

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

FIELD SCHOOL LEARNING CENTER
3131 Techny, Northbrook, Illinois 60063
7:00PM, October 29, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The Open Session of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President David Handler 7:03 PM.

ROLL CALL

Board Members

Present: David Handler
Jeffrey Silver
Mary Crowe-Richards
Bob Spector
Shel Leshner
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 AUDIENCES

Ken Eppelheimer, who resides at 2410 White Oak Drive, Northbrook, Illinois, is the Assistant Executive Director for the Northbrook Park District and is a member of the Stakeholder's Financial Advisory Committee for District 31. Ken Eppelheimer was present to discuss the potential need for a referendum to increase the Education Fund tax rate. He also expressed his support to the Board of Education if they choose to pursue a referendum.

2009 ILLINOIS SCHOOL REPORT CARD

Superintendent Nicholson presented the 2009 Illinois School Report Card.

FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL PROJECTION

Cheryl Roberts presented the five-year financial projection.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to approve items a through k of the Consent Agenda pending minor clerical changes to be made to the open meeting minutes by the recording secretary, Tina Nielsen. Member Leshner seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

ACTION ITEMS

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the proposal to affirm the accuracy of the FY 2010 School District Library Grant Program application signature page. After summarization of the proposal, Member Leshner made a motion to affirm the accuracy of the FY 2010 School District Library Grant Program application signature page. Member Schoenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Administrative Reports

Cheryl Roberts summarized the preliminary 2009 tax levy highlighting the two scenarios the Board of Education will need to consider for approval in November. President Handler questioned which scenario Cheryl would recommend. Cheryl Roberts recommended scenario one. Cheryl Roberts explained the formula that is used to determine what the District will receive in additional revenue from the CPI of .1% and new construction.

Cheryl Roberts reported that the auditors have completed their audit field work. The financial statements are currently being reviewed by the senior partner of the audit firm. A draft copy of the audited financial statements will soon be available.

Cheryl Roberts summarized the issue of the short-term borrowing for cash flow purposes Cheryl Roberts explained two choices available to the District. The first choice is tax anticipation warrants. The second choice is establishing a line of credit. If the Board of Education were to issue tax anticipation warrants, the most the District could borrow is \$1,000,000. A line of credit from the bank would allow the District to borrow up to 85% of the property taxes in both the Education and Operations and Maintenance Funds less any balance in the Working Cash Fund. With the line of credit the District will pay interest on the amount used. Both choices require a resolution from the Board of Education stating why the district needs to borrow the money and the terms in which the money will be paid back. Member Leshner questioned what the worst case scenario for borrowing is. Cheryl Roberts stated that \$1,500,000 would be the worse scenario. Member Leshner questioned what the most cost efficient scenario would be. Cheryl Roberts stated that most cost efficient scenario would be the tax anticipation warrants. Cheryl Roberts explained that once the District receives the tax money, the loan will be paid off. After further discussion, the Board of Education scheduled a special meeting for Thursday, November 12, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. in the Board Conference Room to approve a short-term borrowing resolution.

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

- Winkelman teachers are preparing for parent/teacher conferences.
- 30 Winkelman teachers are involved in a voluntary action research project focusing on literacy work in classrooms.
- Students are involved in service learning projects as well as spirit days.
- It is Drug Awareness month and the theme this year is “color my world drug free”. Globes were created by the students and have been displayed all around Winkelman.
- Principal Kalant met with the Glenbrook Hospital representatives regarding upcoming construction on the hospital’s property. This project will not impact Winkelman School.

Principal Murphy reported on the following ACT information:

- Field teachers are preparing for parent/teacher conferences.
- Leadership Day went very well and the students responded very well to the activities.
- The 8th graders went to Pilsen on a field trip. Principal Murphy attended.
- 7th graders are doing their service learning at nursing homes.
- Principal Murphy and four teachers will be attending the National Middle School Conference and intend to bring back useful information. This trip is funded by the Education Foundation.
- Many art projects are being displayed throughout the school for everyone to view.

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

- Joanne Panopoulos and five teachers from Winkelman have embarked on a journey of which involves six professional development workshops that focus on the restructuring of ELL programs. In particular we are able to focus on Winkelman’s program by starting with analyzing student data and moving forward with recommendations.
- Special Education has had a smooth start to the school year and the additional instructional assistants have been working out very well. Special Education assistants have attended NSSSED professional development workshops that have directly corresponded to our students’ needs.

Nancy Wasielewski reported on the following:

- Nancy has completed the communication survey and this will be available on the Survey Monkey. This will be available during the parent/teacher conferences.
- The schools had coverage from Pioneer Press on various school events. In the Trib Local they had a full page on the 5K.
- Nancy reported on the Podcasting seminar that she attended with Superintendent Nicholson.
- Nancy is completing Up and Down the Halls.

Board Reports

President Handler summarized the Township Board Presidents' meeting highlighting District 34's report card that they post on their Web site and a budget guide for the community that is easy to follow. President Handler brought a copy of each to share with the Board of Education and administration. President Handler recommended reviewing these and possibly developing ones similar for District 31. President Handler stated that one of the Township board presidents has reservations of the competency of the NSSSED administration. Member Crowe-Richards stated that there are a lot of changes being implemented this year for NSSSED in a positive direction.

Member Silver reported on an IASB dinner meeting with speaker Dr. Clay.

Member Crowe-Richards reported that NSSSED's construction is going on and so far is under budget. NSSSED and NSSRA have signed a government agreement.

Member Leshner reported on the Glenview Plan Commission meeting which focused on Pleasant Prairie.

Member Schoenberg reported on the Education Foundation highlighting the wine tasting benefit for February.

President Handler asked PTC member Ruthie Rosenberg if she would like to share upcoming events. Ruthie Rosenberg stated that they are working on Family Bingo Night and the purchasing of the document cameras. Superintendent Nicholson complimented the PTC on the successful Halloween on Ice event.

Freedom of Information Act

None

District Enrollment

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the three paged district enrollment report.

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCES

None.

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 possible legal matters and the appointment, employment, compensation or performance of specific employees.

The Board of Education adjourned to closed session at 8:47 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Member Schoenberg made a motion to approve the request for leave of absence. Member Crowe-Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

ADJOURN MEETING

Member Leshner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Crowe-Richards seconded the motion. The motion was passed 7:0. The Board adjourned at 9:41 PM.

Board President

Board Secretary

Date