

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**FIELD SCHOOL LEARNING CENTER  
3131 Techny, Northbrook, Illinois 60062  
7:00 PM, May 24, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER OF THE OPEN SESSION OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Open Session of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Handler at 7:01 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Board Members

Present: David Handler  
Jeffrey Silver  
Mary Crowe-Richards  
Bob Spector  
Shel Leshner  
Bonnie Schoenberg  
Mike Berkowitz

District Administration

Present: Dr. Alexandra Nicholson, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Craig Schilling, Interim Director of Business Services

A quorum of the Board was confirmed by President Handler.

**FIELD SCHOOL HORIZONS RE-DESIGNATION RECOGNITION**

After roll call everyone proceeded into the auditorium for Field School Horizons re-designation recognition.

**STUDENT RECOGNITION**

Students were recognized for their accomplishments throughout the 2009-2010 school year in the Field School auditorium.

**ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

None

**READING OF COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

None

## **RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE**

PTC Executive Board Member Holly Anderson reported on the following:

- On April 23, 2010, the PTC hosted a sports challenge which raised \$2,000. All the money was donated to the technology department for an additional document camera/projector.
- The PTC approved paying for three additional document camera sets as well as for updating the Weather Bug at Field Middle School. These donations total \$11,000 that was raised during the 2009-2010 school year.
- The PTC was proud to organize teacher appreciation events and treats. Superintendent Nicholson thanked Holly Anderson for all the PTC's work during the year.
- The PTC voted on new officers. Carolyn Welch will be the Vice President of student activities and Leslie Herman Resis will be the treasurer.

Member Schoenberg spoke on behalf of Jill Pozin who could not attend the Board meeting. Jill Pozin is asking the District to consider purchasing books on CD or books that are on the web. Full back packs are heavy and can cause problems with a student's posture and back. Principal Murphy and Superintendent Nicholson both explained that District 31 is bringing technology into the 21<sup>st</sup> century but the district does not have the technology there yet for that type of function. They also stated the books at Field Middle School are very outdated. Member Schoenberg asked if parents can be informed of how to purchase the books so they have a set at home. Principal Murphy stated she will look into providing that information.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Member Schoenberg made a motion to approve items a through m of the Consent Agenda. Member Silver seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Superintendent Nicholson reviewed the process of the Director of Business Services search and summarized the recommended candidate's profile. After further discussion, Member Silver made a motion to approve the employment of Catherine Lauria as Director of Business Services beginning July 1, 2010. Member Berkowitz seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

Superintendent Nicholson explained that the Director of Business Services for West Northfield School District 31 usually takes the role of the Assistant Treasurer for the Northfield Township School Treasurer's office. Member Silver made a motion to approve Catherine Lauria as the Assistant Treasurer beginning July 1, 2010. Member Berkowitz seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the proposal to contract Dr. Craig Schilling, CEO, SBM, PROS, LLC, for professional services to the District for fiscal years 2011 and 2012 with the option of extending it to fiscal year 2013 if needed. Superintendent Nicholson

stated that Dr. Craig Schilling will be hired to mentor the new director of business services along with providing oversight and assistance with major items such as budget development, long range planning, technology, negotiations, etc.

President Handler asked if the District would be contracting with Dr. Craig Schilling as an individual or with his corporation. Dr. Schilling clarified it would be with his corporation. After further discussion, Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to approve the contracted professional services with the corporation of Dr. Craig Schilling, CEO, SBM, PROS, LLC. Member Schoenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0

Superintendent Nicholson and Dr. Craig Schilling summarized the recommendation that the Board approve the 2010-11 student fee schedule. The 2010-11 student fee schedule was presented and discussed at the April 15, 2010 Board meeting. With the exception of the music reed fee, there was general consensus in favor of the fee structure. The music reed fees primary instructional benefit is that it precludes students from participating in band when their reed is unacceptable. If the district were to eliminate the fee, then it would be up to the student and parents to know when a reed needs to be replaced and either order the reed online or purchase them from a local music supply store. Having reeds available at school for students has both an instructional benefit and a convenience benefit for parents. After further discussion, Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to adopt the recommended 2010-2011 student fee schedule including the reed fee. Member Leshner seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

Principal Murphy summarized the Technology Plan proposal. She highlighted that the main purpose of the Plan is to bring the District into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with technology and its support of instruction. Principal Murphy explained the steps taken to develop the Plan. These included creating a vision, determining the starting point, developing partnerships and designing the plan. Dr. Craig Schilling summarized the financial strategy for implementing the Plan.

