

BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
Regular MEETING
April 10, 2007

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 60, Lake County, Illinois, convened in regular session in Room 120 at Lincoln Center, 1201 North Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The President called the meeting to order. It was found that the following members were present:

Mrs. Patricia Jones
Mr. Bill Anderson arrived at 6:37 p.m.
Ms. Anita Hanna
Mrs. June Maguire
Mr. Marvin Reddick arrived at 6:42 p.m.
Mr. Jeff McBride arrived at 6:36 p.m.
Mr. Fernando Shipley

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mrs. Maguire that the Board recess and reconvene in closed session pursuant to applicable Open Meetings Act exceptions for the purpose of discussing appointments, employment, discipline and compensation of specific employees, hearings on student discipline, employee grievances, approval of minutes of the closed session meetings, collective bargaining negotiations, purchase or lease of real estate, status of pending or actual litigation, and special education student placement.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote and all members present voted aye. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION DISCUSSION

Also present for the closed session were: Dr. Donaldo R. Batiste, Superintendent; Mr. Jules Gaudin, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Operations Officer; Dr. Mary Lamping, Chief Academic Officer; and Mr. Thomas Morris, attorney for the Board of Education. Mr. Torrie Newsome, Dr. Harlene Shipley, and Mr. Bill Newby were present for discussion of student discipline matters. Mr. Fred Howard was present for personnel matters.

Mrs. Jeanne Kearby, Mr. Fred Howard, and Mr. Brian Luosa, were on call as needed for the closed session and were present for the open session of the meeting.

Minutes of the closed session are on file in the Superintendent's confidential file, pages 10590-10593.

BOARD RECONVENES IN OPEN SESSION

At 8:15 p.m. it was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mrs. Maguire that the Board reconvene in open session in the Board Room.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members voted aye: Jones, Anderson, Hanna, Maguire, Reddick, McBride, Shipley. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Also present for open agenda items were Mr. Ryan Pagelow of the *News Sun*, and Mrs. Bonnie Kuss, recorder.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Ben Grimes led the Board and audience in the recitation of the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

GREENHOUSE PROJECT PROJECT - STATE REPRESENTATIVE EDDIE WASHINGTON

State Representative Eddie Washington commented on the formulation and implementation of plans to bring a unique hands-on learning experience to Waukegan students at the proposed Leroy P. Jones Project at Jefferson Middle School through life science activities embodying the scientific method of investigation . The greenhouse project has been a collaborative effort initiated by Representative Washington and funded through grants from the Abbott Fund, Monsanto, First Midwest Bank and other sponsors to permit students to participate in life science experimentation. He invited everyone to attend the ground breaking ceremony for the greenhouse on Thursday, April 12, 2007, at 12:30 p.m.

Mr. Shipley noted that two years ago, Representative Washington had approached the District with the vision for this project and had worked diligently to bring it to fruition. Ms. Hanna commented that she was excited about the opportunities which this project will afford our students.

Dr. Batiste and Mr. Shipley presented Representative Washington with a plaque to celebrate his dedicated service to the students of Waukegan and noted that not only has Representative Washington initiated the greenhouse project but he has also sponsored legislation to assist the District in relief of the financial burden of the Yeoman Creek remediation. Dr. Batiste also introduced Mr. Marvin Bemby of Abbott Laboratories.

Representative Washington was thanked and congratulated by members of the Board and audience.

PRESENTATION OF ISBE CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION

Dr. Batiste commented that the school recognition process provides the accountability framework for compliance with the Illinois Administrative Code. It requires extensive documentation which addresses all areas of academic and operational procedure. He announced that each school in Waukegan has achieved the status of Fully Recognized.

Dr. Lamping, assisted by Ms. Hanna and Mrs. Maguire, presented a Certificate of Recognition to the administrator of each school. Each administrator received congratulations from the Board and audience.

WAUKEGAN HIGH SCHOOL REORGANIZATION (FIRST STEPS)

An extensive presentation on the proposed restructuring of Waukegan High School was provided by Mr. Ed Guerra, Ms. Cabrina Williams-Leneau, Maj. Carter Bell, and Mr. Marshall Ruetz. The proposed model was developed as a further progression of concepts set forth in the application for the Small Learning Communities Grant and was formulated in consultation with Dr. Heather Patay and Dr. Sherman Beverly of the University Center.

