

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF **OPEN SESSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**June 12, 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 N. Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL at 6:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Ms. Anita Hanna  
Mr. Domingo Garza  
Mr. Mark Hawn  
Mr. Bill Anderson  
Mrs. Rita Mayfield-Jedkins  
Mrs. June Maguire

OPEN SESSION

It was moved by Ms. Hanna and seconded by Mr. Anderson that the Board recess and reconvene in closed session pursuant to applicable Open Meetings Act exceptions for the purpose of discussing appointments, employment, compensation of specific employees; hearings on student discipline; purchase or lease of real estate; threatened litigation; collective bargaining negotiations; approval of minutes of the closed session meetings and the consideration of the structuring of the employment of a specific category of employees.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for 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. Donald 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. Howard was present through discussion of personnel matters.

Dr. 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 10658-10661.

BOARD RECONVENES IN OPEN SESSION

At 8:10 p.m. it was moved by Mr. Hawn and seconded by Mr. Garza that the Board reconvene in open session in the Board Room.

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

Also present for open session items were Mr. Ryan Pagelow of the *News Sun*.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Bill King led the Board and audience in the recitation of the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

#### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Mrs. June Maguire announced the vacancy created by the death of Mrs. Patricia Jones on June 4, 2007. Mrs. Maguire read the public announcement calling for the submission of applications for the existing vacancy from persons interested. Mrs. Maguire then called for a moment of silence to honor the memory of Patricia Jones.

Thereafter, Dr. Batiste recognized Mr. Robert Probst, the Vice-President of the Clark School PTO. Mr. Probst read a resolution adopted by the Clark School PTO honoring Ms. Renee Sams, Clark School Principal and recognizing her. Ms. Sams stepped forward to accept the honor and thanked the PTO for its support.

Dr. Batiste next recognized members of the Information Services Staff for their devotion and high level of performance despite increased requirements and personnel shortages. Dr. Batiste called the honorees forward. They were: Mr. Jason Abraham, Ms. Pat Reavy, Deborah Phelps, and Rosa Geissberger.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Hawn that the Minutes be approved subject to a revision on page 10655, third paragraph, second sentence. Mr. Hawn indicated that the idea of a third party to assess transition strategies was expressed by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins. Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins seconded the motion of Mr. Hawn to approve the minutes as amended.

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

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Rev. William King, 2854 Ridge Avenue, Waukegan, Illinois, addressed the board on behalf of the North Shore Baptist Ministers Alliance noting that the board will soon be facing the question of filling the vacancy created by Mrs. Patricia Jones untimely death. Rev. King requested that every consideration be given to the selection of an African-American candidate to succeed Mrs. Jones.

Pastor Arthur J. Gass, 409 Wainlow Avenue, Waukegan, Illinois, identified himself as the Pastor of the Mount Zion Baptist Church. He spoke to the Board on behalf of a consortium of baptist churches in the area who collectively are requesting that the Board of Education support the appointment of an African-American candidate to fill Mrs. Jones' vacancy.

Shala Adams, 1419 Laurel Avenue, Waukegan, Illinois, addressed the Board to express her concerns about the possibility of Brian Colbert being considered for the position of head

basketball coach. She criticized the actions of Mr. Colbert in withdrawing from consideration last year and expressed the view that he had shown inconsistent leadership in the past.

Geneva Price, 1019 Cummings Avenue, Waukegan, Illinois urged the Board to select the best candidate for the position of head basketball coach. She observed that basketball in particular and sports in general provide positive outlets for minority students and often are a reason for maintaining academic progress. Given the importance of athletics, Ms. Price suggested that the Board exercise the greatest diligence in its coaching appointments.

Ricardo Retana, 1531 Grand Avenue, Apt. 21, Waukegan, Illinois, spoke on behalf of Latinos Unidos and objected to the criticism attributed to Board Members with respect to comments made about the bi-lingual program. Mr. Retana is a product of the Waukegan Public School bi-lingual program. He stated the program has contributed substantially to his educational advancement. Mr. Retana defended the program generally and noted that success and accomplishments are dependent upon individual initiative and effort and generalized criticism was likely to be inaccurate.

Roxanne Swanson, 322 Gillett Avenue, Waukegan, Illinois, thanked the Board for adding a second session of AP Calculus and urged the Board to continue to make academic improvements in the high school program.

Brenda Smith, 298 Kyle Drive, Waukegan, Illinois, presented a petition in support of the selection of Al Rogers as head basketball coach. She urged the Board to proceed with a decision as soon as possible as the stability and continuity in the program is desired.

#### 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.

Dr. Batiste made the administration's recommendation that the Board of Education approve the asbestos abatement bid for the indoor track area at the Upper Grade Center and award the Contract to Midwest Asbestos Abatement Corporation for \$39,600. Midwest Asbestos was the low bidder on Contract A2.

Mrs. Hanna raised a question about whether the employment of an outside contractor was required. Mr. Hawn explained that the school employee who performs asbestos abatement activity is on a worker's comp leave. Furthermore, even if the one employee were available, the job would exceed the capability of a single worker. Mr. Gaudin confirmed the statements of Mr. Hawn.

