

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**FIELD SCHOOL LEARNING CENTER
3131 Techny, Northbrook, Illinois 60063
7:00PM, June 11, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

The Open Session of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President David Handler at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Board Members

Present: David Handler
Mary Crowe-Richards
Jeffrey Silver Not Present
Bob Spector
Shel Leshner
Bonnie Schoenberg Not Present
Mike Berkowitz

District Administration

Present: Dr. Alexandra Nicholson, Superintendent of Schools

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

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent Nicholson added item number VI o to the regular agenda, letter of intent to retire from Michael Wasielewski effective the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

Superintendent Nicholson moved the closed agenda discussion items IV. a,c,d to action items V. a,b,c.

Superintendent Nicholson added item V. d., Business Service Office, to the closed agenda.

READING OF COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Superintendent Nicholson and President Handler shared three letters with the Board. The first letter was from Patrick and Lynn O'Dea expressing their appreciation for Principal Maria Kalant. The second letter was from Kathy and Howard Brandeisky expressing gratitude to District 31 staff for all the positive years their children experienced all the way through graduation. The third letter was from The Yucky Ducks, thanking District 31 for their generous donation to Winkelman School's Young Scholars Destination Imagination Global Finals 2009 teams.

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCES

Superintendent Nicholson acknowledged the Optimist Essay Winners, children in our special services department that competed around the township. The essay contest topic was to pick a place anywhere in the world and describe what it would be like to live there. There were 112 participants. District 31 winners were 6th grade Savana Felten, 7th grade Alex Turner who was also the overall top winner and 8th grade Trent Martin.

Parent Julie Tye, 2301 Mohawk Lane, Glenview Illinois, addressed the Board. She acknowledged her appreciation for District 31's immediate response to the concerns expressed during the April 30th Board of Education meeting, specifically the increased communication with the community.

Parent Julie Tye also expressed her concern for the District's Foreign Language Program. She requested that the District's families be surveyed regarding the languages they would like their children to study. Mrs. Tye expressed that Mandarin Chinese is a popular language at the high school level and may be one that would be requested.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Leshner made a motion to approve items a through n of the Consent Agenda, pending the clerical change mentioned from Member Leshner to the recording secretary, Tina Nielsen. Member Crowe-Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:0.

ACTION ITEMS

Superintendent Nicholson reviewed the employment recommendation of Cheryl Silagi as a general music teacher assigned to Field and Winkelman schools effective the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. Member Crowe-Richards questioned the issue regarding the lack of violin instruction. Superintendent Nicholson stated that the administration did review this issue. She explained that, years ago, the PTC donated violins to the music department and that the general music teacher at that time was an instrumental specialist, not a general music specialist, and therefore had the skills to teach the students how to play the violins. Superintendent Nicholson stated that it is very difficult to find a general music teacher with the ability to teach violins. Superintendent Nicholson further stated that the administration has been reviewing the idea of bringing back the after school violin club for both schools. Currently, there is a District 31 teacher who has the skills to run this club who may be willing to do so.

Member Leshner made a motion to approve the employment of Cheryl Silagi as a general music teacher assigned to Field and Winkelman schools effective the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. Member Berkowitz seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:0.

President Handler questioned why Paula Delehanty, the candidate for the art teaching position for Field and Winkelman schools effective the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year, is leaving Wilmette. Principal Murphy stated that Mrs. Delehanty is a second career person who is working part time at Wilmette and would like to work full time. Principal Murphy stated that the Wilmette administration would have loved to have had a full time position for Mrs. Delehanty but do not have one available at this time.

Member Leshner made a motion to approve the employment of Paula Delehanty as an art teacher assigned to Field and Winkelman schools effective the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. Member Crowe-Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:0.

Principal Murphy summarized candidate Michael Sackley for the social studies teaching assignment for Field School effective the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

Member Spector expressed a concern that Mr. Sackley has only one year of teaching experience. Principal Murphy explained that Mr. Sackley is also a second career candidate that has been teaching at McCracken School. She further explained that if the McCracken had a full time position available, they would have assigned it to Mr. Sackley.

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to approve the employment of Michael Sackley as a social studies teacher assigned to Field School effective the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. Member Leshner seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:0.

Principal Kalant summarized candidate Jill O'Reilly for the Winkelman School art teacher effective the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

Member Spector made a motion to approve the employment of Jill O'Reilly as an art teacher assigned to Winkelman School effective the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the tentative fiscal year 2010 budget. She highlighted that this is not the final budget and noted some adjustments that need to be made to it before it can be finalized. Member Spector questioned if the items in closed session that are going to be discussed will have a reflection on this tentative budget. Superintendent Nicholson stated that there will be a \$4,000.00 expenditure added to the budget due to a retirement payout so that the District can avoid a penalty. Referring to the projection sheet, Member Berkowitz questioned the significant increase in teacher salary expenses from 2009-2010 to 2010-2011. Superintendent Nicholson stated that this is an error that needs to be investigated. She further explained that the Board needs to approve the tentative budget in order for the District to pay its bills beginning with July 1, 2009 and that all of the needed adjustments will be made to the final budget before it is brought to the Board for approval.