The proposed organization is designed to enable each person, student or teacher, to develop a sense of self-determination, identity, personalization, support, and accountability. It is anticipated that the outcome of reorganization will lead to improved student achievement and discipline, greater family involvement, increased participation in school activities, and recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers.

Although the committee gave as detailed an analysis of the proposal as time permitted, Board members had numerous questions and stated that they would welcome an opportunity to have further meetings at which members of the public could be informed of the proposal. Issues raised included: security, a more comprehensive curriculum, vocational programs, parental involvement, increased social work intervention, cost and logistical implementation of the proposal, and actions which could be put in place in the near term to begin to effectuate the desired outcomes.

Mr. Shipley thanked the committee for their efforts.

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM UPDATE

This item was deferred until later in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mrs. Maguire and seconded by Ms. Hanna that the minutes of the regular meeting of March 13, 2007, the special meeting of March 27, 2007, and the special meeting of April 3, 2007 be approved.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members voted aye: Jones, Hanna, Maguire, McBride, Shipley. Pass: Anderson, Reddick. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

CONSENT ITEMS (ACTION)

Under the current format for information provided for the Board and the public, each agenda action item is accompanied by a rationale and an administrative recommendation for Board action.

PURCHASES AND CONTRACTS

APPROVAL OF HIGH SCHOOL TEXTBOOK ADOPTION

It was moved by Ms. Hanna and seconded by Mrs. Jones that the Board of Education approve the use of the Illinois Textbook Loan Funds in the amount of \$164,724 for the purchase of high school materials. Ms. Hanna asked that the adoption be consistent with the proposed restructuring of the high school.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members voted aye: Jones, Anderson, Hanna, Maguire, Reddick, McBride, Shipley. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO PARTNER WITH LIONS MATH/SCIENCE ACADEMY

It was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mr. McBride that the Board of Education authorize the President of the Board to enter into an agreement with Lions Math Science Academy to provide services for 40 three to five year old Waukegan residents for the 2006-2007 school year. There is no cost for use of the facility; however, the PreSchool for All Grant currently funds two teachers associated with this site.

Mrs. Maguire noted that a corrected copy of the agreement was given to the Board in the closed session packet.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members voted aye: Jones, Anderson, Hanna, Maguire, Reddick, McBride, Shipley. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM TO WAUKEGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INSURANCE PROGRAM

The Board had previously discussed the efficacy of adopting a plan to promote a wellness/health evaluation benefit to employees for early detection of potential health problems. Mr. Anderson noted that further discussion had been held during Insurance Plan Board meetings.

It was moved by Mrs. Maguire and seconded by Mrs. Jones that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Insurance Plan Board by approving the addition of the Health Risk Management Program to the Waukegan Public Schools Health Insurance Plan, effective immediately. The cost impact to the PPO component of the Plan will vary based upon employee utilization and is expected to range from \$36,000.00 to \$72,000.00. All such funds are available within the existing budgets.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members voted aye: Jones, Anderson, Hanna, Maguire, Reddick, McBride, Shipley. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Mrs. Hanna asked if the Board will have increased authority in the operation of the Plan. Mr. Gaudin responded that this matter is still under negotiation.

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Grant Flink gave a substantive overview of the alternative programs and services offered to Waukegan students who are deemed to be at risk in the traditional school setting. The intent is to provide an appropriate placement to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of each of these students to ensure their ultimate success.

Mr. Flink described each of the alternative programs offered: Alternative Optional Education Center services, AOEC Extended Day, Ninth Grade Credit Recovery, Twilight School with special education option, Ombudsman, and Lake County Learning Center. Data concerning numbers of students enrolled, attendance, graduation and promotion rate, and credits earned were noted.

