

MINUTES OF THE MARGARETTA BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 25, 2009.

The Margarettta Board of Education met in special session at 8:00 P.M. on Monday August 25, 2009 at the Margarettta Elementary Gymnasium.

Mr. Lippert called the meeting to order with roll call: all present.

Mr. Lippert addressed the crowd attending the meeting and stated that the board's agenda is limited to listen to reports from Mr. Kurt and Mr. Hammond, and to give direction on various programs for this school year.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Kurt stated that he and Mr. Roth, Athletic Director, attended a meeting on August 20, 2009 as requested by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio High School Athletic Association. In attendance were representatives from the Ohio Department of Education, Ohio High School Athletic Association, Buckeye Association of School Administrators, South West City School District and West Jefferson School District. The topic of the meeting was centered around the outcomes from South West City decision to eliminate sports programs for the 2009-10 School Year subsequent to the failure of a tax levy on August 4th.

Mr. Kurt stated that after the failure of the levy and the decision to eliminate sports beginning this fall, South West City schools, which has four high schools in the southwestern suburbs of Columbus, lost over 600 students to open enrollment. The unanticipated loss in state aide and increases in transportation costs has exasperated the financial problems the district is facing. What was proposed in the meeting was to have the state legislature enact legislation which would compel the Ohio High School Association to amend their rules during the school year. Currently, OHSAA cannot make rule changes once the school year has begun.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Hammond presented to the Board a financial analysis showing the five prior fiscal year experience of the district and a modified five year forecast for the next five fiscal years. He mentioned that never before in his nearly 22 years of experience in public finance has the landscape for projecting what will happen in the future been so difficult to predict. We are facing many unpredictable variables that could have a dramatic impact on the financial future of the district. The district has seen our financial future improve because of recent events including the teachers taking wage concessions, the classified union agreeing on wage and insurance freezes for last fiscal year, the administration and non-bargaining personnel taking a wage freeze and health care concessions, the reduction in staff positions (two certified and two classified). The result of these factors

has improved our projected financial position by approximately \$250,000 for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

Mr. Hammond then spoke to the impact of a 4.90 mill property tax levy which would provide a positive cash balance in the General Fund of approximately \$425,000 through Fiscal Year 2012.

Mr. Hammond then responded to questions from the audience. The topics included the wages paid out by the district, the state budget concerns, the Governor's solution to school funding, the decision to ask for a 4.90 mill property tax levy.

Mr. Lippert then made the statement that knowing now the impact of cutting or eliminating sports programs had on South West City Schools, the improvement of the financial position as a result of wage and benefit concessions, that the Board has agreed to retain all programs including spring sports, academic challenge and out-of-district travel. The board will remain a vigilant advocate for the students in our community and will continue to fight to preserve the educational experience the district believes is vital to the development of our children.

Mr. Lippert went to say that recently there was an editorial in the Sandusky Register that implied that Margareta should consider consolidating with another district. Mr. Lippert instructed Mr. Kurt and Mr. Hammond to explore the options that currently exist for the consolidation of school district and to report back to the board their findings.

Mr. Lippert thanked those who came out to the board meeting and encouraged those in attendance to stay engaged in the process the next meeting of the Board will be held on Monday September 21st at the Townsend School Gymnasium beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Bodey, second by Mr. Myers to adjourn the meeting having no further business to come before the board. Roll call: All present ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Jude T. Hammond
Treasurer