

Galion BOE swears in members; another offer made for old buildings

By **RACHEL MENDELL**
Inquirer Reporter
rmenzell@galioninquirer.com

Galion board of education met in special organizational session Thursday evening to set the tone for the coming year.

Three board members were sworn in: Dennis Long, Robert Zeisler and Marge McCumber. The board continued by nominating McCumber as president and Zeisler as vice president for 2008.

Carl Stough, president pro-tem for the organizational meeting thanked McCumber for her leadership of the board during the last year. "You have been our captain," he said, adding that McCumber has guided the board through stormy waters, changing winds and sharks.

Annual authorizations were approved including treasurer and superintendent responsibilities. The bond service fund was established at \$5,000. Board salaries will be \$125 for each of the 12 regular meetings.

Appointments were as follows: Zeisler as legislative liaison, George McElligott as delegate to me Ohio School Board Association (McCumber as alternate), Zeisler as student achievement liaison, McCumber to attend Galion Area Betterment Commission, Dennis Long will attend the Pioneer Career Technology Center school board meetings, Stough and McCumber will be on the Galion Education Association labor relations committee, Stough and McElligott will be on the OAPSE labor relations committee, McElligott and McCumber will attend the GEA and the OAPSE negotiations,

Long and Stough will attend the monthly Galion Advisory Group for Education meetings.

The board decided to hold its regular meetings the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. (moved up from 7 p.m.) The board will also be utilizing all the new school buildings for the meetings. The time set for the school district records commission meeting was Jan. 22, at 3 p.m. in board offices.

After adjournment of the organizational meeting, the Galion board of education reconvened with its regular meeting.

Brian Summer presented the new playground for the elementaries and explained how the combined PTOs worked together to provide \$54,869 for the playground equipment and the blue rubber surface, the Elementary Parent Teacher Organization is now a 501(c)(3) organization.

In community input, Dave Smith made another offer to the board for the former Galion High School, which would involve trading land adjacent to the new schools. He said he was also interested in the old middle school and the elementaries. He said he was willing to sit down with the board and come to an agreement.

Jon Stinehour, GEA president, thanked the board for their service to the community and providing them with the correct information. "I'm proud to be a part of the team," he said.

Karen Miller, parent of a Renschville student, expressed concerns that her child would not be able to ride the bus because of busing policy. She was concerned that a walking student could be hit or killed on one

of the busy intersections.

Rob Wright expressed dismay over the lack of community attendance at the meeting, the busing situation, the dress code, and the amount of money spent on playground equipment when it could be spent on safe busing. "Am I the only one that feels this way?" he asked. "No one is giving me answers ... Do you agree with this?" His question was followed by applause from the audience.

Supt. Kathy Jenney presented a PowerPoint showing what the community and the board has done to come to their decisions about the new and old buildings.

Don Miller of the Ohio School Board Association gave the presentation concerning the results of the community survey. Miller offered to help with the next survey asking those in the Galion district why they are attending a different district and the board agreed.

Supt. Jenney recognized the board members for their service to the community. January is board appreciation month.

In personnel, Jennifer Ehrman was hired as a substitute educational assistant.

In financial matters, The board approved the state grant of \$2,970 for professional development, a "then and now" certificate of \$3,421.90 and a fund transfer of \$19,452.30 from the general fund to the severance fund. The board also approved going with a new insurance company with a pool of 300 other school districts — Ohio School Plan. Treasurer Linda Kidwell said the district would be saving \$2,000 in premiums.

Continued on next sheet.

Galion BOE swears in members;
another offer made for old buildings
continued

The board approved and agreement with Metropolitan Educational Council- for \$815.62. The savings with this group on natural gas was \$23,102 in 2007. The board approved membership with the OSBA for \$5,410 and membership with the Galion Area Chamber of Commerce for \$175. The contract for Internet service with North Central Ohio Computer Cooperative will not exceed \$49,446.60.

School donations accepted were \$895 from the Galion Alumni Association. "I think that money came from all over the country," said McCumber.

From PepsiAmericas \$25,000 and \$650 from Gategrade support were accepted, \$350 was accepted for the Thomas J. McNew Jr. Athletic Scholarship fund, and \$1,672 was received for the Trudy Byerly Library Book fund.

The board also accepted the donation of the Groundscape ADA Shredded Rubber playground covering at a value of \$54,869.70 from the Galion Elementary Parent Teacher Organization.

The board approved additions and changes in their bylaws and policies bringing them in line with state recommendations and accepted

the book Hole's Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology Tenth Edition. as the text for high school anatomy class.

The board authorized the superintendent to go out for bids for track resurfacing. The Colonel Crawford district has offered to let the Galion track team use their new track for practices and meets until the work is finished. Permanent improvement money will be used for the project.

There will be a special board meeting Jan. 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the new high school cafeteria