

BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE **OPEN** SESSION
Regular MEETING
September 12, 2006

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 6:37 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Mrs. Patricia Jones
Mr. Jeff McBride
Mr. Bill Anderson arrived at 6:43 p.m.
Mrs. Anita Hanna arrived at 6:43 p.m.
Mrs. June Maguire
Mr. Marvin Reddick
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 staff personnel items, approval of minutes of the closed session meetings, student discipline matters, purchase/lease of real property, pending litigation, and other legal matters.

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. 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 for discussion of personnel matters.

Dr. Karen Carlson, 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 10404-10407.

BOARD RECONVENES IN OPEN SESSION

At 8:25 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 and all members present voted aye. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Margaret Carrasco led the Board and audience the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Dr. Batiste noted the passing of two members of the Waukegan Schools family: Mariah Williams, a student at Cooke School; and Addie Jordan, a teacher at Juarez Middle School. He expressed the condolences of the Board to the families.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mrs. Hanna and seconded by Mrs. Jones that the minutes of the regular meeting of August 22, 2006, and the special meeting of August 28, 2006 be approved.

Mr. McBride asked that the minutes of the meeting of August 22, 2006, page 10396 be amended to indicate that it is his belief that the use of metal detectors at Waukegan High School will serve as a deterrent to students seeking to bring weapons into the school. Mrs. Hanna and Mrs. Jones agreed that the motion be amended to show this correction.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Kaski, 12735 Tyler, Waukegan, IL, read a statement addressing the matter of the appointment of the Athletic Director for Waukegan High School and expressed his concerns about the process being followed noting that it was not well defined or appropriately conducted. He also noted that the Athletic Department secretary has worked a substantial number of hours of overtime in order to address issues that come to the Department. He asked that this matter be addressed forthwith and that the Board consider appointing an Assistant Athletic Director to adequately assist with the work load.

Kelly Below, 1026 Pacific, Waukegan IL, has been videotaping the Board meetings. She commented that these videos may be viewed on Channel 17 on ComCast Cable.

Jane Vester, 2229 Ottawa, Waukegan, IL, read a statement reviewing the events surrounding the Board deliberation of the appointment of the Athletic Director, averring that appropriate protocol had not been followed. She asked about the timeline for finalizing the appointment and noted that the public has a right and responsibility to be informed about tax payer business.

Jessica Armstrong, 942 County St., Waukegan, IL, asked the Board to reconsider the announced cancellation of the Homecoming Bonfire noting that this event has long been a cherished tradition.

Sara Rivera, 337 N. Butrick, Waukegan, IL, alleged that students had expressed dissatisfaction with food served by Aramark. She criticized the demeanor and lack of leadership exhibited by Aramark administrative staff.

Margaret Carrasco, 532 N. Lewis, Waukegan, IL, voiced her support for Hispanic cultural celebrations.

Robert B. Evans, Sr., 337 George Avenue, Waukegan, IL, invoked a blessing on the School Board and on District #60.

Doris Curry, 1610 Lyons, Waukegan, IL, asked why Aramark had not brought back former Sodexo employees, noting that positions had been left unfilled causing an unreasonable work load for Aramark employees. Mr. Anderson responded that this matter will be addressed later in the meeting.

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.

AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO LEASE AGREEMENT WITH MIDWEST ENGINEERING TECHNICAL SERVICES, LLC FOR USE OF FACILITIES FORMERLY KNOWN AS HAPPY DAY NURSERY

It was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mr. Reddick that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to enter into a lease agreement with Midwest Engineering Technical Services, LLC for the Happy Day facility at a cost of \$8,840 per month beginning September 1, 2006, for the 2006-2007 school year. Additionally, the Lessor will be paid a security deposit of \$8,840 and \$3,100 per month for custodial services, and \$100 per month for garbage collection services for a total of \$129,240 to be paid from the Early Childhood Block Grant and IDEIA funds.

Mr. Morris commented that, after further discussion with the attorney representing Midwest Technical Services, the security deposit be stated as \$12,040 which is in line with the figures stated in the motion.

Mrs. Maguire asked about the number of classrooms available. Dr. Carlson noted that 6 classrooms will be used to house a projected maximum of 240 students.

Mr. Anderson commented that the grant used to fund this program is not a long term commitment by the State.

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

APPROVAL OF RATE INCREASE TO THE PREFERRED PROVIDER ORGANIZATION (PPO) PLAN

Mrs. Maguire stated that she had been appointed by the Board President to attend the Insurance Plan Board meeting, but some members of that board would not permit her to vote at the meeting. She then reported on other issues discussed at the meeting.

