

BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
Regular MEETING
October 10, 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:

Mr. Bill Anderson arrived at 6:39 p.m.
Mrs. June Maguire
Mr. Marvin Reddick
Mrs. Patricia Jones
Mr. Jeff McBride
Mr. Fernando Shipley

Absent: Ms. Anita Hanna

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. Shipley and Dr. Carlson were present for discussion of student discipline 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. Dr. Karen Carlson was excused from the open session because of illness.

Minutes of the closed session are on file in the Superintendent's confidential file, pages 10434-10437.

BOARD RECONVENES IN OPEN SESSION

At 8:12 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* and Mrs. Bonnie Kuss, recorder.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Cadet Col. Nicebelle Querubin and members of the JROTC cadet officer staff led the Board and audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

RECOGNITION OF THE WAUKEGAN HIGH SCHOOL JROTC

Dr. Mary Lamping read a citation signed by Francis J. Harvey, Secretary of the Army, commending the Bulldog Regiment of the U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. During the recent formal inspection, the Unit scored 97.8% (586 out of 600 possible points). This outstanding score coupled with their perfect score on the annual report (400 points out of 400 points), earned them the highest award a high school JROTC program can earn, Honor Unit with Distinction. This is the 29th year out of the last 30 years that the Bulldog Regiment has earned this distinguished award.

Mr. Shipley and Dr. Batiste presented the Certificate to Cadet Col. Querubin and the officers present and congratulated the Corps on their outstanding achievement.

Cadet Col. Querubin accepted the award on behalf of the staff and announced the five goals which the Corps will work toward during this academic year: continuation of the Honor Unit designation, performance of 5000 hours of community service, promotion of an off site Regimental Ball, sponsorship of a paper recycling project, and increasing the number of participants in JROTC for the coming year. She particularly noted that the Port Authority had asked them to work in support of the recent Air Show; an activity which earned funds for the school.

Mrs. Maguire commented on the fine teamwork exhibited at the Bulldog Olympics. She also noted the many community activities in which the unit participates and thanked them for their leadership and community work.

Mr. Shipley commended Col. Gallagher for his work with these students and noted the fine spirit which they exhibit.

Mr. McBride congratulated the drill team, noting the fund raisers which they hold.

Dr. Batiste commented that this group of young people is a bright spot in the school and community and bade them continue with their fine work. Col. Gallagher thanked the Board for its support.

TEN-YEAR LIFE SAFETY REPORT FOR THE TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS

Mr. Gaudin apprised the Board of the results of the physical assessment of the Technology Campus for Life Safety and mechanical improvement needs at the facility. District #60 is a member district and is, therefore, responsible for a share of the renovation/improvement total cost estimated to be \$2,450,424.

Mr. Gaudin reviewed options available to the District for financing; the up front payment would be \$168,511.76, or an annual charge of \$22,947.74 per year for ten years could be paid.

Mrs. Maguire noted that the Tech Campus facility is used for evening classes at a time when the regular high school program is not in session. She suggested that the College of Lake County should pay a share of the cost.

Mr. Anderson commented that Mrs. Hanna had asked for a reappraisal of offerings at Waukegan High School to determine if it would be more cost effective to offer vocational programs at the school. Mr. Gaudin commented that an analysis would have to be completed very quickly to determine if it is feasible to withdraw; it would be difficult to staff and equip an in-house program.

Mr. McBride commented that the District should investigate to see if the Hewitt Center could offer a technical program.

Mr. Anderson noted that should the high school offer a vocational program, transportation costs could be reduced. In response to Mr. Shipley's query, Mr. Gaudin noted that 220 students currently participate in the program. Mrs. Maguire commented that Dr. Olson had approved an increase in the number of participants to the current level.

Mr. Anderson suggested that the Administration should investigate other finance options.

Dr. Batiste read a statement which Mrs. Hanna had asked to be recorded in the open session meeting.

1. I am not in favor of the continued expenditures for the number of students (220) that benefit from the Tech Campus. The amount of money is astronomical and we would serve more students if we looked for a better way to spend the \$400,000 plus annually.

2. I would like the administration, if the rest of the Board concurs, to begin looking into the possibility of restoring District 60's Industrial Arts Program, e.g. woods, metal, auto, and our Home Economics Program. The cost savings to the district would be realized and we serve many more students.

3. There would be a savings on transportation.

I know there will be cost to acquire the equipment, but that would only be a one time cost and the program can be in our district as many other high schools, more than were presented in the finance meeting.

In regard to the Tech Campus proposal for facilities improvements, I strongly object to that because we are going to finance monies for 10 years to improve someone else's building and our buildings are now undergoing a mandated 10 year safety survey.

Finally, I would like more time to consider this proposed information.

Thanks Board for giving Dr. Batiste a chance to read this.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mr. Reddick that the minutes of the special meeting of September 25, 2006, and the minutes of the regular meeting of September 26, 2006, be approved.

Mrs. Maguire asked that the minutes of the regular meeting of September 26, 2006, be amended: page 10432, last paragraph, to clarify and expand upon her statements made during the September 26, 2006, meeting regarding the Employee Health Insurance Plan Board.