It was moved by Mr. Hawn and seconded by Mrs. Hanna that the Board accept the asbestos abatement bid and award a contract in the amount of \$39,600 to Midwest Asbestos Abatement Corporation for the indoor track area work at the Upper Grade Center.

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.

Dr. Batiste presented the administration's recommendation that the Board of Education approve the asbestos abatement bid for the hot water tank at the Upper Grade Center and

make award to Champion Environmental Services for \$12,500. It was moved by Mrs. Hanna and seconded by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins that the administration's recommendation be approved as presented.

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

#### PERSONNEL ITEMS

Dr. Batiste presented the administration's recommendation that the Board of Education approve the resignations and leaves and appoint the listed employees on enclosures B-1, B-2 and B-3 and schedules F654, L627, and N513. It was moved by Mrs. Hanna and seconded by Mr. Hawn that the administration's recommendations be approved as presented.

Dr Batiste announced the schedules included the appointment of Tierney Eppinger as the new Principal for Glenwood Elementary and Johnny Johnson as the Head Westling Coach.

Mr. Garza spoke about the difficult decision regarding the selection of the Glenwood Principal. He noted that he was personally aware of the capability of some of the candidates, but indicated that after reviewing the matter in detail he believed it was appropriate to support the results of the process which was followed. Mr. Hawn commented favorably on the selection of Mr. Johnson as the next wrestling coach. After due consideration, the President called for a roll call vote and all Members present voted aye. Whereupon, the President declared the motion carried. Dr. Batiste called Ms. Eppinger forward to acknowledge her appointment and she spoke to the Board to thank them for their confidence in her. She reviewed the factors which were influential in her desire to attain the position and expressed her enthusiasm for leading Glenwood Elementary.

#### GRANTS AND DONATIONS

There were no grants and donations to consider.

#### OTHER

##### AUTHORIZATION TO NAME THE RIFLE RANGE

A proposal has been made to authorize the naming of the rifle range at the Upper Grade Center in honor of 1LT. David L. Giaimo a former JROTC Cadet who lost his life in the War on Terrorism. Mrs. Maguire announced that the Board would follow Board Policy no. 1315 and she named Mr. Anderson and Mr. Hawn to a committee and requested they adhere to the policy and report back to the Board at the next meeting with respect to this proposal.

##### APPROVAL OF GLEN FLORA SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT/RESTRUCTURING PLAN

Dr. Batiste presented the administration's recommendation that the Board of Education approve the Glen Flora restructuring plan as required by the Illinois State Board of Education and direct the administration to submit the plan to ISBE. Mrs. Hanna moved that the administrations' recommendation be approved as presented. Mr. Garza seconded the Motion.

Mrs. Maguire commented on the pending motion. She reviewed a meeting which was held at Glen Flora to review the restructuring program. She expressed her confidence that the program will result in improved academic achievement and increased test scores.

After due consideration, the President called for a roll call vote. All Members present voted, and the President declared the Motion carried.

#### APPROVAL OF DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Dr. Batiste presented the administration's recommendation that the Board of Education approve the District Improvement Plan and authorize the Superintendent to submit the approved plan to the Illinois State Board of Education. It was moved by Mrs. Hanna and seconded by Mr. Hawn that the Board of Education approve the administration's recommendation as presented. Mrs. Hanna expressed her hope that Student achievement at the high school would show gains. She noted that the improvement specifically addresses the math program and Mrs. Hanna endorsed an expansion of math education for all students.

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

#### REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

The Board President, Mrs. Maguire, made no report.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Hawn, Mr. Garza, Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins and Mr. Anderson made no reports. Mrs. Hanna attended a finance committee and a meeting concerning a Waukegan Teacher's Academy. She noted that assistance was provided to the Human Resources Department by the Teacher's Academy relating to the identification and the skills and moving staff towards highly qualified status. She noted increased communication between the mono lingual and bi-lingual programs. She indicated that she looked forward to the upcoming boot camp for new and veteran teachers in the fall. Mrs. Maguire who also attended the meeting commented favorably on activities planned for the beginning of next school year and the general increased readiness of the staff.

#### SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Batiste noted the following: The Board orientation of the ISBE Representative will be postponed due to the unavailability of Ms. Dawn Miller. Board Members should advise Dr. Batiste of their availability so that a new time can be set. The small learning communities will be having an inservice at the University Center of Lake County and Board Members are invited to attend. The inservice will be held between June 12 and June 15 and will be held daily between 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM. Dr. Batiste will be speaking before the Waukegan City Club meeting on June 19, and on June 20 there is a Student Achievement Meeting. The Golf Outing is scheduled for tomorrow at Bonnie Brook beginning at 7:30 AM. Dr. Batiste also noted the loss of Joshua Simpson who died after saving two young adults in a swimming accident in Lake Michigan. Mr. Simpson was the grandson of Myra Simpson, an employee in the accounts receivable section of the business office.

