

MINUTES OF THE MARGARETTA BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING OF
FEBRUARY 16, 2009.

The Margarettta Board of Education met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday February 16, 2009 at the Administrative Offices.

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

Motion by Mr. Bodey, second by Mr. Myers to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2009 Organizational and Regular Board Meetings, the January 24 and February 2, 2009 Special Board Meetings, with the amending the minutes from the January 12, 2009 wherein the minutes reflected a second by Mr. Warner, amended to reflect Mrs. Kuns second; Roll call: all ayes.

The Financial Report and Schedule of Bills

Mr. Hammond reported that the month of January was an usually high expense month due to having three payrolls and we paid out the final payments of the retirement incentives to the teachers. Otherwise, the fiscal year is proceeding as planned.

Board and Staff Reports:

Mr. Kurt presented a report prepared by Robert Lewis, Intervention Specialist regarding the work that he has been performing since taking over for Mr. Niemeyer at the end of November. The board was concerned over the number of students who have at least one grade of D or F in the high school. Mr. Kurt promised to look into this situation and report back to the board at a later date.

Public Participation:

Mr. Lippert offered the opportunity for members of the audience to present items for discussion. John Zang, teacher and president of the Margarettta Teachers Association and Keith Edwards, a Margarettta graduate, property owner, and business owner in the community were upset about an editorial in the newspaper stating that the school district will dissolve next year if we are not successful with a levy campaign. They each felt that the statement was false and misleading. Mr. Lippert and Mr. Kurt agreed with the comments and responded that the information presented at the February 2, 2009 discussed that in the event that the district did not find additional revenue over "several years," that the state could dissolve the district. This information was presented and shared with the reporter from the Sandusky Register. The editorial comments were not based upon information given to the newspaper from the board or staff.

Introduction of Additional Items to the Agenda:

Mr. Kurt requested that under Certified Personnel Action, a supplement contract for Katie Berg, 6th Grade Trip advisor a stipend of \$200 be added to the agenda.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion by Mr. Myers, seconded by Mr. Bodey, to adopt Board Resolution number 08-09-49, to approve expenditures that exceed \$3,000 that have met the "then and now" provisions of the Ohio Revised Code section 5705.41; Roll call: All ayes.

Motion by Mr. Bodey, seconded by Mr. Myers, to adopt Board Resolution number 08-09-50, to approve the transfer of funds; Roll Call: All ayes.

Mr. Hammond presented to the Board five versions of resolution 08-09-51, to authorize a tax levy to be placed on the May 5, 2009 special election. The options are (1) a 1% Earned Income Tax for five years commencing with calendar year 2010, (2) a 7.90 mill Current Expense property tax for five years commencing with tax year 2009 to be paid beginning in 2010, (3) a \$1,320,250 Emergency Operating property tax, which would be \$7.85 mills, for five years, commencing in tax year 2009 to be paid beginning in calendar year 2010, (4) a 8.90 mill Current Expense property tax for five years commencing with tax year 2009 to be paid beginning in calendar year 2010, and (5) a \$1,487,330 Emergency Operating property tax for five years, which would be \$8.85 mills, commencing tax year 2009 to be paid beginning in calendar year 2010. Mr. Hammond mentioned that the board has one other option, to not place a levy on the ballot at all.

Mr. Lippert opened the floor to public participation at this point. Keith Edwards expressed some concerns. First Mr. Edwards was upset about a perception that is going around in the community regarding the new gymnasium. He has heard from members in the community that the priorities in the district are sports first and educational needs of the district should come before sports. Mr. Kurt and Board agreed and explained that the gym has an educational purpose. When the decision to consolidate elementary buildings was made, the district needed to address the gym/cafeteria at Bogart Elementary. The choice was to build a gym rather than a kitchen and cafeteria giving the district more utility from the additional space.

Mr. Edwards went on to say that he would prefer a property tax rather than an income tax and that he has spoken with others who feel the same way. He concluded his concerns with the statement that the national and local economy is in dire straights and this is not the time to be asking for more taxes. He suggests that the Board wait until November to raise the tax issue, by then the board will know where they stand with the state and federal budget matters being resolved. Mr. Edwards comments were well received and lead to open discussion on the levy, the state budget, the financial status of the district, the various decisions the board would have to make if there is no additional revenue to the

district and the timing of all these issues while we are facing financially uncertain times.