It was moved by Mrs. Maguire and seconded by Mr. McBride that the Board of Education amend the recommendation of the Insurance Plan Board and allow a 5% increase to the Waukegan Public School PPO Plan for the FY2007 period. Funds to cover this expense are available in various departmental insurance (employee benefit) accounts contained within the Education Fund.

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

AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE STOP LOSS INSURANCE FOR THE EMPLOYEE HEALTH PLAN

It was moved by Mrs. Maguire and seconded by Mrs. Jones that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Insurance Plan Board to purchase Stop-Loss insurance at a cost not more than \$375,876.24. Funds sufficient to cover this expense are available in various departmental insurance (employee benefit) accounts contained within the Education Fund.

Mrs. Maguire explained that this type of insurance is purchased to defray the catastrophic cost to the District for an employee requiring extensive medical treatment such as dialysis or organ transplant. Currently, the District has a \$150,000 limit on stop loss insurance; the insurer covers the cost above that amount.

Mr. Anderson noted that the Plan Board was originally an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Board and the Unions. It is his belief that the matter is a question of legality and represents an expenditure of tax dollars without the direct approval of the Board of Education.

Mr. McBride agreed that the Board does not currently control the expenditure of these funds.

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

Mr. Shipley declared the Mrs. Maguire is hereby appointed to serve as an official member of the Insurance Plan Board.

APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE BENEFIT FOR PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

It was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mr. McBride that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Insurance Plan Board to increase the benefit of \$100.00 for a physical examination from once every two years to once per year, effective immediately. Funds sufficient to cover this expense are available in various departmental insurance (employee benefit) accounts contained within the Education Fund.

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

AUTHORIZATION TO POST POSITION OF CUSTODIAL SUPERVISOR

It was moved by Mr. Reddick and seconded by Mrs. Jones that the position of Custodial Supervisor be posted. Mr. Gaudin noted that this item was to have been pulled from the agenda. Mr. Reddick withdrew his motion.

AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD BID FOR PURCHASE OF LASER PRINTER CARTRIDGES FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2006-2007

It was moved by Mrs. Hanna and seconded by Mr. Reddick that the Board of Education authorize the Administration to award the purchase of laser printer cartridges (plus semiannual cleaning) to Genesis Technologies of Northbrook, Illinois, in the amount of \$26,970, which was the lowest responsible bidder. Funds sufficient to cover this expense are available in various departmental computer supply accounts contained within the Education Fund.

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

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB TO PROVIDE EXTENDED DAY CHILD CARE SERVICES DURING SCHOOL BREAKS AND EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS

It was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mr. McBride that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to engage the services of The Boys and Girls Club of Lake County to provide child care services for a maximum of 400 students on, and/or during, the designated dates specified, at the cost of \$11,150.00 with a per diem rate of \$275.00 for any emergency snow days that may be used. Funds sufficient to cover these costs are available in the District's discretionary fund account.

Mrs. Maguire expressed her disagreement with the proposal because child care is not directly related to educational services. She stated that parents should be expected to pay a small fee for this service.

Mr. McBride noted that many of the children who attend this program come from homes in which there is little or no parental supervision and the environment is not a safe one. He commented that parents are charged an annual fee of \$5.00 and the staff receives pay of \$8.00 per hour. Although this is minimal, the care is excellent and children have a safe environment.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote; the following members present voted aye: Jones, McBride, Anderson, Hanna, Reddick, Shipley. No: Maguire. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT RESIGNING EMPLOYEE REIMBURSEMENT FOR UNUSED SICK LEAVE

It was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mrs. Maguire that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Administration to authorize the Administration to grant sick leave reimbursement to the affected employee.

The Board had previously discussed, in closed session, the underlying rationale for accepting the resignation request from an employee, under less than desirable conditions, with the provision that the employee be granted reimbursement for unused sick leave.

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

AUTHORIZATION TO REJECT BIDS FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR 10-YEAR LIFE SAFETY SURVEY

It was moved by Mrs. Maguire and seconded by Mr. Reddick that the Board of Education reject the 10-year Life Safety Survey Bid processed on August 14, 2006.

Mr. Anderson asked if the bid process was flawed. Mr. Gaudin explained that under State statute, if the District awards a contract to a firm other than the Architect of Record, the District is required to have a Request For Proposal and to consider qualifications in addition to cost of service.