Member Leshner questioned how much of the assumptions that were made based on developing the financial strategy is credited to the interest rate that are in affect at this time. Dr. Craig Schilling stated that not much of the assumptions were made on interest rates. After further discussion, Member Silver made a motion to approve the technology plan. Member Schoenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

Superintendent Nicholson informed the Board that the students who participated in Destination Imagination and in Future Problem Solving competitions were very successful and now qualify to move on to national and international competitions. She explained that their participation in these competitions should have Board approval because of the amount of District funds expended and for insurance purposes. Member Leshner made a motion to approve the finances and participation in Destination Imagination Global Finals. Member Spector seconded the motion. On a roll call, 6 Ayes, 1 abstain. Motion passed 6:0.

Member Silver made a motion to approve the finances and participation in the Future Problem Solvers international competition. Member Schoenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

## **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### *Administrative Reports*

Dr. Craig Schilling reported on the 2010-2011 Budget stating that it has been a number of years since the District has thoroughly updated how it accounts for revenues and expenditures. Dr. Craig Schilling explained the time line and the long range planning for the 2010-2011 Budget wherein he suggested having a few summer meetings with the finance committee and/or the Board to work through the strategies that will be utilized by the District to implement its fiscal vision. Without a clear fiscal direction, it will be difficult to assess the resources available for developing and implementing the Board's strategic goals. President Handler agreed that the summer meetings will be necessary.

Dr. Craig Schilling summarized the prevailing wage resolution that will need to be approved at the June 10, 2010 Board meeting.

Principal Kalant reported on the following ACT (Academic, Community, and Teacher) information:

- There are seven days left for the school year. Student are involved in completing their published books, the Oregon Trail simulation, science expo, Kindergarten musical and a school wide assembly in which the 2009-2010 school year is highlighted.
- Teachers are involved with the final assessments in reading and mathematics and are working on the master schedule for specials for the 2010-2011 school year.
- The report cards are in the process of being completed along with the AIMS WEB data documentation.
- The half day that is coming up will be devoted to student sectioning and cross grade level articulation and getting ready for summer curriculum work.

President Handler questioned why the type of student recognition that was done this evening is not done at the Winkelman school assembly. Principal Kalant stated that the assembly is not an award assembly but rather a highlight of the entire school year.

Principal Murphy reported on the following ACT information:

- Field School also has many things going on. These include a recognition assembly in which students that are in sports and clubs get recognized, an awards ceremony where leaf awards are presented, 6<sup>th</sup> graders have their

5K race, 7th graders have their senior day, and the 8<sup>th</sup> graders went to “Save My Starving Children” which was very successful.

- June 2<sup>nd</sup> is the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation at Glenbrook South.
- The extra curricular committee has been meeting and has a solution to the shortage of space for practices and competition games. The Winkelman gymnasium will be used for practices. Locations of practices and games need to be clearly communicated to the parents.

President Handler questioned why the awards that were given this evening are not included in the school assemblies. Principal Murphy stated that what they highlight at the recognition award assembly is sports and clubs. This has been past practice but can be changed in the future.

Member Crowe-Richards questioned if the Band Banquets give out awards anymore. Principal Murphy stated that they do give out certificates of appreciation.

Director of Student Services Joanne Panopoulos reported on the following information:

- This year, all special education students have been involved in their IEP meetings. It has been very successful doing so.
- Five staff members attended an I-ASPIRE conference that was funded by a grant. The conference focused on student eligibility for special education services via response to intervention. The staff members who attended felt that they learned a lot. Information learned will be shared with all staff.

Director of Communications Nancy Wasielewski reported on the following:

- She is busy covering many end-of-the-year programs including “Save My Starving Children” field trip.
- The Green Team has proudly sponsored two earth day programs, one was the “No Idling Signs” and the other was the green survey that was sent to parents via email. 106 parents responded to the survey.
- The Spring Communicator should be sent out next week.
- The final edition of Up and Down the Halls will be going out next week.
- The District handbook is being updated and will be distributed in August.

#### *Board Reports*

Member Schoenberg reported that the Education Foundation 5k is scheduled for September 26, 2010. She encouraged everyone to try to attend and to get other community members to participate. Superintendent Nicholson thanked Member Schoenberg and the rest of the Education Foundation for all their contributions to the District during the 2009-2010 school year.

#### *Freedom of Information Act*

None.

*District Enrollment*

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the District enrollment reports.

**MOVING INTO CLOSED SESSION**

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to go into closed session. Member Schoenberg seconded this motion. The motion was passed 7:0. The Board adjourned to closed session to consider information regarding student issues and the appointment, employment, compensation, and performance of specific employees.

The Board of Education adjourned to closed session at 9:24 PM.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to return to open session. Member Schoenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

Member Berkowitz made a motion to approve Miller, Cooper & Co., Ltd. as its auditors for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Member Crowe-Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

**ADJOURN MEETING**

Member Schoenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Leshner seconded the motion. The motion was passed 7:0. The Board adjourned at 12:01 PM.

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Board President

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Board Secretary

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Date