The conclusion from the board is that although the levy may fail in May, it is important to share with the community the discussion on the financial status of the district and attempt to engage the community. Without the urgency and discomfort of the idea of voting on increasing the tax burden, it would be difficult to get the message out to the community. We send out newsletters, information to parents, and post information on our website and yet people express that they are not aware of the critical financial situation the district is in at this time. It appears that a tax levy campaign is the best vehicle to engage the community, and if the message is received favorably, the levy could pass in May. We owe that opportunity to the children in our community.

Motion by Mr. Myers, seconded by Mr. Bodey to adopt Board Resolution number 08-09-51, placing before the electorate of the district a \$1,320,250 Emergency Operating \$7.85 mill property tax levy for five years commencing with tax year 2009 to be paid beginning in calendar year 2010; Roll Call: all ayes.

Superintendent's Report:

New Business:

Motion by Mr. Stark, seconded by Mr. Bodey, to adopt Board Resolution number 08-09-52, to approve policy updates and additions as presented; Roll Call: All ayes.

Motion by Mr. Myers, seconded by Mrs. Kuns, to adopt Board Resolution number 08-09-53, to approve the Special Education Aide job description as presented; Roll Call: All ayes.

Motion by Mr. Myers, seconded by Mr. Bodey, to adopt Board resolution number 08-09-54, to approve the 2009-2010 school calendar as presented; Roll Call: All ayes. Mr. Hammond mentioned that the calendar may need to be amended if the governor and state legislature expand the school year by 4 days next school as proposed.

Motion by Mrs. Kuns, seconded by Mr. Stark, to adopt Board Resolution number 08-09-55, to continue the current inter-district open enrollment policy #5113 for the 2009-2010 school year; Roll call: All ayes.

Motion by Mr. Stark, seconded by Mr. Bodey, to adopt Board Resolution number 08-09-56, continuing the current Drug Testing Policy for extra-curricular activities into the 2009-2010 School Year; Roll call: all ayes.

Motion by Mr. Myers, seconded by Mr. Stark, to adopt Board Resolution number 08-09-57, approving the 2009 Senior Class for

graduation pending completion of all state and local requirements; Roll call: all ayes.

Personnel Actions:

Certified Staff:

Motion by Mrs. Kuns, seconded by Mr. Stark, to employ the following supplemental contracts:

Sarah Roan - Jr. High Boys Track Coach at level 1,
Kathy Day - Varsity Volleyball Coach at level 3, and
Ketie Berg - 6th Grade Class trip advisor - \$200 stipend.

Roll Call: All ayes.

Classified Staff:

Motion by Mr. Bodey, seconded by Mr. Myers, to employ the following as Special Education Aides effective March 1, 2009:

Connie Kromer - Full-time at the High School w/ 6 yrs. exp.
Sandy Martin - Full-time at the Elementary w/ 5 yrs. exp.
Julie Guerrero - Full-time at the Elementary w/ 0 yrs. experience, and
Michele Balduff - Part-time at the Elementary w/ 0 yrs. experience;

Roll Call: All ayes.

Motion by Mr. Bodey, seconded by Mr. Stark, to approve the following supplemental contracts:

Jennifer Pooch - JV Softball Coach at level 5, and
Matthew Old - Assistant Jr. High Track Coach at level 1;

Roll call: all ayes, except Mr. Stark abstained.

Motion by Mr. Myers, seconded by Mrs. Kuns, to approve the following substitutes:

Mary Kaufman - lunchroom and
Sheri Linkenbach - lunchroom;
Roll Call: All ayes.

Motion by Mr. Bodey, seconded by Mr. Myers, to approve the following student teacher observations:

Ryan Kurt - BGSU at the Elementary spring semester, and
Sheri Schwochow - Akron at the High School w/ Ms. Drossman;

Roll call: All ayes.

Old Business:

No pending matters to be reported.

Informational Items:

Mr. Hammond mentioned that he will be making presentation on the property tax process Wednesday February 18 at Chet & Matt's and he will be attending the state tax commissioner's annual hearing on Current Agricultural Use Valuation for tax year 2009.

Motion by Mrs. Kuns, seconded by Mr. Bodey, to enter into executive session to discuss negotiations and to have no business to follow; Roll Call: all ayes.

The Board convened into executive session at 8:38 p.m. with Mr. Kurt and Mr. Hammond present during the executive session.

Motion by Mr. Bodey, second by Mr. Stark, the board returned from executive session. Roll call: all ayes.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Jude T. Hammond
Treasurer/Business Manager