Mr. McBride gave kudos to Dr. Roy Stephens and his vision for the AOEC program and the Pickus Center child care facility. He thanked Mr. Flink and noted the increasing need for outreach to students who need non traditional services. These are a benefit to the students which, in turn, benefits the entire community.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2006-2007/PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2007-2008 AT WAUKEGAN HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Guerra gave a brief summary of the current Waukegan High School programs with activities achieved during the 2006-2007 school year and recommended changes for the 2007-2008 school year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brittany Brown, 2725 Glen Flora Ave., Waukegan, IL, spoke in reference to the Poms coach alleging that the coach has not behaved in a professional manner. Mr. Anderson asked that Mr. Mel Washington and Mr. Ed Guerra hold a private discussion with Ms. Brown in regard to this matter. He then asked the other students present who wished to address this issue to join Mr. Washington and Mr. Guerra in the private discussion.

Jessica Armstrong, 942 County Street, Waukegan, IL, commented on the fights which had recently occurred in the lunchroom, on school grounds, and in the locker room. She noted that in the past three years, three of her fellow classmates had died as a result of violence. She asked that security personnel be adequately trained and instructed to act promptly when incidents of a violent nature are in progress. She also reiterated a request, made earlier in the year, that students be required to participate in safety drills and that each student be screened using the metal detectors in the building.

Mrs. Karen Van Heirseele, 1405 North Ave., Waukegan, IL, spoke on the topic of Board expenses when members are in attendance at meetings. She mentioned by name and amount, the expenditures associated with each Board member who was in attendance at a regional or national meeting during the past two years.

Mr. Jim Turner, 1902 N. Sheridan Rd., Waukegan, IL, concurred with Mrs. Van Heirseele's statements regarding reimbursement of cash advances made to Board members.

Mr. Robert B. Evans, Sr., 337 George Ave., Waukegan, IL, addressed the matter of unfavorable comments made in the media regarding Board members. He stated that the community will make its determination at the election on April 17, 2007. The Board and administration have moved the District forward.

Mr. Melvin L. Bobo, III, 1931 Brookside, Waukegan, IL, stated that during the allegations of misuse of funds, no one mentioned the positive things that the Board does for students. He challenged the District to build on its strengths.

No other individuals came forward to speak.

APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ITEMS

It was moved by Mrs. Maguire that the Board disapprove the appointment of the individual listed on Schedule F-650, VII. B. 1 under Appointments-Office Workers/Misc. Non Certified. She expressed her belief that the salary, as noted, is not in line with that paid to other non certified individuals. There was no second. The President declared the motion failed for lack of a second.

Ms. Hanna asked that Item #2 on Schedule T-80 Annual Terminations be removed from consideration. All concurred.

It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Hanna that the Board of Education approve the Appointments listed on Enclosure VII. B. 1 - Schedule F-650, the Resignations listed on Enclosure VII. B. 2 - Schedule L-623, the Leaves listed on Enclosure VII. B. 3 - Schedule N-511, and the Terminations listed on Enclosure VII. B. 4 - Schedule T-80 as amended be approved.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members voted aye: Jones, Anderson, Hanna, Maguire, Reddick, McBride, Shipley. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

When Mrs. Maguire cast her vote for the above mentioned personnel items, she voiced her objection to the appointment cited above.

Copies of the personnel schedules are appended to these minutes.

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

There were no grants or donations to consider.

OTHER

APPROVAL OF SUMMER SCHOOL 2007 BUDGET

It was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mr. McBride that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the administration to approve the summer school budget of \$1,327,550 for the 2007 Summer School Program that incurs no additional anticipated cost to the District.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members voted aye: Jones, Anderson, Hanna, Maguire, Reddick, McBride, Shipley. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF REQUEST TO RENT WEISS FIELD - LAKE COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION

It was moved by Ms. Hanna and seconded by Mrs. Jones that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the administration to approve the use of Weiss Field by the Lake County Soccer Association at the appropriate fee schedule, per Waukegan Public School Board Policy #3270.

The dates requested are May 6, 2007; July 1, 2007; and October 7, 2007.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members voted aye: Jones, Anderson, Hanna, Maguire, Reddick, McBride, Shipley. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR BOARD MEMBER TO ATTEND NATIONAL CONFERENCE

It was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mr. Reddick that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the administration to authorize Ms. Anita Hanna to attend the National School Board Association conference. Funds required to cover registration, airfare, hotel, ground transportation to and from the airports, as well as meals are available in the approved 2006-2007 budget; this request is in conformity with Board Policies #8345 and #3331.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members voted aye: Jones, Hanna, Maguire, Reddick, McBride, Shipley. Pass: Anderson. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

RATIFICATION OF PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR MARCH, 2007 AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY, 2007

It was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mr. Reddick that the Board of Education ratify the Bills Payable for March 2007, and accept the subject financial reports for the month of February 2007, which have closing balances, total revenues, and expenditures as indicated on the schedules provided.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members voted aye: Jones, Anderson, Hanna, Maguire, Reddick, McBride, Shipley. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Mrs. Maguire commented that she would meet with Mr. Gaudin concerning items about which she had questions.