Member Spector made a motion to approve the tentative fiscal year 2010 budget. Member Crowe-Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:0.

Principal Murphy and Mona Boudreau summarized the idea behind the internet safety curriculum highlighting the seven different topics of instruction included in the units of study. Member Leshner questioned if an activity can be implemented wherein the children can teach the parents. This would give the children the ability to demonstrate their knowledge of the different WEB sites. Principal Murphy stated that it would be a great idea to incorporate students teaching during the senior activities in addition to activities such as book studies and using technology such as i-pod casting.

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to approve the internet safety curriculum. Member Leshner seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:0.

Superintendent Nicholson introduced the Technology Committee members who presented their vision for the District's use of technology as well as the education and building fund technology equipment requests for 2009-2010.

Member Leshner made a motion to approve the Education and Building Fund Technology Equipment requests for 2009-2010. Member Berkowitz seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:0.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Administrative Reports

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the enhanced communication measures that District 31 has implemented highlighting the following: parent coffees, a communication survey, monthly meetings with WNTA and administrators, the survey monkey and Edline.

Superintendent Nicholson reported that the Teacher Appraisal Committee members were scheduled to meet on Monday, June 14, 2009 to begin making the needed changes to the teacher appraisal process that were identified during the recent Danielson training session. President Handler questioned whether or not the mentoring program should be expanded to three years instead of two.

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the Stakeholder Financial Advisory Committee meeting wherein they discussed the qualifications needed in the candidate for the Director of Business Services.

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

- As of June 11th, the student enrollment is 529. At the end of the 2008-2009 school year, it was 541.
- The kindergarten round-up program is focusing on literacy, motor and social skills.
- Summer school is running smoothly.
- Teachers are active during this summer preparing bulletin boards and their rooms for next year.

Principal Murphy reported on the following ACT information:

- Principal Murphy thanked the Board members for being a part of the 2008-2009 graduation.
- Principal Murphy summarized the recognition assembly on academic leadership.
- This summer, the RtI committee will continue to work on core studies.
- Edline training is being offered this summer to over 80 staff.
- Field's foreign language department received a grant from the Education Foundation which will fund a staff field trip to Pilsen. This will help prepare teachers for taking their students. To date, 20 teachers volunteered to attend.

Superintendent Nicholson summarized, for Joanne Panopoulos, the procedure and success of the Optimist Essay Contest.

Nancy Wasielewski reported on the following projects that she is working on during the summer:

- Alert communications regarding registration deadlines
- 2009-2010 Handbook
- Summer Communicator
- Ipod casting

Board Reports

President Handler reported on the township board presidents meeting wherein he stated that the meeting was an introduction of all the new School Board Presidents.

Member Leshner attended the Northbrook Economic Council meeting and reported that the Astellas project is stalled due to financing. Member Leshner and Member Berkowitz also reported on a drive-thru for Walgreens in Northbrook stating that it is going well. The Village donated \$8,000 to counselors to help people in the community search for jobs.

Member Spector reported on the latest Ed-Red information wherein he referenced the capitol construction bill. This bill needs to be signed by Governor Quinn.

Superintendent Nicholson stated that the Education Foundation is working on the 5k race/walk. Superintendent Nicholson reported on the approval of the grant from Allstate that is worth \$43,000.

District Enrollment

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the district enrollment reports.

Freedom of Information Requests Acts

None

MOVING INTO CLOSED SESSION

Member Berkowitz made a motion to go into closed session. Member Leshner seconded this motion. The motion was passed 5:0. The Board adjourned to closed session to consider possible legal matters and the appointment, employment, compensation or performance of specific employees.

The Board of Education adjourned to closed session at 9:43 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Member Leshner made a motion to reimburse Meredith Lang for her two classes subject to the WNTA agreeing that payment does not establish a precedent. Member Crowe-Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:0.

Member Spector made a motion to approve the recommended 2009-2010 proposed salaries as amended by the Board in closed session. Member Leshner seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:0.

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to approve Kelly Tess's leave of absence request. Member Berkowitz seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:0.

ADJOURN MEETING

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Berkowitz seconded the motion. The motion was passed 5:0. The Board adjourned at 11:13 PM.

Board President

Board Secretary

Date