

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

**FIELD SCHOOL LEARNING CENTER  
3131 Techny, Northbrook, Illinois 60063  
7:00PM, April 30, 2009**

### **CALL TO ORDER OF THE HOLIDAY WAIVER HEARING**

The Holiday Waiver Hearing of the Board of Education was called to order by President Ruben at 7:03 PM.

### **ROLL CALL**

Board Members

Present: Mary Crowe-Richards  
Bob Spector  
Kris Ruben  
Jeffrey Silver  
Jim Hofmockel  
Shel Leshner  
David Handler

District Administration

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

A quorum of the Board was confirmed by President Ruben.

### **HOLIDAY WAIVER PRESENTATION**

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the reason for filing a Holiday Waiver for Veteran's Day for the upcoming 2009-2010 school calendar.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

### **ADJOURN HOLIDAY WAIVER HEARING**

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to adjourn the Holiday Waiver Hearing. Member Leshner seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0. The Holiday Waiver Hearing adjourned at 7:05 PM.

### **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 Ruben at 7:06PM.

### **ROLL CALL**

Board Members

Present: Mary Crowe-Richards  
Bob Spector  
Kris Ruben

Jeffrey Silver  
Jim Hofmockel  
Shel Leshner  
David Handler

District Administration

Present: Dr. Alexandra Nicholson, Superintendent of Schools  
Lisa Lawler-Ludwig, 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**

Member Crowe-Richards announced that the National School Board Association's annual conference will be held in Chicago for the 2009-2010 school year.

### **RECOGNITION OF GREEN CLEANING CERTIFICATION**

George Gaspari, Educational Manager and SIPC (Schools of Illinois Public Cooperative) consultant presented the Gold Level Green Cleaning Stewardship Award to Ed Blankenheim, Director of Buildings and Grounds. George Gaspari stated that he wanted to commend the Board of Education for their pro-active approach to the green initiative.

### **RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE**

#### **STUDENT RECOGNITION**

Students were recognized for their accomplishments within co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Principal Erin Murphy, Principal Maria Kalant and Gifted Teacher Beth Rohrer introduced students and handed out the certificates.

#### **VISITORS REQUESTING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the rules on addressing the Board. WNTA President, Gary Shine addressed the Board by reading a letter expressing the union's concerns. Parents in the audience also addressed the Board in support of the teachers. The following topics were discussed: low staff morale; fear of retaliation on probationary teachers; the spirit and essence of the Daniel Teacher Appraisal Model (DTAM) not followed by the administration; top down decision making and lack of collaboration; lack of transparency; insufficient assistance to three non-renewed teachers; timing of notification to non-renewed teachers; Board not serving as "guardian" of the community; fear of hiring non-qualified teachers; and Field teachers wanting to supervise the DC trip.

The Board responded to teachers and ensured them that their concerns will be reviewed. The Board will prepare a response regarding how to improve communication.

Superintendent Nicholson reminded the audience that personnel and collective bargaining issues should be discussed in closed session and asked WNTA President Gary Shine if he

wanted to go into closed session with the Board to do so. WNTA President, Gary Shine stated that he is not ready to go into closed session at this time.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the reason why the ELL/TBE teacher position is back on the agenda for this Board meeting. She explained that during the March 12, 2009 Board of Education meeting, the Board had approved the addition of a full-time ELL/TBE teacher for Winkelman School if the number of Korean students who qualify for a full-time bilingual program reaches/exceeds 20. It is currently projected that there are 14 Korean students who will qualify for a 2009-2010 full time bilingual program at Winkelman School. If a third ELL/TBE teacher is approved without the stipulation of needing 20 or more Korean students who qualify for a bilingual teacher, this will give Winkelman the flexibility of implementing a full-time Korean bilingual program if needed and the flexibility of offering differentiated levels of service to students depending upon their levels of English proficiency.

