

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**FIELD SCHOOL LEARNING CENTER
3131 Techny, Northbrook, Illinois 60062
7:00 PM, November 19, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

The Open Session of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Vice President Jeffrey Silver 7:05 PM.

ROLL CALL

Board Members

Present:	David Handler	Present via phone 7:06 PM (can not vote)
	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 Vice President Silver.

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Member Crowe-Richards stated that she and other Board members received an anonymous letter. Vice President Silver asked members of the audience if anyone was at the Board meeting who would like to discuss this letter. No one responded.

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE

None.

**WRITING CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM
PRESENTATION**

Superintendent Nicholson reported that the Literacy Specialists, Kathleen Murphy, Lori Shames, Angie Kaczowski and Lisa Klein have prepared an audio visual presentation of

the adopted K-8 writing curriculum and its accompanying instructional program. The four literacy specialists proceeded with their presentation.

After the presentation, Principal Kalant summarized her memorandum which included information on her research into the fifth grade 2009 ISAT writing scores and what she and the teachers are doing in an attempt to improve these scores for the 2010 spring ISAT.

PRESENTATION OF REFERENDUM OPTION

Cheryl Roberts summarized an overview of outstanding debt and financing options highlighting the operating tax rate increase ballot question. This question has to be written exactly as presented. The question is confusing and lengthy. The Board expressed concern that the question will confuse voters and they will automatically vote no. After further discussion, the Board agreed there will have to be a lot of educating the community for everyone to understand this question. The Board wants to make sure that the community is aware that District 31 does not want to increase taxes but keep it the same.

Cheryl Roberts reported that she will present and explain debt service extension base to the Board of Education and the audience at the December meeting.

PARENT TEACHER CLUB

This topic was taken out of order from the agenda due to the presenter's schedule.

PTC President Suzanne Kahn reported on the following events:

- The Book Fair that runs Wednesday, November 18th through Friday, November 20th at Winkelman and Wednesday, December 2nd through Friday, December 4th at Field.
- The PTC meeting being held in the evening on December 3rd at 7:30 PM at Field.
- Bingo Night on January 22, 2010.

Suzanne Kahn stated that the PTC has received numerous thank you cards from students and teachers expressing their gratitude for the PTC's donation to purchase five additional document cameras.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Leshner made a motion to approve items a through f of the Consent Agenda. Member Berkowitz seconded the motion. The motion passed 6:0.

ACTION ITEMS

Cheryl Roberts summarized the reason for the tentative approval of the 2009 Tax Levy. Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to approve the tentative 2009 Tax Levy. Member Spector seconded the motion. The motion passed 6:0.

Cheryl Roberts summarized the reason for setting the public hearing date for the Tax Levy. Member Leshner made a motion to approve the public hearing date for the Tax Levy for 7:00 PM, December 17, 2009. The motion passed 6:0.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Administrative Reports

Cheryl Roberts reported that the finance department is busy ending the fiscal year 2009. Cheryl Roberts stated that she is currently preparing the annual statement of affairs which will be published in the newspaper on December 1, 2009. The annual audit has been completed and the Board was given a copy in their packet. There were no management points regarding the audit.

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

- Parent/teacher conferences are in session and going well.
- INVIEW testing will be given after Thanksgiving break.
- Two teachers and a reading specialist from School District 29, Wilmette, came to visit Winkelman's teachers, Sarah Weisberg and Kathleen Murphy because they have seen them present a reading conference and were very impressed. They came to watch them in their daily routine. Winkelman teacher's shared their information with them and they were very pleased.

Principal Murphy reported on the following ACT information:

- Parent/teacher conferences are also in session at Field and are going well.
- The first week in December, the 6th graders will be taking the INVIEW test and the 8th graders will be taking the Terra Nova.
- The new service learning class this year has been very busy and has made blankets for babies in hospitals, back packs for kids in Rwanda, and wooden toys and games for kids in foster care. After viewing a presentation at the Leadership Day, "Share Your Soles", Mr. Kondela and Ms. Kiraly will be taking the kids to the "Share Your Soles" warehouse where they will process the shoes that they have collected.
- Principal Murphy was pleased to inform the Board of the valuable information received at the Middle School Conference that was attended by representative teachers and herself. This conference was financially sponsored by the Education Foundation.

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

- District 31 is joining Districts 28 and 30 to provide pre-school screenings. The parents will benefit by having additional screening dates to attend.
- Joanne was pleased to inform and thank the Board, once again, for approving the psychology intern, Gina Sammarco, who has been very

impressive in both buildings and has been getting positive feedback from teachers and staff.

Nancy Wasielewski reported on the following:

- Nancy and Superintendent Nicholson created a pod cast on American Education Week that is posted on the District's WEB site.
- Pioneer Press featured Winkelman on the cover celebrating their Thanksgiving program. Winkelman students will be writing essays on "How to Cook a Turkey" and this will be featured along with a photo in the Tribune Local.
- The posting of the communication survey has been rescheduled until after the Thanksgiving holiday due to all of the communication on H1N1 vaccination dates being sent to parents and the need for parents to return their responses.

Board Reports

Member Silver stated that the Triple III Conference is this weekend and Member Crowe-Richards and Member Leshner will be attending and will report back with information at the December Board meeting.

Member Schoenberg reported on the Education Foundation. She highlighted the wine tasting benefit for February and reported that the 5K race made close to \$7,000.

Freedom of Information Act

Member Silver stated that we received a FOIA request from Janet Martin requesting information for all non-certified employees in our District such as job classification, dates of hire, current salaries, and any fringe benefits. Cheryl Roberts reported that the information has already been sent out to Janet Martin.

District Enrollment

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the District enrollment reports.

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE

None.

MOVING INTO CLOSED SESSION

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to go into closed session. Member Berkowitz seconded this motion. The motion was passed 6:0. The Board adjourned to closed session to consider possible employment, compensation or performance of specific employees.

The Board of Education adjourned to closed session at 8:08 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Member Silver stated that the Board received an anonymous letter signed “Concerned District 31 Parents”. The Board reviewed and discussed this letter in closed session. The Board will research the content of this letter, and during the open session of the December 19, 2009 Board of Education meeting, will respond to the anonymous authors by answering the questions they asked within the letter and by providing accurate information regarding the data provided within it.

Member Schoenberg made a motion to approve the request for leave of absence. Member Crowe-Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed 6:0.

ADJOURN MEETING

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Berkowitz seconded the motion. The motion was passed 6:0. The Board adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Board President

Board Secretary

Date