Copies of said schedules are appended to these minutes.

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS FOR APRIL 2007

It was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Ms. Hanna that the Board of Education authorize the administration to process and mail the April 2007 bills payable when funds become available to do so.

Mr. Luosa noted that since the Board has determined to hold a regular meeting on April 24, 2007, it will not be necessary to pre-approve payment of bills for April.

Mrs. Jones withdrew her motion.

REPORT ON DRAWDOWN FROM THE ESTABLISHED LINE-OF CREDIT

At its regular meeting on November 28, 2006, the Board of Education authorized the administration to establish a Line of Credit with First Midwest Bank as a means to meet the financial obligations of the District at times when cash resources are not otherwise available. The said Agreement was subsequently established in an amount not to exceed \$25,000,000. The initial drawdown took place in January 2007, in the amount of \$2,000,000.

It was necessary to effectuate a fourth drawdown from the established line of credit on March 21, 2007, in the amount of \$3,000,000 in order to meet the financial obligations of the District in a timely manner. A balance of \$11,000,000 remains in reserve.

It was moved by Ms. Hanna and seconded by Mr. McBride that the Board ratify the fourth drawdown from the established line of credit on March 21, 2007, in the amount of \$3,000,000.

In response to Mr. Anderson's query, Mr. Luosa noted that the District has borrowed \$.5 million less than at this same time last year.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members voted aye: Jones, Anderson, Hanna, Maguire, Reddick, McBride, Shipley. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

It was moved by Mrs. Maguire and seconded by Mr. Anderson that the Board of Education approve the proposal of Evans, Marshall and Pease, P.C. to provide a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report pertaining to District #60's fiscal year 2006-2007 financial activity at an approximate cost of \$32,000.

Mrs. Maguire and Mr. Anderson noted that discussions had been held regarding the enhancement of fiscal reporting to provide greater transparency in fiscal matters to the community and pertinent legislative bodies, and to improve accountability.

Mrs. Hanna asked if this has been done previously. Mr. Gaudin responded that this firm conducted the District #60 audit for FY2005-2006 and recommended that the District adopt this more comprehensive form of financial reporting.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members voted aye: Jones, Anderson, Hanna, Maguire, Reddick, McBride, Shipley. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FIXED ASSET APPRAISAL PROPOSAL

It was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mrs. Maguire that the Board of Education approve the fixed asset appraisal proposal from American Appraisal Associates at a cost of \$13,750.

Mr. Anderson noted that this proposal has been thoroughly discussed in committee. It requires that the inventory include assets of all items with a value exceeding \$5,000; the inventory needs to be adjusted regularly.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members voted aye: Jones, Anderson, Hanna, Maguire, Reddick, McBride, Shipley. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF GREENHOUSE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

It was moved by Ms. Hanna and seconded by Mr. McBride that the Board of Education authorize the Administration to approve the Greenhouse Memorandum of Understanding, and to authorize the Superintendent to expend up to \$10,000 toward the project completion, if needed.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members voted aye: Jones, Anderson, Hanna, Maguire, Reddick, McBride, Shipley. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

REPORTS

BOARD PRESIDENT

Mr. Shipley made no report.

BOARD COMMITTEES

Mrs. Maguire commented on her attendance at the Student Achievement Committee meeting. Topics discussed included Small Learning Communities and services to special education. At its next meeting, the Health Insurance Plan Board will discuss increased Board authority in matters concerning benefits. The Finance Committee has discussed staffing costs; it is possible that Reductions in Force might be considered if monolingual sections must be collapsed.

Mr. Anderson commented that it is unlikely that Reductions in Force will be made; staffing can probably be handled through attrition.

Mr. McBride thanked Mr. Flink for the progress made in the alternative programs.

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Batiste made no report.