INFORMATION ITEMS  
PROPOSED REVISION OF POLICY #2203

A Board Policy #2203 was introduced. The document amends existing policy chiefly to permit remote participation by electronic means at board meetings. Mrs. Maguire noted that the policy should be revised with respect to its treatment of the organizational board meeting. In addition to the election of a Board President and a Board Secretary, the Board has typically elected a Vice-President on that occasion. There were no other comments with respect to the policy which will be brought back for second reading.

DISTRICT WELLNESS REPORT

Dr. Batiste recommended that the Board review and accept the report and attachments as presented. A Wellness Policy #5007 was adopted by the Board on June 27, 2006 and pursuant to that policy, the chairperson of the district wellness committee is obligated to report on policy revisions necessary as well as the status of compliance by the schools with the Wellness Report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to consider.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented.

LEGAL ADVISOR'S REPORT  
EXPULSION OF STUDENT NO. 4613749

The following Resolution was read by: Mr. Bill Anderson.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Waukegan Community School District No. 60, did through its hearing officer on June 5, 2007, hold a hearing concerning possible expulsion of Student No. 4613749, and,

WHEREAS, the evidence taken at said hearing shows that; Student No. 4613749 has been found guilty of bomb threat, 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 No. 4613749 is expelled, effective immediately, from attendance at said Community Unit School District No. 60 (Waukegan Public Schools) for the 2007-2008 academic year (ending June 11, 2008); 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 Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Hawn that the Resolution, as read, be adopted.

After due consideration thereof, the President put the question and upon roll call being had the following members present voted:

Aye: Garza, Hawn, Anderson, Hanna, Maguire  
Nay: Mayfield-Jedkins  
Absent:

Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

### BOARD MEMBER TIME

Mr. Hawn discussed the topic of the basketball coach selection indicating that he is eager to see the matter resolved. He also noted that he had met with Mr. Otahal, and reviewed the infrastructure of several buildings. Mr. Hawn noted specifically the high level of performance shown by Linda Eberhardt and expressed his concern that the neglect of the facilities has occurred and emphasized that a greater effort is needed.

Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins expressed her congratulations to Ms. Eppinger who she described as deserving of the Glenwood Principal position. She also spoke to the comments of Mr. Retana during the public comment portion of the meeting observing that her comments at an earlier meeting did not relate to the ESL program, which she regarded as a good program which needs to be enhanced. She appreciated the comments that had been made, but believed that progress in the bi-lingual program is still needed.

Mr. Garza echoed the concerns previously expressed with respect to the necessity to move forward with decisions on the selection of the basketball coach and indicated that a decision should be forthcoming shortly. He also expressed congratulations to Ms. Eppinger and reiterated his view that the bi-lingual program needs to make a greater effort to move children forward in mastery of the English language. He expressed appreciation for the comments provided and expressed his condolences to the Jones' family. He also noted that he had attended the Juarez, Glenwood, and High School Graduation Ceremonies and complimented the students for their success.

Mrs. Hanna stated that she was proud to have attended the Middle School Graduation Ceremonies at Juarez and Abbott, and the High School. She inquired whether there was a greater number of students graduating and expressed her hope that the graduation rate is increasing. She noted the Spring concert at the High School was excellent but expressed a concern that there needs to be an increase in the support of the elementary level music program. The number of music participants is decreasing in the Middle School and greater efforts must be made to expand this option. She also expressed her thanks for the efforts made to the Patricia Jones memorial and expressed her condolences to the family and her congratulations to Ms. Eppinger.

Mr. Anderson inquired about the pace of the budget process and inquired of Mr. Gaudin when the next workshop would be held. At this time no workshop date has been set. Mr. Anderson noted that Ms. Jones will be missed commenting favorably on the efforts she showed for mastering the requirements of board membership, and encouraged the Board and Administration to develop a program to acknowledge Ms. Jones publicly. He also expressed concerns about the strength of the music program, noted the numbers of participants has declined, and commented that the orchestra ranked number 11 in the State of Illinois this year. Mr. Anderson is also concerned about the graduation rate at the High School and a general stagnation of the High School academically.

Mrs. Maguire joined in Mr. Anderson's comments regarding the High School and also complimented Ms. Eppinger. She attended the High school Graduation Ceremony and commended the wonderful student speakers who participated in that program. Mrs. Maguire also attended the Webster Middle School and Glenwood and Glen Flora Graduation Ceremonies as well as many award and retirement dinners. Mrs. Maguire informed the Board that the Team Destination Imagination Team finished fourth in the nation. That program is supported by volunteer parents led by Paula Trigg. She suggested that that group, as well as Derek Patterson, a Waukegan High School sprinter, be invited to upcoming Board Meetings for public recognition.

Following the conclusion of Board Member comments, Dr. Batiste informally surveyed the Board to gain a better understanding of the Board support for various initiatives which were mentioned by individual members. Following a discussion of that topic, the President asked for a motion to adjourn. It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins 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 and the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM.

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President

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Secretary