

BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 8, 1008

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 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Mr. Domingo Garza
Mr. Mark Hawn
Mrs. Rita Mayfield-Jedkins
Mr. Michael Rodriguez
Mrs. June Maguire

Absent: Ms. Anita Hanna due to illness
Mr. Bill Anderson due to illness

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Mr. Hawn that the Board recess and reconvene in closed session pursuant to applicable Open Meetings Act exceptions for the purpose of discussing student discipline, appointments, resignations, employment status, collective bargaining, approval of closed session minutes, and status of pending or threatened litigation.

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. Douglas Stiles, Mr. Mark Neiberg, Mr. William Newby, Mr. Sam Taylor, and Mr. Eric Christianson were present for student discipline matters. Mr. Fred Howard was present for discussion of personnel matters.

Minutes of the closed session are on file in the Superintendent's confidential file, pages 10861-10863.

BOARD RECONVENES IN OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez 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. The following members present voted aye: Garza, Hawn, Mayfield-Jedkins, Rodriguez, Maguire. Absent: Hanna, Anderson. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Also present for open agenda items were: Mr. Ryan Pagelow of the *News Sun*, Ms. Alison Moran of WKRS Radio, and Mrs. Bonnie Kuss, recorder.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. David Woolf led the Board and audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN WAUKEGAN HIGH SCHOOL BOOSTER CLUB AUCTION

Dr. Batiste introduced Mr. Mark Kaski, 1125 Depot Road, Gurnee, IL, who invited the Board and audience to participate in the 12th annual Booster Club auction. Mr. Kaski has, for a number of years, chaired the event to raise funds to support the athletic and music programs at Waukegan High School. He noted that the Booster Club has raised more than \$400,000 to support and enhance these District programs. The event will be held at the Lake County Sports Center, 351 Oakwood Avenue on Saturday, March 1, 2008, from 6:00 - 11:00 p.m. Mr. Kaski urged Board and audience members to participate by attending the event or donating items for the auction.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND PRESENTATIONS

RECOGNITION OF SPOTLIGHT SCHOOLS

In 2003, the Illinois State Board of Education initiated a program, Spotlight Schools, to recognize schools which are closing the achievement gap associated with low-income families and districts with limited resources. These schools are selected on the basis of achievement of Adequate Yearly Progress by at least 60% of the students while 50% of them are from low-income families.

Three Waukegan schools received the Spotlight Award in 2006: Clark, Glenwood, and Lyon Magnet. Principals and staff were present to receive awards from the State and congratulations from the Board.

Eloise Jones, Lyon Principal, reciprocated by presenting plaques of appreciation to members of the Board and Cabinet. She thanked them for their continued support and leadership. Dr. Batiste acknowledged the scholarship of the students and dedication of the staff.

RESOLUTION OF HONOR FOR ROSLYN WOOLF

Dr. Batiste introduced Mr. David Woolf and other members of the family of Mrs. Roslyn Woolf who were present. He then read the inscription on a plaque to honor the life and community service of Mrs. Woolf who had passed away on December 17, 2007. A Celebration of Life gathering will be held on January 20, 2008, in the Trapp Auditorium at Waukegan High School to which members of the school community are invited. Members of the Board offered their condolences to the members of the family. Dr. Batiste noted that the family has established a scholarship fund to honor the educational legacy of Mrs. Woolf.

A motion was made by Mr. Garza and seconded Mr. Rodriguez to adopt the Resolution as read.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a voice vote. The following members present voted aye: Garza, Hawn, Mayfield-Jedkins, Rodriguez, Maguire. Absent: Hanna, Anderson. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

A copy of said Resolution is appended to these minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Mr. Garza that the minutes of the regular meeting of December 11, 2007, be approved.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members present voted aye: Garza, Hawn, Rodriguez, Maguire. Pass: Mayfield-Jedkins. Absent: Hanna, Anderson. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No other members of the audience requested an opportunity to speak.