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

AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE ARCHITECT TO COMPLETE THE REQUIRED 10-YEAR LIFE SAFETY SURVEY

It was moved by Mrs. Hanna and seconded by Mr. McBride that the Board of Education authorize the Administration to hire Legat Architects of Waukegan, Illinois to prepare the required 10-year Life Safety Survey at a price that will include design drawings of our buildings identifying the necessary life safety elements. The cost of this project will be \$82,000 and will be completed by the end of December 2006. Funds needed to address this expense are available in the Life/Safety Fund for Fiscal Year 2007.

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

APPROVAL OF RATE INCREASE FOR HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION (HMO) PLAN

It was moved by Mrs. Maguire and seconded by Mrs. Jones that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Insurance Plan Board to allow a 5% increase to the Waukegan Public Schools HMO Plan for the FY2006-2007 period, at a cost approximating \$108,000. Additionally, the HMO prescription drug program will charge a co-pay of \$15 for generic drugs, \$30 for brand-name formulary drugs, and \$50 for brand-name non-formulary drugs. The HMO mail order prescription drug program for a 90 day supply will charge a co-pay of \$30 for generic drugs, \$60 for brand-name formulary drugs, and \$100 for brand-name non-formulary drugs. Funds sufficient to cover this expense are available in various departmental insurance (employee benefit) accounts contained within the Education Fund.

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

APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ITEMS

The Board agreed to remove item VII. B-1. Schedule F-638, Appointments - non-certified from the list of appointments to be considered at this time.

It was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mr. McBride the Board of Education approve Appointments listed on Enclosure VII. B. 1 - Schedule F-638 excluding the Alternative Hearing Officer; approve the Resignations listed on Schedule L-611; and approve the Leaves of Absence listed on Schedule N-505

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

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATIVE HEARING OFFICER

It was moved by Mrs. Hanna and seconded by Mrs. Jones that the Board approve the appointment of the Alternative Hearing Officer listed on VII. B-1. Schedule F-638, Appointments - non-certified as presented.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote; the following members present voted aye: Jones, McBride, Anderson, Hanna, Maguire, Reddick, Shipley. No: Anderson. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Dr. Batiste introduced Ms. Mary Robbins, newly appointed Early Childhood Coordinator and Ms. Melvina Lube newly appointed Coordinator for McCall, Hyde Park, Lyon Magnet, and Oakdale Elementary Schools.

Copies of the personnel schedules are appended to these minutes.

APPOINTMENT OF SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE TO CONDUCT BOARD OF EDUCATION NOMINATING PETITION PROCEDURES

It was moved by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mrs. Jones that the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint Mrs. Bonnie Kuss, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, as his designee to perform nominating petition procedures for the April 17, 2007, general election.

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

REPORTS

BOARD PRESIDENT

Mr. Shipley gave no report.

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Batiste commented that the information regarding available government property, given previously to the Board, was sent out to determine if this offer would generate any interest; the property will not be available for 10 years.

BOARD COMMITTEES

Mrs. Maguire noted her participation in the following: Waukegan Teacher Academy 1st meeting and mentor training workshop; NCLB Conference - report on State and Federal guidelines; and Wellness Program for staff with proposed testing for possible employee health problems.

Mr. McBride reiterated his previous request for a meeting with the City aldermen to discuss child safety.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

There were no informational items.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Hanna asked about her previous request for a feasibility study to determine how a return to a two-campus high school with grades nine and ten at the current Ninth Grade Center and grades 11 and 12 at the upper Grade Center would benefit the District.

Mrs. Kearby commented that Mr. Guerra has been asked to investigate the implications of this study.

LEGAL ADVISOR'S REPORT

EXPULSION OF STUDENT NO. 895831

The following resolution was read by Mr. Anderson:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Waukegan School District No. 60, did, through its hearing officer on September 12, 2006, hold a hearing concerning possible expulsion of Student #895831; and,

WHEREAS, the evidence taken at said hearing shows that; Student #895831 has been found guilty of Battery to Staff in violation of the School Discipline Code, and 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 #895831 is expelled, effective immediately, from attendance at said Community Unit School District No. 60 (Waukegan Public Schools) for the 2006-2007 school year (until June, 2007); provided, the expulsion will be stayed to permit an alternative placement at the discretion of the administration. for provision of educational services. The student's performance will be reviewed in January 2007 for possible readmission for the second semester of the 2006-2007 school year.

