

## VIII a.

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

FIELD SCHOOL LEARNING CENTER  
3131 Techny, Northbrook, Illinois 60062  
7:00 PM, April 15, 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 7:02 PM.

#### ROLL CALL

Board Members

Present: David Handler  
Jeffrey Silver  
Mary Crowe-Richards  
Bob Spector arrived at 7:03 PM  
Shel Leshner  
Bonnie Schoenberg  
Mike Berkowitz

District Administration

Present: Dr. Alexandra Nicholson, Superintendent of Schools  
School Attorneys, Lynn Himes and Jessica Bargnes

A quorum of the Board was confirmed by President Handler.

#### MOVING INTO CLOSED SESSION

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to move into closed session to consider information regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, performance or dismissal of specific employees. Member Leshner seconded the motion; the motion passed 7:0.

#### RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Member Leshner made a motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to dismiss Cheryl Roberts from employment in West Northfield School District 31 immediately and to direct the Board's attorney to draft the Board's written decision including findings. Member Crowe-Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

#### ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

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

None

### **RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE**

WNTA President, Dr. Gary Shine thanked the Board and Superintendent Dr. Nicholson for improving the communication between the WNTA and the Board of Education. Dr. Gary Shine also stated that there has been great improvement between the administration and the teachers, working collaboratively on the teacher's appraisal program and the mentor/mentee committee. Dr. Shine stated that he and Dr. Nicholson have been keeping each other informed of situations and working together to resolve them.

PTC Executive Board Member, Holly Anderson reported on the following:

- On April 23, 2010 the PTC will be hosting a sports challenge which is a volleyball tournament between the students, parents and staff. All the money will be donated to the technology department for more document cameras.
- PTC is continuing to pursue the process to become their own entity and things are going smoothly.
- PTC will be having an appreciation coffee wherein the new officers will be announced.

Member Spector questioned the large amount of funds in the PTC account. Holly Anderson stated there are projects that they are discussing. Superintendent Nicholson stated that there are no rules as to the amount of monies left in the PTC account.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Superintendent Nicholson reviewed the recommended 2010 summer paid work stating that all summer work must support the District's incentives, goals and objectives. She summarized the following needs:

- Literacy specialists will need to work on the reading curriculum if the new core standards are made public this summer.
- The District needs to move ahead this summer with its Response to Intervention initiatives, specifically problem solving and identifying and planning the implementation of a scientific research based behavior program.
- ELL teachers will need to assess new students during the summer for ELL service eligibility.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> grade math team will begin co-teaching and will need time during the summer to prepare for doing so.
- The Extra Curricular Committee has begun and Ms. Maher needs planning time during the summer.
- Kindergarten Round-Up takes place during the summer followed by student sectioning.
- Kindergarten teachers prepare packets for students to take home at the end of the school year to work on during the summer.

- Grades one through three and literacy specialists need time during the summer to prepare for continued school improvement in reading and language arts.
- There will be a third grade student with cognitive delays that teachers need to prepare for.
- Grade four needs to work on the perfect match.
- Operation Snowflurry will need to prepare for the 2010 school year.
- Technology classes will be offered to staff to bring their skills to the foundation level.
- Yearly technology maintenance is needed to prepare the computers for the following school year
- Any new teachers coming into the District need to be trained in basic technology and library skills.
- The health offices need time to prepare for the 2010 school year.

All paid summer work will not exceed \$34,834.10.

President Handler asked what the projected budget was for summer work. Superintendent Nicholson stated that it was \$40,000.

Member Silver made a motion to approve the 2010 summer paid work budget. Member Schoenberg second the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

Superintendent Nicholson stated that President Handler's law firm, Kirkland & Ellis, has offered to handle the law suit that the past Superintendent Paul Kimmelman filed against District 31. The law firm has offered to handle this case pro bono. Member Berkowitz questioned if there is a conflict of interest with them handling the case being that President Handler is on the Board. Superintendent Nicholson stated that she looked into that and there is no conflict of interest.

Member Schoenberg made a motion to approve Kirkland & Ellis to handle the Paul Kimmelman lawsuit against West Northfield School District 31. Member Berkowitz seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

## **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### *Administrative Reports*

Superintendent Nicholson reported that when the administration began to look at the fees that were being charged to the parents, the fees did not have any backing behind them. She explained that it is best practice to inform parents what the fees cover. Superintendent Nicholson reviewed the textbook and materials fees with the Board. Member Crowe-Richards expressed concern with the reed fee. After further discussion, Superintendent Nicholson stated that the reed fee will be temporarily taken off the fee form and additional information about the actual cost of the reeds will be brought to the Board in May.

