

## News Release

### **Mulberry Grove Community Unit School District #1**

Board of Education Meeting @ 6:30 & 7:00 p.m.

Preliminary Budget Presentation & Regular August Meeting

The Mulberry Grove Community Unit School District #1 Board of Education met on August 18, 2008 @ 6:45 & 7:07 p.m. The Board met for the Preliminary Budget Presentation & Regular August Board of Education meeting. Present were members Mark Blankenship, Kevin Lewis, Sara Johnson, Bill Johnson, Teresa Tompkins (7:56 p.m.), Keith Steiner, & Mike Kendall. Also present were Superintendent, Greg Irwin; Principal: Jimmie Rice, Dean of Students: Ryan Bauer; Teachers; John Paine & Lindy Zeeb; Guests: Lois Moore, Liz Miller & Bill Walker, Greenville Advocate. All votes 7-0, unless noted.

Superintendent Irwin Presented the Tentative Budget for the 2008-'09 School Year. The Budget will be on display at the Unit Office for thirty (30) days. Superintendent Irwin indicated that the District Finances have again shown improvement over the 2007-'08 School Year, and this trend is expected to continue during the 2008-'09 School Year. The Annual Budget Hearing is scheduled 9/22/08 @ 6:30 p.m.

Guest Lois Moore presented the Board with information regarding the "Voice of Democracy" & "Patriot Pin" Programs sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW. Students competing in these programs may earn scholarships and/or money for their written essays and taped presentations of their work. MGHS Teacher John Paine presented the Board information regarding the performance of the MGHS Rocket Team; the Team placed "2<sup>nd</sup> in the Nation" this past year. Mr. Paine and team members have been invited to participate in a Rocket Competition sponsored by NASA this coming year. The Rocket team plans to return to Washington D.C. to compete again this year as well. Mr. Paine and fellow teacher Lindy Zeeb highlighted numerous improvements and updates made to the District's Technology program this summer. Improvements include updates to the Districts networks, servers, and e-mail service. The Parent Connect Program is now available at all grade levels. **The new District Website address is:** [www.mgschools.com](http://www.mgschools.com). Everyone is encouraged to visit the new website to check on activities and general information.

In Regular business the Board approved the Treasurer's report and Board bills as presented. Principal/Dean Reports were reviewed by Mr. Rice & Mr. Bauer. Enrollment in each school is up from 2007-'08; with a net gain of 12 students to date. Superintendent Irwin presented the Board with updates on the OBM & Life/Safety work completed this summer. These included repairs to the girls' locker room, refinishing of the High School Gymnasium & Stage area floors, an indoor batting cage project in the elementary gymnasium. Improvements continue in the Agricultural/Industrials Arts Education lab and classroom areas. A new roof is being installed on the MGES building, including the Elementary Gymnasium. The Mulberry Grove School Buildings are in the process of tuck pointing and brick replacement work at this time. The Mulberry Grove Board of Education will be postponing a formal resolution of support in order to better educate the general public on the benefits of County-wide facilities sales tax. The expectation is to prepare for placement of this issue on the April 2009, election ballot.

The Board went to closed session @ 8:29 p.m. to discuss Personnel, finance & negotiations, and returned to open session @ 9:16 p.m. Board action included the following:

1. The Board approved the hire of Half-time KRP Teacher Sara Nolte for the 2008-'09 SY.
2. The Board approved via resolution the granting of fifty-one (51) additional sick leave days to Teacher Mary Rice effective 8/18/08.
3. The Board approved the resignation of Elementary Cheerleading Sponsor Rhonda Elam for the '08-'09 SY.
4. The Board approved the hire of Teresa Tompkins Assistant JH Softball Coach for the '08-'09 SY.
5. The Board approved the purchase of a Chevrolet Impala to be used in combination with the District's Driver's Education Program and Transportation Fleet, terms to be negotiated.
6. The Board approved a memorandum of understanding with the MGEA adding a JH Girls Basketball Coach to the list of Extra-curricular positions in the District as presented.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 P.M.

Next meeting: The Annual Budget Hearing – Monday, September 22, 2008. The Regular September meeting for the Mulberry Grove Board of Education will be Monday, September 22, 2008. The meetings will be held in the Mulberry Grove CUSD #1 District Media Center @ 6:30 & 7:00 p.m.