

The Board of Education accepted the report as presented.

**11B. Schedule of Bills Report**

Ms. Tomyn reviewed the schedule of bills for the General Fund and Capital Project Funds.

GENERAL FUND (March) - SPECIAL.....	\$ 18,049,683.73
GENERAL FUND (03/30/11) .....	\$ 2,145,499.11
GENERAL FUND (04/06/11) .....	\$ 396,913.08
GENERAL FUND (04/13/11) .....	\$ 584,675.23
GENERAL FUND (04/20/11) .....	\$ 2,280,184.68
<b>General Fund Total</b> .....	<b>\$ 23,456,955.83</b>

**BOND 2003:**

CAPITAL PROJECTS 2006 (April) .....	\$ 3,300.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS 2007 (April) .....	\$ 56,298.94
CAPITAL PROJECTS 2008 (April) .....	\$ 1,061,987.91
<b>BOND 2003 Total</b> .....	<b>\$ 1,121,586.85</b>

**BOND 2009:**

CAPITAL PROJECTS 2009 (April) .....	\$328,715.23
CAPITAL PROJECTS 2011 (March) - SPECIAL .....	\$575.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS 2011 (April) .....	\$267,807.59
<b>BOND 2009 Total</b> .....	<b>\$ 597,097.82</b>

**11C1. Letter of Agreement with Metis-FLAP**

Mr. Van Camp reviewed the contract with Metis Associates, Inc. that sets forth the provisions for Metis to provide professional services in the development and implementation of a formative and summative evaluation of the Foreign Language Assistance Program grant for the 2010-2011 school year. The services will include conducting visits to participating schools each project year and interviewing project personnel; developing survey instruments and administering surveys to participating administrators, teachers and parents; collecting and reviewing program documentation; analyzing and tabulating participant data; and preparing required annual reports, including executive summaries.

Metis Associates, New York City-headquartered research and consulting firm, brings the requisite skills and experience to evaluate this project. Given its collective experience in designing and carrying out large-scale education initiatives, Metis is uniquely qualified to conduct this evaluation. It has a large, multi-talented and experienced team of researchers from which to draw.

Motion by Templeton, supported by Meyers, that the Utica Community Schools Board of Education approve the contract with Metis Associates for the period April 26, 2011 through September 30, 2011 in the amount of \$25,500.

Motion carried.

**12. Board Items**

Mr. Territo reminded the Board of Education about the May 5 Macomb County School Boards Association Leadership Dinner.

**13. Adjournment**

Motion by Territo, supported by Templeton, to adjourn at 9:23 p.m.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Templeton, Secretary  
Utica Community Schools  
Board of Education