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 CONTRACTSAPPROVAL OF SMALLER LEARNING COMMUNITIES (SLC) PROJECT WITH LEGAT ARCHITECTS

The Board had previously approved the implementation of the Smaller Learning Communities proposal as presented and reviewed by members of the Waukegan High School SLC Committee.

The recommendation of the Administration was: that the Board of Education approve the Smaller Learning Communities budget implementation plan and approve Legat Architects as the project Architect at a cost of \$92,900.

A motion was made by Mr. Hawn and seconded by Mr. Garza to approve the Smaller Learning Communities budget proposal from Legat Architects.

Mr. Hawn asked for clarification of several budget items noted on the summary sheet distributed to the Board and audience. These included: competitive architectural fees, proposed timeline for budget, and timelines for completion of construction and implementation of the instructional program. Mr. Gaudin and Mr. Luosa explained that the proposal is budgeted over three fiscal years because the construction work will take place during two summer intervals. The instructional program will commence as planned in the fall of 2009. Two contingency fees are listed; one for construction costs and one for implementation costs.

In reference to staffing costs, Dr. Lamping explained that the costs are associated with the proposed addition of a social worker to the staff of each small community as requested by the Board. Mr. Gaudin noted that the increased operational cost is for provision of a shuttle bus between campuses.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members present voted aye: Garza, Hawn, Mayfield-Jedkins, Rodriguez, Maguire. Absent: Hanna, Anderson. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ITEMS

Mrs. Maguire noted that a revised personnel listing had been provided to the Board and audience.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins and seconded Mr. Rodriguez that the Board of Education approve the Appointments listed on Enclosure VII. B. 1 – Schedule F-666 and the Resignations listed on Enclosure VII. B. 2 – Schedule L-637 as revised.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members present voted aye: Garza, Hawn, Mayfield-Jedkins, Rodriguez, Maguire. Absent: Hanna, Anderson. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Copies of personnel schedules are appended to these minutes.

OTHER

ADOPTION OF REVISED POLICY #5119.1 SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSFER

The recommendation of the Administration was: that the Board of Education adopt revised Policy #5119.1, School Assignment and Transfer as presented.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins and seconded by Mr. Garza that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the administration to adopt, as presented, revised Policy #5119.1, School Assignment and Transfer.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members present voted aye: Garza, Hawn, Mayfield-Jedkins, Rodriguez, Maguire. Absent: Hanna, Anderson. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS FOR CLEARVIEW AND GLEN FLORA ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The recommendation of the Administration was: that the Board of Education review and approve the Glen Flora and Clearview School Improvement Plans and the Clearview Restructuring Plan, as required by the Illinois State Board of Education and further, that these documents be electronically housed on the IIRC website for the Lake County Regional Office and State Board of Education access as needed.

Mrs. Maguire noted that one page of the proposal had undergone revision; that is the page to be included in the action.

A motion was made by Mr. Hawn and seconded by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the administration to approve the Glen Flora and Clearview School Improvement Plans and the Clearview Restructuring Plan as revised.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members present voted aye: Garza, Hawn, Mayfield-Jedkins, Rodriguez, Maguire. Absent: Hanna, Anderson. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF MARTHA PADILLA-RAMOS TO THE WAUKEGAN SCHOOLS FOUNDATION BOARD

The By-laws of the Waukegan Schools Foundation require that the appointment of an individual to serve as a Foundation Director be confirmed by the Board of Education. The appointment is for a three-year term.

The recommendation of the Administration was: that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Waukegan Schools Foundation to appoint Ms. Martha Padilla-Ramos as an active Waukegan Public Schools Foundation Director/Member, effective on or about January 8, 2008, for a three-year period, ending on or about January 8, 2011.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Mr. Garza that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Waukegan Schools Foundation to appoint Ms. Martha Padilla-Ramos as an active Waukegan Public Schools Foundation Director/Member.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members present voted aye: Garza, Hawn, Mayfield-Jedkins, Rodriguez, Maguire. Absent: Hanna, Anderson. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A LINE-OF-CREDIT AGREEMENT WITH FIRST MIDWEST BANK

Mr. Kiiskila had previously provided a brief summary of the use of Tax Anticipation Warrants (TAW) as a means to provide revenue to the District during periods when financial obligations exceed available cash resources. Statute provides authority for use of this resource for short-term borrowing. It was noted that First Midwest Bank has, in the past, established a Line-of-Credit Agreement to permit borrowing on an as needed basis thus limiting accrued interest payments.