INFORMATION ITEMS

REPORT ON TRS RETIREMENT PENALTIES

Dr. Batiste noted that Mr. Kiiskila had prepared a comprehensive report on the impact of Public Act 94-0004 and Public Act 94-1057 in regard to the employer contributions for Teacher Retirement System contributions for members retiring under collective bargaining agreements entered into after June 1, 2005. He asked that Board Members study the report and note the financial implications in reference to the notification by employees of their intent to retire.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to consider.

LEGAL ADVISOR'S REPORT

EXPULSION OF STUDENT NO. 919920

The following resolution was read by Mrs. Maguire:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Waukegan School District No. 60, did, through its hearing officer on April 2, 2007, hold a hearing concerning possible expulsion of Student #919920; and,

WHEREAS, the evidence taken at said hearing shows that Student #919920 has been found guilty of violation of his Disciplinary Conference Contract by engaging in a physical altercation and confrontation on school property with another student and engaging in gang activity which is in violation of the rules and regulations of this school district, the *School Code of Illinois* and the statutes of the State of Illinois.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT; Student #919920 is expelled, effective immediately, from attendance at said Community Unit School District No. 60 (Waukegan Public Schools) for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year (ending June 11, 2007); provided, the expulsion will be stayed to permit transfer to an alternative placement at the discretion of the administration for provision of educational services.

It was moved by Mrs. Maguire and seconded by Mr. McBride that the Resolution, as read, be adopted.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members voted aye: Jones, Anderson, Hanna, Maguire, Reddick, McBride, Shipley. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE TERMS OF THE SEPARATION AGREEMENT AND RELEASE FOR EMPLOYEE #041007-3495

It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Hanna that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution stating the terms of the Separation Agreement and Release for Employee #041007-3495 as prepared by counsel. A copy of said Resolution is attached to these minutes.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members voted aye: Jones, Anderson, Hanna, Maguire, Reddick, McBride, Shipley. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER TIME

Mr. McBride expressed his great concern over the negativity directed toward the Board. He urged everyone to adopt a positive attitude and focus on the needs of children.

Mrs. Maguire thanked all of those individuals who had worked together to develop the high school reorganization plan. She stated that the Board and community need more information on the proposal and asked that additional presentations be made to the community. She asked if grants might be available to fund the additional staff and facilities which would be needed to implement the plan.

Ms. Hanna thanked the Small Learning Communities Planning Committee.

She then read a statement concerning vandalism, generally, and specifically, the malicious damage which had been committed at Washington School over the past weekend. She asked that this incident be thoroughly investigated and that the parents and/or other involved adults be held accountable.

Mr. Reddick stated that security, particularly at the high school, needs to be increased. He suggested that every student be screened every day.

Mrs. Jones spoke to the issue of her perceived lack of civility toward District administrators. She asked that everyone behave in a professional manner. If there is a matter to be addressed, it should be done as an individual matter.

On behalf of the Board and Administration, Dr. Batiste offered condolences to the following members of the Waukegan Schools family: the family of Hank Clark, former teacher/counselor, who passed away on March 19, 2007; Carol Bickham whose father, Gene Bickham, passed away on March 31, 2007; Brian Luosa whose grandmother, Fanny Johnsen, passed away on April 3, 2007; and Jose Lara whose father, Vincente Lara, passed away on April 5, 2007.

Mr. Shipley welcomed Mr. Carlos Sanchez who had recently been hospitalized following a serious work-related accident. He then expressed grateful appreciation for the significant contribution made to the District by State Representative Eddie Washington.

Mr. Shipley reiterated the sympathy of the Waukegan Schools community for the family of Hank Clark and asked that a plaque be placed in the Dog Pound to memorialize his many contributions to the District.

MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION

At 11:15 p.m., it was moved by Ms. Hanna and seconded by Mr. McBride that the Board recess and reconvene in closed session for consideration of pending and threatened litigation, student matters, potential purchase of real property, and personnel evaluations.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote and all members present voted aye. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

MOVE TO OPEN SESSION

At 12:05 a.m. it was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Jones that the Board reconvene in open session.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a voice vote and all members present voted aye. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Jones that the meeting be adjourned.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a voice vote and all members present voted aye. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

President

Secretary