

## **Special Meeting of the Board of Education**

**February 4, 2016, 7:00 p.m.**

### **Chronology of Events Re: Midland Elementary School**

1. Historically, Midland Community Unit School District #7 was under the jurisdiction of the Regional Office of Education of Region 43, covering Marshall, Putnam and Woodford Counties.
2. Effective July 1, 2015, Region 43 was dissolved. Those school districts in Woodford County came under the jurisdiction of Region 53, along with Tazewell County. Those school districts in Marshall and Putnam Counties came under the jurisdiction of Region 35, along with LaSalle County. Our Regional Superintendent is Christopher Dvorak.
3. At the beginning of the 2015-16 school year, Mr. Dvorak contacted the Midland School District to schedule his first annual inspection of the District's three schools to occur on Friday, January 15, 2016.
4. On January 15, 2016, Mr. Dvorak made his scheduled annual inspection of the Elementary School, the Middle School and the High School.
5. On the afternoon of January 15, Mr. Dvorak contacted Supt. Sivertsen and requested certain testing be done at Midland Elementary School. Supt. Sivertsen immediately informed Board President Dixie Wheeler of the request.
6. Monday, January 18, was a legal holiday.
7. On Tuesday, January 19, Supt. Sivertsen called IDEAL Environmental Engineering, Inc. of Bloomington, Illinois and arranged for the testing to occur.

8. On Thursday, January 27, 2016, IDEAL Environmental Engineering appeared at Midland Elementary School, conducted certain tests, took specimens and departed. The specimens were sent to a laboratory for analysis.
9. As a cautionary measure, the District closed school on Thursday, January 28, and Friday, January 29. While the District's concerns dealt only with the Elementary School, it was decided to close all schools to keep children on the same schedule.
10. On Friday, January 29, the District received IDEAL's Indoor Environmental Quality Sampling and Analysis Report, as well as its Limited Lead-Based Paint Inspection and Risk Assessment Report.
11. On Saturday, January 30, the Board of Education held an emergency meeting as authorized by the Open Meetings Act. At that meeting, it was determined to conduct a lead-based paint inspection of the entire Elementary School building.
12. As a result, on Sunday, January 31, as a cautionary measure, the District announced the decision to close all schools for Monday, February 1, and Tuesday, February 2.
13. On Monday, February 1, and Tuesday, February 2, IDEAL Environmental Engineering returned to Midland Elementary School, conducted more tests, took many more specimens and departed. The specimens were sent to a laboratory for analysis.
14. On Wednesday, February 2, as a cautionary measure, the District announced its decision to close all schools through Friday, February 5.

15. On February 2, the District also announced the availability of a free lead testing clinic made available in cooperation with the Marshall County Health Department.
16. On the evening of February 3, IDEAL Environmental Engineering delivered to the District its Lead-Based Paint Inspection and Risk Assessment Report for the entire Elementary School building.
17. Since first closing school on January 28, the District has been working on a contingency plan in the event it cannot return students to Midland Elementary School.
18. On Thursday, February 4, the Board of Education held a special meeting at Midland High School. Regional Superintendent Dvorak, District architect Chuck Bennett, and Ann Skeate of IDEAL Environmental Engineering were present. Also present were approximately 200 staff, parents and community members. Ms. Skeate gave a detailed explanation of her findings regarding the presence of hazardous lead in and about Midland Elementary School. Mr. Dvorak and Mr. Bennett also addressed the Board and the public. Supt. Sivertsen recommended that the Board of Education approve the contingency plan that was developed with input from the District's administration and staff. The Board then invited public comment from the audience.
19. After hearing from the audience, those five (5) Board members present unanimously approved the following motion:

I move that the Board of Education authorize the implementation of Superintendent Sivertsen's contingency plan as presented to the Board of Education, including the following:

1. That students not be returned to Midland Elementary School for the remainder of the 2015-16 school year;

2. That a construction fence with appropriate signage be rented and installed around Midland Elementary School to prevent children from accessing areas in the vicinity of the building's doors and windows;
  3. That children in grade 5 be transferred to Midland High School and housed there in a wing of the building dedicated to that purpose;
  4. That children in grades Pre-K through 4 be transferred to Midland Middle School and housed there in a wing of the building dedicated to that purpose;
  5. That the administration work with the School District's architect to modify a room at Midland High School to house children in grade Pre-K in compliance with the Health Life Safety Code; and
  6. That the administration solicit a proposal to lease portable classrooms to house students in grades pre-K through 5 for further consideration by the Board of Education.
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20. By separate motion, the Board of Education authorized IDEAL Environmental Engineering to test for any hazardous lead-based paint at Midland Middle School.
  21. The School District anticipates students returning to school during the week of February 8.
  22. The District's school calendar has ten (10) snow days built in. So far, only one (1) snow day has been used. From January 28 through February 5, the District will have used seven (7) additional days, leaving two (2) for future use.