

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

**FIELD SCHOOL LEARNING CENTER  
3131 Techny, Northbrook, Illinois 60063  
7:00PM, February 12, 2009**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Open Session of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Kristen Ruben at 7:05 PM.

### **ROLL CALL**

Board Members

Present: Kristen Ruben  
Mary Crowe-Richards  
David Handler  
Jeffrey Silver arrived at 7:15 PM  
Bob Spector  
Jim Hofmockel  
Shel Leshner

District Administration

Present: Dr. Alexandra Nicholson, Superintendent of Schools  
Lisa Lawler, Director of Business Services

A quorum of the Board was confirmed by President Kristen Ruben.

### **ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

None

### **READING OF COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

None

### **RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCES**

Superintendent Nicholson and Principal Kalant awarded Aidan Franklin, a Kindergarten student at Winkelman School, with a 911 Hero award for quick thinking during an emergency situation.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

President Ruben requested a number correction be made on the January 8, 2009 open session minutes wherein Lisa Lawler Ludwig stated that the state owed us \$100,000 dollars and not \$100,000.00.

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to approve items a through g of the Consent Agenda with the above change. Member Handler seconded the motion. The motion passed 6:0.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

None.

## INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

### *Administrative Reports*

Lisa Lawler-Ludwig reported that Mike Klein, the condominium contract builder, has stated that Astellas has signed a contract pending the 7B status and financing. Lisa Lawler-Ludwig stated that we are now waiting for the 7B from Cook County.

Lisa Lawler-Ludwig reported that Randy Kemmer from the States Attorney's office and Allstate have a difference in assessed value of \$8,000,000 between their appraisals. The financial impact could be as much as \$125,000 per levy year which we had projected higher. Lisa Lawler-Ludwig stated that District 31 has open levy years 2004 through 2007. Lisa Lawler-Ludwig stated that neither party is in a hurry to settle.

Lisa Lawler-Ludwig summarized the 2009-2010 Education Fund Budget Draft #1 wherein Lisa Lawler-Ludwig highlighted pages one and three which dealt with the projected revenues, expenditures and fund balances. Lisa Lawler-Ludwig stated that the projections do not include the projected revenues from the Culligan redevelopment. Additionally Superintendent Nicholson noted that the budget originally did not include fund transfers, fee increases, cost cuts due to programs and staffing, and continued school improvement. Lisa Lawler-Ludwig reported that due to the December CPI of 0.1%, the total Education Fund projected revenues are based on a 1.7% increase. Lisa Lawler-Ludwig stated that she has utilized an estimate of 2% for future CPI rates.

Member Handler suggested projecting out three or four more years with a high and low revenue increase to get a broader look at possible future financial scenarios.

Lisa Lawler-Ludwig stated that because the CPI is so low, the District might have to pay IMRF which would cause the projected budget to be readjusted. The difference could be \$30,000.00.

Member Handler questioned which funds are transferable. Lisa Lawler-Ludwig reviewed the transfer availability from each of the funds.

Member Hofmockel suggested noting the projected revenues from the Culligan redevelopment at the bottom of the budget pages.

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

- Principal Kalant summarized the activities for the early release day. Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, special services, ELL, and young scholar's staff will work on Reading/Language Arts activities such as Rubrics. The related arts teams such as the PE teachers will be working on organizing the Jump Rope for Heart activities and planning for the Jump-A-Thon. The art teachers will meet to discuss the Reading Fair activities and develop an Earth Day program and work on creating scenery for the first and fourth grade plays. Mona Mcpherson will work on the K-5 Internet Safety Curriculum.

- Principal Kalant stated that the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade musicals are coming up and both the students and teachers are preparing for the events.
- The amount of teacher volunteers for the Family Literacy Night is up to 35.

Principal Murphy reported on the following ACT information:

- Principal Murphy stated that the students enjoyed the presidential inauguration activities and that we have our first video on the WEB site which involved the students sending advise to Barack Obama.
- Foreign Language teachers taught a 25 minute lesson to each of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes to show the students a little about the French and Spanish classes they can take at Field beginning in sixth grade. Principal Murphy stated that the students have been asked to complete a survey indicating which language they prefer to study at the middle school. The surveys should be returned by Tuesday.
- Principal Murphy summarized the recognition assembly stating that it went very well. The Snowflake program will be coming up.
- On the early release day the teachers will be working on curriculum and getting a chance to collaborate together.

Joanne Panopolous summarized the new regulations on special education workloads. President Ruben questioned if she has changed or seen changes in the IEP meetings. Joanne Panopolous explained that in the past, parents were only involved in eligibility/evaluation meetings. Now, they are also involved in domain meetings during which the student's team determines which tests will be administered for the initial case study evaluation and the three year re-evaluation. Mrs. Panopoulos further explained that the evaluation timeframe is faster than last year. This is a result of having the domain meetings and all of the prior work done through the RtI process. Member Crowe-Richards questioned if anything was missing because the meetings were now shorter. Joanne Panopolous stated that nothing is missing. Instead, the meetings are more efficient and parents know much of the information beforehand. Member Crowe-Richards suggested having a Parent Satisfaction Survey.