The recommendation of the Administration was: that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution to authorize the issuance and sale of a 2007 Tax Anticipation Promissory Note of Community Unit School District Number 60, Lake County, Illinois, in a principal amount not to exceed \$22,000,000, and confirming the sale thereof, authorizing the execution and delivery of a line of credit agreement and related documents; and related matters.

A motion was made by Mr. Hawn and seconded by Mr. Garza that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Administration to adopt the Resolution authorizing the sale of a 2007 Tax Anticipation Promissory Note as recommended.

Mr. Hawn questioned the amount of the fee paid to Chapman and Cutler for provision of financing documents associated with establishing the 2007 Tax Anticipation Promissory Note.

Mr. Morris explained that First Midwest Bank has been very flexible in their response to the need of the District for this type of financing. However, they have made it a requirement that the District use Chapman and Cutler to ensure that all documents are in proper order. This is done to protect the bank. The ability of the District to request funds on an as needed basis saves the District substantial interest cost.

Mrs. Maguire stated that Chapman and Cutler is a preeminent bond legal firm. Most other districts work with them on financing matters.

In response to Mr. Garza's query, Mr. Gaudin noted that the District has requested this type of financing from other local banks. No others expressed an interest in working with the District in this way.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members present voted aye: Garza, Hawn, Mayfield-Jedkins, Rodriguez, Maguire. Absent: Hanna, Anderson. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

A copy of said Resolution is appended to these minutes.

APPROVAL OF INITIAL DRAWDOWN FROM THE ESTABLISHED LINE-OF-CREDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008

The recommendation of the Administration was: that the Board of Education authorize the initial drawdown of \$4 million on January 11, 2008, from the established Line-of-Credit Agreement with First Midwest Bank.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins and seconded by Mr. Hawn to adopt the recommendation.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members present voted aye: Garza, Hawn, Mayfield-Jedkins, Rodriguez, Maguire. Absent: Hanna, Anderson. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Maguire reported that she had received a request for proposals to be presented at the IASB Annual Conference. She noted that this is an opportunity for districts to share information and insights into ideas and activities which abound in education. Possible presentations could include; progress on the Smaller Learning Communities at the high school, and the Response to Intervention Initiative (RTI).

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Batiste commented on a number of matters:

Ten gently used musical instruments have been donated to the District; most recently, a Hammond Organ to be installed at the Trapp auditorium.

A letter of appreciation has been received from the Waukegan Park District acknowledging the use of equipment for the "Do It Yourself Messiah", held at the Genesee Theatre on December 22, 2007.

Members of the SLC Committee have been invited to make a presentation at the LUDA winter conference in early February.

The *Waukegan Public School Community Guide* is available for use by schools and businesses.

A nine-year-old Carman-Buckner student was severely injured in a traffic accident.

Dr. Batiste expressed deep regret at the passing of district or district-associated personnel

- Mrs. Cecilia Laboy-Cruz, mother of Minerva Cruz, ELL Dean at WHS
- Mr. Terry Hirsch, Dean of Business at WHS
- Mr. Ed Clark, former District mechanic
- Mr. Karl Windberg, former WHS teacher of Industrial Arts

Upcoming activities include:

- 1/10/08 Operations Committee Meeting, L.C. Board Room 6:00 p.m.
- 1/16/08 Neighborhood Schools Committee, L.C. Board Room 6:30 p.m.
- 1/18/08 Records Day, No students in attendance
- 1/21/08 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, District will be closed

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE ON THE CAROL WHITE PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PEP) GRANT

Mrs. Maguire commented that a letter had been received from grant coach Mary Olson apprising the Board of the ongoing activities funded by this grant. She thanked Ms. Olson for this information.

