

News Release
Mulberry Grove Community Unit School District #1
Special Board of Education Meeting @ 6:45 p.m.
Tentative Tax Levy Hearing and Regular November 2009 Meeting

The Mulberry Grove Community Unit School District #1 Board of Education met on November 23rd, 2009 @ 6:45 p.m. for a Tentative Tax Levy Hearing and then at 7:00 p.m. for their regular monthly Board Meeting.

During the special meeting Superintendent Gauch provided a 5-year history of Tax Levy's and Tax Rates for the district. He also discussed the Levy process and the unknown factor it presents for school districts. The Board then agreed that they would meet prior to the December Board meeting to have a Truth in Taxation hearing to present a levy that is over a 5% increase from the previous year.

During the regular meeting monthly bills, minutes from the previous month & treasurer's report were approved for the Regular September BOE meeting. Present were members Mark Blankenship, Bill Johnson, Keith Steiner, Bob Ketchum, Jim Quick and Tonya Jett. Also present were Superintendent, Mike Gauch; Principals: Annette Hartlieb and Ryan Bauer; Guests: Teacher, Dianne Neathery, and Bill Walker, Greenville Advocate *All votes 7-0 unless noted otherwise.

Principals Annette Hartlieb and Ryan Bauer presented data from the ISAT testing from the previous year as well as strategies to help the district improve in all areas of the test. During Old Business Superintendent Gauch discussed the meeting with Ernie Chappel of First National Bank of Vandalia regarding QZAB funding. Mr. Chappel informed Mr. Gauch that the bank would be willing to finance the entire allotment of QZAB money or the district. Mr. Gauch also provided the Board initial pricing on the scope of the work to be covered by the QZAB bond.

During New Business Mr. Gauch discussed that he has had an initial meeting with the MGEA to discuss the upcoming contract negotiations. The board put together a negotiation team that will meet with the MGEA and complete the contract negotiations. He also discussed E-Rate reimbursement from last year that will be coming to the district, and the completion of a sidewalk by Mr. Elam's classes. The board also had the first reading of the possible policy changes from Press Plus.

The Board went to closed session @ 8:05 p.m. to discuss personnel, District finance & negotiations. The Board returned from closed session @ 8:40 p.m. Board action included the following:

1. The Board approved a motion to have APSI complete removal and disposal of asbestos materials in room 13 of the High School
2. The Board approved the re-new the yearly agreement with Press Plus for the 2010 calendar year.
3. The Board approved the motion to hire Mark Bollinger as Asst. Jr. High Basketball Coach for the 2009-2010 season.
4. The Board approved a motion to hire Aristeed Ephron as Asst. Elementary Basketball Coach for the 2009-2010 season
5. The Board approved the itinerary for the Senior Trip
6. The Board approved a motion to accept the resignation of Ms. Jennifer Schuette, effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45P.M.

Next meeting: The Regular October Meeting for the Mulberry Grove Board of Education will be Tuesday, December 15, 2009. There will be a Truth in Taxation Hearing at 6:45. The regular meeting will be held in the District Library @ 7:00 p.m.