Member Handler made a motion to reconsider the action of the ELL/TBE teaching position. Member Silver seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

Member Handler made a motion to rescind the previous vote on the ELL/TBE teaching position from the Board meeting held on March 12, 2009. Member Crowe-Richards second the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to employ an ELL/TBE teacher for the 2009-2010 school year. Member Leshner seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

### **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### *Board Reports*

President Ruben summarized the Education Foundation meeting. The Foundation is planning a 5k relay walk/run in October of 2009. President Ruben reported that the Education Foundation is reviewing possible partial funding for transporting students and their parents to the Destination Imagination competition in Tennessee and possible financial assistance to the five year technology plan.

Member Crowe-Richards reported on the NSSED. She stated that NSSED has recommended that school districts within its cooperative should use their ARRA funds for the North Shore Academy (NSA) facility project. Member Crowe-Richards reported that the NSA construction is under budget. Superintendent Nicholson explained that the Technology Committee had planned on using the ARRA funds for part of the five-year technology plan until the NSSED recommendation to use ARRA funds for NSA were announced. Lisa Lawler-Ludwig stated that funds can be taken out of working cash for technology.

Mary Crowe-Richards commented on the success of the NSSD strategic plan process. Superintendent Nicholson stated that she is researching various ways to conduct a strategic plan process and will be sharing her recommendation on how to do so at a future Board meeting.

### **RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS**

Superintendent Nicholson presented outgoing Board members, President Ruben and Member Hofmockel with an award of recognition. Nancy Wasielewski photographed the outgoing Board members.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF AND ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS**

Kristen Ruben announced the newly elected Board members, Bonnie Schoenberg, Mike Berkowitz, Mary Crowe-Richards and David Handler. All four Board members took the oath of office.

A brief reception in honor of outgoing and incoming Board of Education members was held.

## **REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **SELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TERM**

The Board of Education made Superintendent Nicholson president pro tem.

### **SELECTION OF RECORDING SECRETARY PRO TERM**

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to appoint Tina Nielsen as recording secretary pro tem. David Handler seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

### **CALL TO ORDER OF THE OPEN SESSION OF THE REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Open Session of the reorganization meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Superintendent Alexandra Nicholson at 9:50PM.

### **ROLL CALL**

Board Members

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

David Handler

District Administration

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

A quorum of the Board was confirmed by President David Handler.

### **ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS**

The Board of Education elected the following Board officers:

President:

Jeff Silver nominated David Handler for President. Shel Leshner nominated Mary Crowe-Richards for President. Votes in favor of David Handler included David Handler, Jeffrey Silver, Bonnie Schoenberg and Mike Berkowitz. Votes in favor of Mary Crowe-Richards included Mary Crowe-Richards, Robert Spector and Shel Leshner. David Handler was elected president. The vote was 4 to 3.

Vice-President:

David Handler nominated Jeffrey Silver for vice-president. Mary Crowe-Richards nominated Shel Leshner for vice-president. Votes in favor of Jeffrey Silver included David Handler, Jeffrey Silver, Bonnie Schoenberg and Mike Berkowitz. Votes in favor of Shel Leshner included Mary Crowe-Richards, Robert Spector and Shel Leshner. Jeffrey Silver was elected vice-president. The vote was 4 to 3.

Secretary:

David Handler nominated Mary Crowe-Richards for secretary. Jeffrey Silver nominated Shel Leshner for secretary. Votes in favor of Mary-Crowe Richards included Mary Crowe-Richards, David Handler, Shel Leshner, Jeffrey Silver, Bonnie Schoenberg and Mike Berkowitz. Votes in favor of Shel Leshner included Robert Spector. Mary Crowe-Richards was elected secretary. The vote was 6 to 1.

### **SELECTION OF RECORDING SECRETARY**

Member Crowe-Richards nominated Tina Nielsen as the Recording Secretary for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year. Tina Nielsen was voted as Recording Secretary 7:0.

### **SET TERM LENGTH FOR BOARD OFFICERS**

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the rules for setting the term length for Board officers. Member Silver made a motion to keep the term length for Board officers to two years. Member Leshner seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:00.

### **SET DATES AND LOCATIONS OF REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS**

Superintendent Nicholson reviewed with the Board of Education the recommended dates and locations of the regular Board meetings from July 2009 through June 2010.

