

# Regional Office of Education # 12

*Serving the students and educational professionals of Clay, Crawford, Jasper, Lawrence, and Richland Counties, Illinois*

Monte Newlin, Regional Superintendent of Schools  
Corrie Ray, Assistant Regional Superintendent of Schools



## REGIONAL BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES Clay-Crawford-Jasper-Lawrence Counties

### AGENDA

Monday, July 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Richland County Meeting Room

Richland County Detention Center, 211 W. Market Street, Olney, IL

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Appointment of Board Member
5. Update on West Richland Lawsuit
6. Adjournment

**Clay County**  
Courthouse  
P.O. Box 97  
Louisville, Illinois 62858  
618/665-3373  
Fax 618/665-3155

**Crawford County**  
Commercium Building  
301 South Cross Street  
Robinson, Illinois 62454  
618/544-2719  
Fax 618/546-1556

**Jasper County**  
County Office Building  
204 West Washington  
Newton, Illinois 62448  
618/783-2523  
Fax 618/783-4237

**Lawrence County**  
Courthouse  
1100 State Street  
Lawrenceville, Illinois 62439  
618/943-3522  
Fax 618/943-2513

**Richland County**  
Courthouse, Third Floor  
103 West Main Street  
Olney, Illinois 62450  
618/392-4631  
Fax 618/392-3993

Clay-Crawford-Jasper-Lawrence-Richland  
Regional Board of School Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
July 7, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.  
Richland County Meeting Room, Richland County Detention Center, Olney, IL

The Regional Board of School Trustees held a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on July 7, 2014, in the Richland County Meeting Room at the Richland County Detention Center in Olney, Illinois

Bill Staser called the regular meeting to order.

Roll Call:

Board Members Present:

Bill Staser, Clay County  
Bob Harris, Crawford County  
C. Kaye Holscher, Crawford County  
Gene Allen, Lawrence County  
Ron Janes, Richland County

Board Member Absent:

Josh Weger, Lawrence County

Others Present:

Monte Newlin, Ex-Officio Secretary; Corrie Ray, Assistant Regional Superintendent; Ann Britton, ROE #12 Administrative Assistant; and Elinor Staser

Gene Allen made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, second by Bob Harris. All in favor, none opposed.

A motion was made by Ron Janes to appoint Travis Farley to the Regional Board of School Trustees to fill the vacancy resulting from Robert Fear's resignation. C. Kaye Holscher seconded the motion. A roll call vote of those in favor of the appointment resulted in 5 (five) in favor (Staser, Harris, Holscher, Allen, Janes), 0 (zero) opposed and 1 (one) absent (Weger). Monte Newlin administered the oath of office and Travis Farley was seated on the board.

Monte Newlin updated the board on the West Richland Lawsuit. A copy of the update is attached.

Gene Allen moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Bob Harris. All in favor,  
none opposed.

William P Staser 7-14-14  
William Bill Staser, Chairman Date

Monte Newlin 7-14-14  
Monte Newlin, Ex-Officio Secretary Date

## **Deactivation of West Richland CUSD #2 and Annexation to East Richland CUSD #1 A Summary**

### **January 17, 2014**

RBST conducts a Hearing at Olney Central College on the Petition of the West Richland Board of Education requesting Deactivation of the District and Annexation to East Richland. Testimony is taken, Public Comment is heard. Board Votes 6-0 to grant the Petition.

### **February 7, 2014**

Period for Administrative Review ends and the Order of the RBST becomes final.

### **February 7, 2014**

Lawsuit is filed in the Second Judicial Circuit by David Williams and Citizens for West Richland School District against the West Richland Board of Education and the Regional Board of School Trustees seeking to set aside the Order of the RBST on the grounds that the West Richland Board did not have the legal authority to refile their Petition less than two years after the West Richland Citizens' Petition stopped the Board's first Petition. Accordingly, it is argued that the RBST does not have the authority to accept and act upon the Petition presented to it. The RBST is represented by Richland County State's Attorney David Hyde (working with Renee Villette at ISBE Legal). The case is assigned to Judge Mark Shaner of Crawford County.

### **May 19, 2014**

Hearing is conducted before Judge Shaner at the Richland County Courthouse. State's Attorney David Hyde argues that the RBST should not have been included in the lawsuit as they were performing their duties as prescribed by the Illinois School Code. Attorneys for West Richland argue that the Plaintiff does not have standing to bring suit as they did not participate in the Hearing at OCC on January 17, and that the two-year moratorium on refiling did not apply to the case. Judge Shaner takes the matter under advisement.

### **June 2, 2014**

Conference Call is conducted including representatives of the West Richland Board of Education and State's Attorney Hyde. Judge Shaner informs the participants of his decision in order to give the parties an opportunity to make decisions on how they wish to proceed.



**June 12, 2014**

Hearing reconvenes in Olney, with Judge Shaner finding in favor of the Defendants. The ruling is issued with prejudice which requires any further appeal to be heard before the Appellate Court. Plaintiff's attorney requests a continuance in order to confer with his client to determine whether they would avail themselves of an appeal. A continuance is granted.

**June 19, 2014**

Conference Call is conducted including representatives of the West Richland Board of Education and State's Attorney Hyde. At that time, Plaintiff's attorney informs the Court that his client will not appeal the decision.

**July 1, 2014**

The Order of the RBST is executed and the Annexation of the West Richland School District to the East Richland School District is completed.

**To Date**

Administrators, Faculty, and Staff are now carrying out plans for the 2014-2015 school year and beyond. Olney Central College has expressed interest in securing part of the West Richland High School for use as a satellite campus. Other uses discussed for the remaining sections of the building include a community center. West Richland Elementary will be continue to be used as an elementary attendance center for 2014-15.