Joanne Panopolous stated that the preschool screening is February 25<sup>th</sup>. District 28 and 30 are currently working to screen students collectively. By doing this, it will allow more flexibility for the parents seeking more frequent time screenings and flexibility for district staff.

Nancy Wasielewski introduced the District's newly assigned reporter from Pioneer Press. Nancy Wasielewski reported that Irv Levitt from Pioneer Press has done an article on the Trucker Buddies and proudly mentioned the posting of our first video on advise to Barack Obama. Nancy Wasielewski thanked the Board for the purchase of her Apple Computer. She is signed up to take some training courses at the Apple Store.

President Ruben reported on the Education Foundation meeting. The Foundation is pleased with the wine tasting benefit. The event raised \$19,000 profit and had 175 people attend. The Foundation was pleased to see parents and faculty there who had not previously attended.

Member Crowe-Richards reported that the NSSSED meeting will be next week.

Member Crowe-Richards attended the Northbrook Economic Council in Member Leshner's place. Member Crowe-Richards reported that the council discussed recommending affordable housing in Northbrook. Member Crowe-Richards stated that if everyone could ask around and see if teachers would be interested in living in Northbrook if it was more affordable.

Member Leshner reported on the Calendar Committee wherein he stated that Superintendent Nicholson is working on some coding issues. He will be able to have the final report next month.

Member Handler reported that information coming out of Springfield is that the state is not in a \$3,000,000 deficient but instead it is in a \$9,000,000 deficient. The state is hoping that with the federal government's money we will be in a \$6,000,000 deficient.

Member Handler stated that the ISBE is having a proposal coming out on food allergy polices.

Member Hofmockel reported on the Stakeholders Financial Advisory Committee meeting wherein they reviewed the first draft of the FY 2010 budget and the way to handle the CPI. Member Leshner questioned if the hospital contracts were done. Member Hofmockel confirmed that the overall plan has been completed.

#### *District Enrollment*

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the district enrollment report and the information regarding students who are new to the District. Superintendent Nicholson and the Board members discussed how the current economic situation may be impacting the decreased student enrollment due to homes not selling.

#### *Freedom of Information Requests Acts*

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the FOIA request from Marc Singer, requesting the candidate's names and addresses that are in the running for the next school board election. Member Crowe-Richards stated that the mail received from him was to purchase election signs.

#### *Decisions to be Made by Current Board Prior to Re-organization*

Superintendent Nicholson questioned the Board on what decisions they would like to make prior to the April Board reorganization and what issues they would like the new Board to deal with. After further discussion the Board agreed to complete Superintendent Nicholson's evaluation during the closed session of the March Board of Education meeting.

### *April Board Meeting Date and Time*

Superintendent Nicholson questioned the Board on changing the date of the April Board meeting due to Passover. After further discussion, the Board agreed to change the April Board meeting to April 23, 2009. This will be advertised on the District WEB site and on our school door postings.

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to change the Board meeting to April 23, 2009. Member Spector seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

### *Stakeholder Financial Advisory Committee Board Member Representative*

Superintendent Nicholson asked the Board members if they would like Member Hofmockel to continue representing the Board on the Stakeholder's Financial Advisory Committee. After further discussion, it was agreed that the Board would like Member Hofmockel to continue representing them on this committee.

### *Second Reading of Board Policy Community Use of School Facilities*

Superintendent Nicholson reviewed the second reading of Board Policy *Community Use of School Facilities* and its corresponding procedures. After discussion, Superintendent Nicholson recommended approving the policy in April pending our school attorney researching the appropriateness of including the Caucus within a District policy. Member Hofmockel questioned if anything in the recommended policy would change the current groups using our facilities. Superintendent Nicholson confirmed that it would not.

### *Second Reading of Facility Use Applications*

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the new Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) requirement. A District employee who is a certified AED user must be available when the school building is being utilized. Member Ruben made a few suggestions regarding the facility usage application including having the user initial each item to which he/she agrees and adding a cancellation clause.

### *First Reading of Board Policies*

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the first readings on the policies listed below:

- Attendance and Truancy
- Residency
- Equal Educational Opportunities
- Uniform Grievance Procedures
- Education of Homeless Children
- Grading and Promotion
- Administering Medicines to Students
- Health, Eye and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students
- Waiver of Student Fees

Member Silver questioned the status of the lice inspections. Superintendent Nicholson reported that the current procedure of continuing whole school inspections at the beginning of the school year is continuing until the District's two school nurses and Director of Student Services Joanne Panopoulos have had further opportunity to research this matter.

**MOVING INTO CLOSED SESSION**

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to go into closed session. Member Hofmockel seconded this motion. The motion was passed 7:0. The Board adjourned to closed session to consider student fees, possible legal matters and the appointments, employment, compensation or performance of specific employees.

The Board of Education adjourned to closed session at 8:29 PM.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Member Silver made a motion to approve the request for unpaid leave of absence from Alicia Aydt which would be for the 2009-2010 school year pending the WNTA agreeing to an agreement that this approval does not establish precedent. Member Spector seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0

**ADJOURN MEETING**

Member Silver made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Handler seconded the motion. The motion was passed 7:0. The Board adjourned at 10:31 PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date