

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**FIELD SCHOOL LEARNING CENTER
3131 Techny, Northbrook, Illinois 60062
7:00 PM, January 21, 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 7:03 PM.

ROLL CALL

Board Members

Present: David Handler
Jeffrey Silver
Mary Crowe-Richards
Bob Spector
Shel Leshner arrived at 7:05 PM
Bonnie Schoenberg
Mike Berkowitz

District Administration

Present: Dr. Alexandra Nicholson, Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Roberts, Director of Business Services

A quorum of the Board was confirmed by President Handler.

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

None.

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE

President Suzanne Kahn and the Executive Board of the District 31 Parent Teacher Club (PTC) addressed the Board with a written response to the opinion letter created by the District's law firm regarding the PTC remaining an entity of the District. After further discussion, it was agreed that the PTC will remain an entity of the District and continue to supply the office of business services with financial statements. The Board of Education and Superintendent Nicholson confirmed that, in the past, the Board members and the Superintendent have not seen those financial reports. The Board of Education members confirmed that they have no intention of taking over the actions of the PTC but by law they need to oversee the PTC's financial transactions.

STRATEGIC PLAN PROCESS UPDATE

Superintendent Nicholson provided an update on the Strategic Plan process. She explained that the first full-day strategic planning meeting took place on January 19th and the Strategic Planning Team was very productive. Team members reviewed world trends and how these trends impact our educational system. Team members developed belief/value statements, a list of strategic parameters that the District's stakeholders need to live by and things that our stakeholders will not tolerate of each other. The Team reviewed the SWOT analysis and created corresponding statements that describe what District 31 looks like when it is successful. These success statements encompassed the following areas: educational programming, operations, extra and co-curricular activities, finance, community, communication and personnel. The next Strategic Plan Team meeting is January 25, 2010 wherein the Team will be ready to write the District's goals and objectives. Member Spector also confirmed that the meeting was very productive and he felt good that the community is coming together successfully.

PRESENTATION OF REFERENDUM OPTION

Director of Business Services Cheryl Roberts summarized the second referendum option. Mrs. Roberts explained that option two is a blend of both option one and option three. Option two allows the District to ask its tax payers to make \$0.10 out of the \$.18 permanent. The remaining \$.8 would be used for debt service. Option two requires there to be two questions on the voter ballot, one simple and one complicated. Both questions would need to pass. Superintendent Nicholson questioned if the permanent \$0.10 would actually be a decrease for the property tax holders. Mrs. Roberts stated that current tax rate would stay about \$1.40 until the District pays the bonds back. Once the bonds are paid back, the rate would reflect the difference of the \$.8.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to approve items a through i of the Consent Agenda. Member Schoenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

ACTION ITEMS

Member Crowe-Richards approved the request for reimbursement of impact fees by Jon Elliot Builders totaling \$3,160.00. Member Berkowitz seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Administrative Reports

Cheryl Roberts reported that the CPI is 2.7%. She is working on the budget and was involved in the first strategic planning meeting.

President Handler stated that the Parent/Teacher Club incorporation status has already been discussed in the beginning of the meeting; however, it was confirmed that the PTC needs to submit monthly financial statements to the Director of Business Services to include in the Board of Education consent agendas as well as information needed for the yearly audits.

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

- Winkelman is involved in mid-year MAP testing.
- The January 29, 2010 half-day professional development day will focus on Writing.
- The Life Smarts Committee is working on two projects.

Principal Murphy reported on the following ACT information:

- Field off to a good start with the first day of semester 2.
- The 8th grade students are thinking about high school. Their graduation photos were today, and they will be visiting the high school next week.
- Students are working on the Seussical musical. There will be a preview for the Board at the March Board meeting and a matinee will be added on Saturday.
- The 6th graders have been successful with collecting pens for the soldiers in Afghanistan and the Student Council is raising money for Haiti.
- The teachers will work on planning for next year during half-day dismissal.
- Field will be having an assembly with “Wheels in Motion”.

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

- The District is now filing for Medicaid funds.
- The special education staff has been trained on the essentials on IEP goal writing.
- Both schools are working together on developing a K-8 student behavior plan.
- She has been preparing for March 1st Institute Day.

Director of Communications Nancy Wasielewski reported on the following:

- 100 parents completed the communication survey.
- A calendar survey will be sent out on February 1, 2010.
- The Pioneer Press covered the soldier that spoke to the 6th grade students.

Board Reports

Member Handler met with the Township Board Presidents wherein they discussed the Astellas project. Member Handler was advised that the District 225 net was a 1% reduction in revenue.

Member Crowe-Richards reported that NSSSED’s initial budget was approved and they are operating in the black. NSSSED’s teachers’ union will begin negotiations. The State

is behind in making payments to NSSD. Andy Piper has been approved as Director of Personnel.

Member Berkowitz reported on the Northbrook Economic Council and the Glenview Plan Commission. He stated that homeowners are winning their appeals on property taxes.

Member Schoenberg reported that the Education Foundation approved teacher grants for the Oregon Trail and for Nicole Brisson to attend the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) 2010 Annual Convention in Chicago, Illinois, scheduled for March 2-6, 2010. Member Schoenberg also reported that the Foundation is preparing for the Winter Benefit.

Freedom of Information Act

None

District Enrollment

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the District enrollment reports.

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE

None.

MOVING INTO CLOSED SESSION

Member Schoenberg made a motion to go into closed session. Member Crowe-Richards seconded this motion. The motion was passed 7:0. The Board adjourned to closed session to consider possible employment, compensation or performance of specific employees.

The Board of Education adjourned to closed session at 8:34 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to approve the resignation of a full time literacy specialist effective December 22, 2009. Member Leshner seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

Member Schoenberg made a motion to deny a leave of absent request from a special education assistant. Member Berkowitz seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

ADJOURN MEETING

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Schoenberg seconded the motion. The motion was passed 7:0. The Board adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Board President

Board Secretary

Date