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

Mr. McBride commented that the student had made a mistake and the Board had granted him an opportunity to redeem his actions.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote; the following members present voted aye: Jones, McBride, Anderson, Maguire, Shipley. No: Hanna, Reddick. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Mr. Morris had no other legal reports.

BOARD MEMBER TIME

Mr. Reddick noted that used books and outdated uniforms had been sent to schools in New Orleans at no cost to the District. He then alleged that Waukegan students are being pushed through the system and inquired what is being done to make certain that students remain in school. Dr. Lamping commented that Dr. Ditkowsky will present a revised retention policy at a subsequent Board meeting.

Mr. Reddick asked why the District is sending books to New Orleans when there are Waukegan students who do not have books. Dr. Batiste explained that the books which were sent are outdated books. He went on to note that new books are purchased through the Illinois Textbook Loan Program on a rotating schedule.

Mrs. Hanna commented that the determination that an interim Athletic Director would not be eligible for permanent appointment was made some time ago. She went on to note the following: that a number of Sodexo food service employees had chosen to leave rather than continue employment with Aramark; the Insurance Plan Board has operated under its current structure for some time and it is time to reevaluate the efficacy of that operation; the Board should consider video taping the meetings so that proceedings could be shown in their entirety; that she did not receive notice of the WTA meeting in timely manner; the newspaper had given an excellent review of the donation of books and uniforms to New Orleans schools and Ms. Padilla-Ramos should be applauded for her efforts; and an excellent article had appeared in the paper noting Dr. Batiste's address to the Waukegan City Council.

Mrs. Jones commented on the positive progress being made at Waukegan High School. However, she expressed her discomfort with the use of metal detectors and asked that students not be penalized for tardy attendance at class due to this screening procedure. She noted that Mr. Askew has done an excellent job in carrying out the duties of the Athletic Office during the search for an interim Director.

Mrs. Maguire commented that she had heard that there is an insufficiency of textbooks, particularly at the high school and noted that the administration should investigate and make certain that there are enough books. She then commented on the article featuring Dr. Batiste's appearance at the City Council and noted that both Dr. Taylor and Dr. Brown had worked closely with the City.

In reference to the Homecoming Bonfire, Mrs. Maguire commented that there is an Ordinance which prohibits burning in the City. She also noted that Aramark was awarded the food service contract late in the summer and needs time to address issues to facilitate a smooth operation.

Mr. McBride commented that the Bonfire is an event which is a cherished tradition and should be continued. He commended Mr. Kaski on his efforts on behalf of the schools and noted that Mr. Hyde had served as a interim Athletic Director prior to his appointment as AD.

Mr. Anderson noted that the Board did not Table the vote on the appointment of the Athletic Director but merely deferred it. The Board did not vote to repost the position and the public should have been informed. He commended the Athletic Director's secretary, Pam Burris, for her diligent work and continuing effort to expedite the necessary activities to keep the office functioning.

In reference to the Insurance Plan Board, Mr. Anderson stated that his concern is with the legality of the constitution of that Board and the Board of Education must be prudent in spending tax dollars.

Mr. Anderson expressed his concern with rumors surrounding the publicized Hispanic parade and noted that important issues should be brought to the Board. He congratulated the football team on its auspicious beginning to the season.

Dr. Batiste commented that he has serious concerns about the parade and was informed of the activity through calls to his office by members of the public. He assured the Board that he will keep members of the Board informed about activities of which he has been made aware. He agreed that Ms. Burris should be given clerical support until such time as a Director is appointed.

Mr. Guerra announced that the Bonfire will be held. He then explained the circumstances leading up to the announcement of the parade and noted that celebrations of other cultures will be held throughout the year. He also stated that he has urged teachers to take classes in Spanish language so that they are better able to communicate with their students and with parents. In response to Mrs. Jones query, he agreed that students will be given passes if they are detained by metal detector inspection.

Mr. Shipley thanked Dr. Batiste for his appearance at the City Council meeting and noted that the school year is off to a good start.

In reference to the appointment of the Athletic Director, he expressed his concern that the District get a qualified person to fill the position and noted that the work load is such that an Assistant Athletic Director should be appointed once the Athletic Director permanent appointment is made.

He noted that, originally, the Insurance Plan Board was considered to be a cost effective way to provide health services to employees. He agreed that the Plan Board should not be making decisions that the Board of Education had to honor.

Dr. Batiste thanked all of the staff for their response to the opening of the school year, particularly those who had participated in the organization of the activities.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:55 p.m. it was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mrs. Maguire 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. The meeting was adjourned.

President

Secretary