FUNDS TO REFURBISH THE TRAPP AUDITORIUM

Mrs. Maguire noted that Mrs. Jean Windberg had asked that memorial gifts for her husband be directed to the Waukegan Schools Foundation and that these funds be used to refurbish the Trapp Auditorium.

STATUS REPORT ON TARGETING ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH GOVERNANCE

Dr. Batiste stated that initial contact had been made with the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) representative to establish meeting dates to begin the eight-part Board assessment/development governance project.

In response to Mr. Hawn's query, Mrs. Maguire stated that the IASB works with local boards to help them focus on excellence in governance and policy making to support student learning. If Mr. Hawn is not able to attend every session, materials will be forwarded to him.

EXITING STUDENTS FROM THE BILINGUAL PROGRAM

Mr. Garza had previously requested information on the report that fifth grade students had not been exited from the bilingual program at the end of the 2005-2006 school year. They were, instead, assigned to bilingual classes in middle school at the sixth grade level.

Dr. Lamping reported that the decision had been made based upon the belief that transition to middle school represented too great a change in the educational process when combined with language transition. The intent was that these students would be carefully monitored during the year to determine the time at which they could meet exit criteria.

Substantive discussion followed which included the number of students involved, the number of students who have exited the program during sixth grade, procedures currently in place to monitor progress, specificity of uses of funds requested in the grant application, need to be sensitive to the individual child, misclassification of students, and the reluctance of parents to refuse bilingual services. Board members Rodriguez, Garza, and Hawn urged the administration to take immediate action to address these issues and to report back to the Board.

DISCUSSION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

A memorandum from First Student had previously been distributed to the Board. Mr. Hawn invited Mr. Alan Braun of First Student Transportation Services to participate in the discussion concerning student transportation.

Questions were asked about procedural matters: length of time needed for a service stop, pickup of students who have missed the bus, students who are chronically late, out of district service, door-to-door service, consolidation of stops, communication between the parent and First Student, and traffic flow during hours when students are transported.

Mr. Braun responded to these questions based upon legal, contractual, safety, and practical considerations. He stated that contractual matters can be changed at the direction of the Board.

Mrs. Maguire stated that if transportation service is changed, parents must be notified in a timely manner.

AVAILABILITY OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Mr. Rodriguez asked about his request for an update on availability of instructional materials. Mrs. Elliott responded that all backorders had been filled. A letter had been sent to elementary and middle school buildings asking that requests be forwarded to her; she does not work with the high school.

Mrs. Schaefer was present in the meeting and stated that she has not received any requests for materials. Dr. Lamping noted that it is the responsibility of the District to provide required materials; extra materials are not necessarily available.

UPDATE ON STUDENT DISCIPLINE AT WAUKEGAN HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Garza had previously asked about procedures to address the matter of students who chronically absent themselves from class and are seen in the hallways during instructional time. Dr. Lamping responded that subsequent to his request for an update, a number of procedures have been implemented. These include: increased penalties for students found wandering in the halls; sweeping students from the building after periods 7, 8, and 9; increased police presence during December; holding unannounced searches of the locker room areas; applying maximum penalties for multiple or gang related incidents; holding IEPs and moving students to more restrictive environments if they have difficulty managing their time; and developing a consistent dialogue with the police department and using their services when situations arise. She also noted that a number of other proposals will be implemented during the second semester.

Mr. Garza stated that moving chronic troublemakers to alternative placement could generally improve morale. Mr. Hawn concurred and commended Dr. Lamping and Mrs. Schaefer for their aggressive approach to improve student behavior and hold students accountable for their actions.