Mr. Shipley asked that the motion be amended to reflect the requested corrections. Mrs. Jones and Mr. Reddick concurred.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Louisa Zink, 39656 N. Queensbury, Beach Park, IL, announced that Temple Jeremiah of Northfield, IL, has generously donated a complete set of playground equipment to the Waukegan EPIC North Shore Preschool located at the North Shore Church of Christ. The new

equipment is of superior quality and is handicapped accessible. Additional supporters of the playground project are the United Way of Lake County, North Shore Church of Christ, Car-Min Construction, Midwest Generation, Potesta's Pizza, and the EPIC partners community. She invited the Board and members of the audience to participate in the Playground Project Setup Day on Sunday, October 22, 2006 beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Jennifer Franklin, 10395 Yorkhouse, Beach Park, IL, kindergarten teacher, commended the maintenance staff for their effort to make her move from Clark to Whittier a smooth transition and thanked them for their hard work.

Susan Garciafanjul, 2828 Tyler, Waukegan, IL, stated that her daughter attends Whittier Kindergarten Center; the students in that program do not have access to library and computer instruction which is commensurate with that at other kindergarten sites. She asked that this be rectified.

Martha Solis, 1016 Lorraine Ave., Waukegan, IL, commented on the library and computer instruction time at Whittier. Mr. McBride asked Ms. Solis to confer with Mrs. Kearby who was in the hall addressing that matter with another parent.

Topacio Hernandez, 546 May St., Waukegan, IL, a student at Waukegan Upper Grade Center, spoke positively about the new security regulations at the school.

Jesus Diaz, 130 Armory Place, Waukegan, IL, a Waukegan High School student, commended Mr. Guerra for the increased opportunity for Hispanic students to participate in school activities.

Ricardo Retana, 1531 Grand Ave., Waukegan, IL, a Waukegan High School student, thanked Mr. Guerra for his leadership and the inclusive environment at the school.

Jessica Armstrong, 942 County St., Waukegan, IL, spoke about the use of metal detectors at Waukegan High School and commented that security should use profiling. She stated that students are worried about shootings and noted that students do not know what to do if there is a security risk. She urged the Board to institute security drills in the same way that students participate in fire drills.

Kelly Below, 1026 Pacific, Waukegan, IL, in reference to the *Superintendent's Bulletin* of October 2, 2006, alleged that it is an infringement of the right of an individual to exercise free speech, should that individual be counseled to refrain from criticizing others.

Carol Bickham, 805 Baldwin, Waukegan, IL, in reference to the Employee Health Insurance Plan, reviewed the information which she had obtained about defined benefit plans in effect in neighboring school districts.

Robert B. Evans, Sr., 337 George Avenue, Waukegan, IL, commended the Board for taking aggressive action, through the installation of metal detectors at the high school, to control the possession of weapons and, thus, create a safer environment in the school and reduce the number of student expulsions.

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.

ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS AND AUTHORIZATION TO PERFORM WORK ON THE WHITTIER SCHOOL BUS TURN AROUND

It was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mr. McBride that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Administration to enter into agreement with Campanella & Sons of Wadsworth, IL, to complete the prescribed work to delineated specifications for the Whittier School bus turnaround at a cost of \$308,760; to contract with Legat Architect of Waukegan, IL to provide architectural service at a cost of \$14,000, and to contract with McClure Engineering of Waukegan, IL, for concrete and seal coat work at a cost of \$3,027. Funds sufficient to address costs are available from the Life/Safety Fund, up to the amount of \$360,000.

Mrs. Maguire asked if prices were consistent with the original cost estimate. Mr. Shipley responded that the prices are lower.

Mrs. Maguire commented that some staff members had contacted the Board to ask if the parking area will be large enough to accommodate staff parking. Mr. Shipley commented that there should be sufficient parking for staff and visitors. Mr. McBride noted that property is available if additional parking is required.

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

APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ITEMS

It was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mrs. Maguire that the Board of Education approve Appointments listed on Enclosure VII. B. 1 - Schedule F-640, approve the Resignations listed on Enclosure VII. B. 2 - Schedule L-613, approve the Leaves of Absence listed on Enclosure VII. B.3 - Schedule N-506, and approve the Termination listed on Enclosure VII. B-4 - Schedule T-71.

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

Copies of the personnel schedules are appended to these minutes.

AUTHORIZATION TO CREATE AND POST NOTICE OF A GENERAL CUSTODIAL SUPERVISOR POSITION

It was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mrs. Maguire that the Administration be authorized to create and post notice of a General Custodial Supervisor position.

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

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Mr. Shipley introduced Mr. Mel Washington, Interim Athletic Director, and Mr. Guerra, Principal, who announced the anonymous donation of \$30,000 which will be used to support the expenses of the Poms who have been invited to participate in a national competition in Orlando, Florida, February 3 - 5, 2007. He noted that the donation will be made as a memorial by a former Waukegan High School graduate in honor of her son who had died.

