

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 172
ADAMS COUNTY, ILLINOIS
HELD ON DECEMBER 9, 2015 – 4:30 p.m.**

Meeting Convened

The Board of Education of School District No. 172, Adams County, Illinois, met in special session December 9, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Office, Room 214, located at 1416 Maine Street, Quincy, Illinois, in said school district.

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Ali, who directed the secretary to call the roll. On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Ali, Bailey, Nichols, Rose, Troup and Whitfield; and the following member was absent: Member McNay. Whereupon the President declared a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Ali led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Questions and Comments

President Ali opened the meeting to questions and comments to members of the Board, by members of the public and employees of the district, in compliance with state statutes.

Mr. Jeff Kerkhoff commented that today is the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and he appreciated reciting of the Pledge. He asked why the P.E. waiver meeting was held at a special meeting instead of during a regular meeting. Attorney Penn responded that the statute requires the hearing be held during a special meeting.

Open Public hearing on the ISBE Renewal of Waiver of Section 27-5 and 27-6 of School Code (Physical Education Waiver)

President Ali opened the public hearing on the Physical Education Waiver at 4:35 p.m.

Testimony from staff and others

Ms. Peggy Pryor, Quincy Senior High physical education teacher for 36 years, addressed the Board in opposition to the PE waiver. She said she is an advocate of physical education and for the youth of Quincy, Illinois. She is against any waiver of the mandate of physical education. Over the past 20 years of being able to apply for a waiver of the PE mandate, District #172 has applied and received one. Most of the years the rationale has been that student performance can be improved. Over the past 20 years, she said she questions if this has been the case. It seems that at most of our schools, student performance has declined. She asked if it is because we are not allowing our kids to get out and be active. She said that there are many research studies that show the direct correlation of being physically active and academic success. Instead of taking students out of physical education, she said the district should be putting their PE class before the class they struggle with. Students should be taking brain breaks during the day. District #172 teachers are expected to provide the best education for each of our students. She said when you allow the elimination of any subject, you hinder students and when you allow students to waiver out

of physical education, you hinder their health.

Carol Frericks, Secondary Curriculum Director, presented an overview of the rationale for the waiver request. She said with approval of this waiver, District #172 can improve student performance. There will be more flexibility for students who are not proficient to enroll in additional courses of English, reading, and/or mathematics. It will provide students with the opportunity to participate in the Advanced Placement Program courses, school-to-work apprenticeships, fine arts courses, vocational classes, College and Career Readiness courses and foreign languages to improve their academic performance. The waiver of physical education—on a case-by-case basis—would provide time in the instructional day for students to receive intervention services, to eliminate academic deficiencies.

Member Nichols asked how many students were affected by the waiver. Ms. Frericks said there are 63 students at junior and senior high who have waived physical education for medical reasons, career readiness, or academic intervention.

Close Public Hearing

President Ali asked if there were any other comments regarding the P.E. waiver. Hearing none, he closed the hearing at 4:40 p.m.

Approve Physical Education Waiver

It was moved by Member Bailey and seconded by Member Troup to approve the Physical Education Waiver and authorize submission of waiver application to ISBE requesting Physical Education Waiver (Doc. Reg. No. 2818). On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Ali, Bailey, Nichols, Rose, Troup and Whitfield; and the following member voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: Member McNay. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Regional Safe School Cooperative Education Program Grant (RSSCEP)

Ms. Frericks told the Board that the Regional Office of Education has been awarded funds through the RSSCEP Grant to offer a work study program for students in the ACRSS Alternative Program. The grant will pay for a teacher's expenses, salary and travel to oversee the program. Student workers would be paid by the partnering employers. The program is for the 2016-2017 school year.

It was moved by Member Whitfield and seconded by Member Bailey to approve the RSSCEP Grant. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Ali, Bailey, Nichols, Rose, Troup and Whitfield; and the following member voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: Member McNay. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Adjourn

At 4:45 p.m., it was moved by Member Bailey and seconded by Member Whitfield that the special meeting adjourn. On the call of the roll, the following members voted Aye: Members Ali, Bailey, Nichols, Rose, Troup and Whitfield; and the following member voted Nay: None; and the following member was absent: Member McNay. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried and the special meeting was duly adjourned.

Sayed Ali
President



Phyllis Stewart
Secretary