### **SELECT ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES**

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the responsibilities of the Board of Education organization representatives. After further discussion, the following assignments were agreed upon by the Board of Education:

NSSSED	Mary Crowe-Richards
IASB	Jeffrey Silver
Ed-Red	Bob Spector
District 31 Foundation	Bonnie Schoenberg
Northbrook Economic Council	Shel Leshner/Mike Berkowitz
Glenview Plan Commission	Shel Leshner/Mike Berkowitz
Township Board Presidents	David Handler

### **CONSENT AGENDA OF THE REORGANIZATION MEETING**

President Handler questioned the services from Zimmerman Consulting. Lisa Lawler-Ludwig explained that the services were used for special education costs. Member Leshner made a motion to approve items a through h of the Consent Agenda. Member Schoenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the recommended summer 2009 paid work. She explained that the list consisted of work that needs to be accomplished in order to be ready for the 2009-2010 school year and requests made by teachers. Member Spector asked how many of the teacher requests were granted. Superintendent Nicholson stated that all teacher requests were carefully considered and 75% of them were included in the recommendations. Member Berkowitz questioned the typical budget amount for this issue. Superintendent Nicholson stated that the budget amount had been \$40,000 in the past.

### **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### *Administrative Reports*

Lisa Lawler-Ludwig summarized the Draft #3 of the 2009-2010 Education Fund Budget and Draft # 1 of the Building Bond and Interest, IMRF and Transportation Funds Budget. Lisa Lawler-Ludwig explained that the all faculty and staff salaries and the final health insurance increases of 6.6% for PPO and 3.2% for HMO are reflected in the draft. Future health increases are still estimated at 9%. Lisa Lawler-Ludwig explained that there will be additional costs for outstanding non-certified staff. President Handler questioned if the surplus is actual. Lisa Lawler-Ludwig stated that timing of property tax receipts, property tax refunds and out of District Special Education costs have caused the actual expenditures to deviate from those budgeted.

Member Silver asked about the status of the Allstate appeal. Superintendent Nicholson stated that the judges assigned to our cases want to wait until the court results are announced for the Madison case.

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

- Principal Kalant confirmed that there are six weeks left of school and the end of the year is approaching fast. Final assessments are being completed. Fifth graders have taken the Orleans Hannah which is a math test used for placement into the advanced 6<sup>th</sup> grade math program. Fifth graders visited Field school to help with transition to the middle school. Teachers are studying the sectioning and finalizing assessment rubrics.

Principal Murphy reported on the following ACT information:

- Principal Murphy confirmed that the students will be MAP testing the next two weeks.
- Principal Murphy reported on the family consumer science class. Students designed and made hats for the kids of Rwanda. These will be delivered in mid May.
- Principal Murphy reported that the 5<sup>th</sup> graders biggest anxiety for the transition to middle school is how to use the locks.
- Principal Murphy reported on the staff meeting with Andy Piper wherein the topic of discussion was behavior and RtI best practices.
- Principal Murphy gave the School Library Presentation for the Board of Education.

Joanne Panopoulos presented the Special Education Workload Plan. President Handler made a motion to approve the Special Education Workload Plan pending the correction throughout the plan stating Northbrook instead of West Northfield School District 31. Member Spector seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

Nancy Wasielewski reported on the following:

- Nancy reported that she is establishing a good working relationship with Pioneer Press.
- Oregon Trails that is scheduled at Winkelman will have TV coverage.
- District 31 will be highlighted in the Trib Local's next edition.
- Nancy reported on the general notice that was sent out on the Swine Flu.

#### *District Enrollment*

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the district enrollment report.

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the students new to the district report. The data reflected information regarding student in grades 1-8 who are new to District31 since the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year. There have been two students enrolled since the last report. Both students are Korean, both are below grade level in reading, both are at grade level in math, both are ELL and neither have significant behavior/social-emotional issues.

#### *Freedom of Information Act Requests*

None

#### *Federally Funded Programs for 2009-2010*

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the list of the federally funded programs for 2009-2010.

**MOVING INTO CLOSED SESSION**

Member Silver 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 possible legal matters and the employment and compensation of specific employees.

**ADJOURN MEETING**

Member Silver made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Leshner seconded the motion. The motion was passed 7:0. The Board adjourned at 11:35PM.

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Board President

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Board Secretary

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Date