LEGAL ADVISOR'S REPORT

STUDENT DISCIPLINE ACTION

EXPULSION OF STUDENT #906447

The following Resolution was read by Mr. Hawn:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Waukegan Community School District No. 60, did through its hearing officer on December 20, 2007, hold a hearing concerning possible expulsion of Student #906447; and

WHEREAS, the evidence taken at said hearing shows that; Student #906447 has been found guilty of inappropriate language and verbal altercations in violation of a Discipline Conference Contract, 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 #906447 is expelled, effective immediately, from attendance at said Community Unit School District No. 60 (Waukegan Public Schools) for the remainder of the 2007-2008 academic year (ending June 9, 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.

A motion was made by Mr. Hawn and seconded by Mr. Garza 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: Garza, Hawn, Rodriguez, Maguire. Pass: Mayfield-Jedkins. Absent: Hanna, Anderson. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

EXPULSION OF STUDENT #898798

The following Resolution was read by Mr. Garza:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Waukegan Community School District No. 60, did through its hearing officer on December 11, 2007, hold a hearing concerning possible expulsion of Student #898798; and

WHEREAS, the evidence taken at said hearing shows that; Student #898798 has been found guilty of battery to staff, 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 #898798 is expelled, effective immediately, from attendance at said Community Unit School District No. 60 (Waukegan Public Schools) for the remainder of the 2007-2008 academic year (ending June 9, 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.

A motion was made by Mr. Garza and seconded by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins 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: Garza, Hawn, Mayfield-Jedkins, Rodriguez, Maguire. Absent: Hanna, Anderson. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

EXPULSION OF STUDENT #903224

The following Resolution was read by Mr. Rodriguez:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Waukegan Community School District No. 60, did through its hearing officer on January 8, 2008, hold a hearing concerning possible expulsion of Student #903224; and

WHEREAS, the evidence taken at said hearing shows that; Student #903224 has been found guilty of gang activity, which is in violation of the Discipline Conference Contract, 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 #903224 is expelled, effective immediately, from attendance at said Community Unit School District No. 60 (Waukegan Public Schools) for the remainder of the 2007-2008 academic year (ending June 9, 2008).

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Mr. Hawn 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: Garza, Hawn, Rodriguez, Maguire. No: Mayfield-Jedkins. Absent: Hanna, Anderson. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

RESIGNATION OF ALTERNATE STUDENT HEARING OFFICER

Mr. Morris commented that the Board had received a letter from Mr. Torrie Newsome tendering his resignation as alternate Hearing Officer for the District. Subsequently, Dr. Batiste contacted Mr. Newsome who stated that his work schedule prevents him from serving in this capacity. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to participate in this way and stated that he would look forward to working with the District in the future.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins and seconded by Mr. Garza that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Mr. Torrie Newsome as alternate Hearing Officer.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if the District needs an alternate hearing officer. Mr. Morris responded that with the increased available behavior modification options and interventions there has been a significant decrease in the number of cases brought for expulsion. It is well within the capability of Mr. Stiles to handle these cases. Additionally, the hearings need not be conducted by an attorney.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members present voted aye: Garza, Hawn, Mayfield-Jedkins, Rodriguez, Maguire. Absent: Hanna, Anderson. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER TIME

Mr. Rodriguez commended the administration for their concern for student needs. The District is moving in a positive direction.

Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins congratulated the schools receiving Spotlight Awards and acknowledged the work of the staff. She offered condolences to the families who had lost loved ones, particularly the family of Mr. Windberg who had been a great resource to the District. She commended Mrs. Schaefer and Dr. Lamping for their work to address discipline matters; education is a priority. Mr. Hawn concurred.

Mr. Garza added his expression of condolence and offered kudos to Ms. Padilla-Ramos on her appointment to the Waukegan Schools Foundation Board. He noted that the Board must work as a team to implement change.

Mrs. Maguire joined other Board members in offering condolences to bereaved families. She noted a number of holiday concerts and gatherings and expressed her appreciation for the many opportunities to celebrate the season.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:50 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Mr. Garza that the meeting be adjourned.

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

President

Secretary