It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Reddick that the Board accept the donation of \$30,000 to defray expenses related to the participation of the Waukegan High School Pom Poms in a national competition, February 3 - 5, 2007.

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

Dr. Batiste was asked to send a letter of appreciation to the donor.

APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR RECOGNITION OF SCHOOLS

Each school year, individual schools are required to make application for Recognition Status from the Illinois State Board of Education.

It was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mr. Reddick that the Board of Education approve the Application for Recognition Status of the individual schools in District #60 for the 2006-2007 school year in compliance with ISBE regulations as submitted by each building principal and verified by the Division of Human Resources.

Mrs. Maguire noted the irregularity in the listing of the paraprofessionals at Hyde Park School on the forms provided to the Board.

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO POST NOTICE OF THE 2006 ESTIMATED TAX LEVY

Annually, the Business Department develops a schedule to comply with the Truth in Taxation Act in order to adopt the property tax levy for the current tax year.

It was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mrs. Maguire that the Board of Education approve the estimated property tax levy for calendar year 2006, adopt the Truth in Taxation Resolution for tax year 2006, and authorize the administration to post notice for the same, as appropriate, in the local newspapers of general circulation by prescribed schedules.

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

REPORTS

BOARD PRESIDENT

Mr. Shipley gave accolades to the participants of the Bulldog Olympics. He particularly noted the spirit of all who shared this event.

BOARD COMMITTEES

Mr. Anderson noted his attendance at the meeting of the Personnel/Finance Committee. Discussion included the Tech Campus request and upcoming contract negotiations.

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Batiste announced the recent death of Waukegan High School student, Ryan Bacon.

He invited all present to participate in the Homecoming festivities. The varsity football game will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 14, 2006. He also announced receipt of a letter from the Boys and Girls Club thanking the Board and Administration for their support of the Dare to Dream project; 350 youth from Waukegan and neighboring communities participated.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

There were no other informational items

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

LEGAL ADVISOR'S REPORT

EXPULSION OF STUDENT NO. 919843

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 October 3, 2006, hold a hearing concerning possible expulsion of Student #919843; and,

WHEREAS, the evidence taken at said hearing shows that; Student #919843 has been found guilty of Use of a Weapon 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 #919843 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 (until June 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 present voted aye: Anderson, Maguire, Reddick, Jones, McBride, Shipley. Absent: Hanna. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

OTHER LEGAL REPORTS

Mr. Morris commented that the Board representatives have been in dialog with the Unions in the matter of contract language regarding the Insurance Plan Board. He expressed confidence that a solution can be found.

BOARD MEMBER TIME

Mr. Reddick alleged that he has been the object of negative behavior in an effort to provoke him. He averred that student welfare is of the utmost importance.

Mrs. Jones noted her attendance at the funeral of the recently deceased student and commented that the loss of a child is a sad experience.

She expressed her appreciation to Mr. Guerra, the Deans and teaching staff for a job well done; and asked for a follow up report on the condition of student textbooks. She urged everyone to attend the Homecoming Bonfire on October 12, 2006.

Mrs. Maguire urged the administration to take action to institute safety drills. In the light of recent school incidents reported in the media, it is important to formulate a plan to address safety procedures for staff and students.

She noted that the open house at Waukegan High School was well attended and expressed her appreciation for the band music.

Mr. McBride commented on the use of metal detectors and security cameras at the high school. He affirmed his belief that the use of this equipment serves to deter students from exhibiting rash behavior.

In regard to the Tech Campus, he noted that the matter should be investigated; many students do not attend college and can benefit from this educational experience.

Mr. Anderson noted that the Waukegan High School marching band had achieved a 1st place award in a regional competition. He offered congratulations to the students and their instructors.

In reference to the Insurance Plan Board, he noted that the attorney who had prepared the current Plan document was not the Board attorney. Over the past several years, there has been a dilution of voting rights of the School Board. The Plan Board has been a responsible steward of funds, however, this matter will be discussed during contract negotiations.

Dr. Batiste noted that when Dr. Ditkowsky had made the presentation on AYP, one of the schools which had been removed from the list had been omitted. The three schools which made AYP are Oakdale, Glenwood, and Carman-Buckner.

Mr. Gaudin reported on his research into the use of metal detectors in schools. He noted that the administration is working on a proposed policy to address this matter. It is important that each student be treated fairly and in a legally correct way. It may not be practical to screen every student every day; legal guidelines and disciplinary actions must be established and implemented in a consistent manner. Parents must be notified that the intended purpose is to provide a secure environment for their children. The process for implementation is being developed; staff will be trained.

Mr. Rogers commented that he had recently attended a conference on school security. The State has mandated that schools institute crisis management drills.

Mr. Shipley stated that he is excited about the District PBIS initiative. He noted that the staff is doing an excellent job and his expectation is that there will be a marked improvement in behavior. He thanked Mr. Guerra for his proactive stance in regard to discipline.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:40 p.m. it was moved by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mr. Reddick that the meeting be adjourned.

10448.

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