Superintendent Nicholson reviewed the 2010/2011 transportation fees. District 31 has historically subsidized the cost of transportation for its students. For 2009/2010, the total subsidy is estimated at about \$117,000. Per contract, the cost of student transportation for 2010/2011 is increasing 3.0%. Member Spector asked how many families use the bus transportation. After further discussion, Superintendent Nicholson stated that about 60% of the population uses the bus transportation.

Superintendent Nicholson requested a straw vote from the Board on the fees so our registration packets can be completed. At the June Board meeting, a formal vote on fees will take place.

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

- Olympic skater and bronze medal winner, Lana Gehring, visited both Winkelman and Field Schools. Alana spoke about her emotions during the Olympic experience and how she kept motivated. Lana Gehring is a former District student.
- Principal Kalant stated that Winkelman has a national champion in figure skating, Rebecca Spector.
- PTC has arranged an author that is Harvard educated and who has a Masters degree from New York University in Mathematics. He had a career change and started writing children books on Mathematics.
- All four teams in Destination Imagination have won at the regional competition level and will be competing in global this May.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students are involved in transition activities to Field school.
- Teachers have begun their sectioning for next year.

Member Crowe-Richards expressed excitement from her daughter who met Lana Gehring

Principal Murphy reported on the following ACT information:

- Great presentations went on at Field School such as Lana Gehring and “The Raining Season”.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade are preparing for the field trip to the Holocaust museum.
- Author Margaret Petersen visited Field school.
- A cultural arts assembly is scheduled for Monday.
- 2010 student placement meetings have begun.
- The Technology Committee is investigating the use of Google options.

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

- The second preschool screening will be coming up on Wednesday. This is in conjunction with districts 28 and 30.

- The process has begun for interviewing for the special education teacher position.

Director of Communications Nancy Wasielewski reported on the following:

- The Safety Manual flip book has been distributed to the schools.
- The State of the District report will be printed tomorrow.
- The Spring Communicator will be available in May.
- Pioneer Press has given the District much coverage on the different school events.

#### *Board Reports*

President Handler stated that the Township Board Presidents discussed teacher contracts and how they are constructed to reflect inflation, etc.

Member Silver stated that the IASB is sending out reminders to file your economic statement by May 1, 2010.

Member Crowe-Richards reported that the NSSD distributed the draft of the budget with a 0% increase in fees. This budget shows many cuts. Next week, this draft will be distributed to the township superintendents to review for the budget meeting. The new executive committee was elected.

Member Schoenberg announced that the Education Foundation approved a \$35,000 grant to the District to make both schools wireless. The Foundation also discussed their mission in providing funding for technology and teacher grants.

#### *Freedom of Information Act*

None.

#### *District Enrollment*

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the District enrollment reports.

#### **FIRST READ POLICIES –Parent Involvement**

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the need for having a parent involvement policy. School districts that are eligible for and accept Title I funds must have a Board approved policy for parent involvement. This policy will need formal approval at the May Board meeting.

#### **RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE**

None

#### **RESCHEDULING MAY 28<sup>TH</sup> BOARD MEETING**

The Board needed to reschedule the May 28, 2010 Board meeting to Monday, May 24, 2010.

**MOVING INTO CLOSED SESSION**

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to go into closed session. Member Leshner 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, performance or dismissal of specific employees.

The Board of Education adjourned to closed session at 9:45 PM.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

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

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to uphold the suspension of a student. Member Schoenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

Member Schoenberg made the following motions:

- To non-renew Field Music Teacher Cheryl Silagi effective the end of the 2009-2010 school year.
- To reduce-in-force Special Education Instructional Assistant Meagan Malak effective the end of the 2009-2010 school year.
- To reduce-in-force 0.5 FTE Special Education Instructional Assistant Lindsay Scott effective the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

Member Silver seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

**ADJOURN MEETING**

Member Silver made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Schoenberg seconded the motion. The motion was passed 7:0. The Board adjourned at 10:48 PM.

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Board President

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Board Secretary

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Date