

BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE **OPEN SESSION**
Regular MEETING
August 28, 2007

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 60, Lake County, Illinois, convened in regular session in Room 120 at Lincoln Center, 1201 North Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL at 6:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Mrs. Rita Mayfield-Jedkins
Ms. Anita Hanna
Mr. Michael Rodriguez
Mr. Domingo Garza
Mr. Mark Hawn
Mr. Bill Anderson arrived at 6:14 p.m.
Mrs. June Maguire

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Ms. Mayfield-Jedkins 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 appointments, employment status, employee grievances; approval of closed session minutes; purchase or lease of real estate; 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. Donaldo R. Batiste, Superintendent; Mr. Jules Gaudin, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Operations Officer; Dr. Mary Lamping, Chief Academic Officer; and Mr. Thomas Morris, attorney for the Board of Education. Mr. Howard was present for discussion of personnel matters.

Minutes of the closed session are on file in the Superintendent's confidential file, pages 10735-10738.

BOARD RECONVENES IN OPEN SESSION

At 8:00 p.m. 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 roll call vote. The following members present voted aye: Mayfield-Jedkins, Hanna, Rodriguez, Garza, Hawn, Anderson, Maguire. 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

Kristi Gomez led the Board and audience in the recitation of the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

PRESENTATION ON THE DISTRICT MUSIC PROGRAM

Mrs. DeAnna Elliott reviewed student participation in the District music program for the past two school years. Board members had previously requested that efforts be made to increase student participation in the program. She commented on numbers of students participating at all levels, student fees paid for participation and instrument rental, and timelines for student recruitment into the program. She particularly noted the March Music Festival. Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins and Mr. Anderson requested more data on high school student participation. Mrs. Maguire asked that the Board be informed of upcoming events as early as possible.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Hanna and seconded by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins that the minutes of the regular meeting of August 14, 2007, be approved.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Hanna and seconded by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins that the minutes of the special meeting of August 15, 2007, be approved.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Norelia Hill, 808 Berwick, Waukegan, IL, spoke about the opening of the school term. She was initially perplexed that parents were not permitted to enter the building with their child. However, when it was explained that this was a safety measure, she agreed that this is an important consideration. She commended the staff for making the first day a success. She also commended the EPIC staff for initiating a PTO for EPIC parents and volunteered to assist.

Liz Marquez, 39 S. Elmwood, Waukegan, IL, related the difficulty she had experienced in attempting to register her child for kindergarten. However, she noted that her second grader had had an excellent first day.

Dr. Fred Bairstow, 800 Clayton, Waukegan, IL, spoke about the benefits of home schooling. However, he noted that students need a team of teachers to inspire them.

Dan Traynoff, 202 S. Elmwood, Waukegan, IL, asked about the per pupil cost to educate a student in Waukegan. He asked that the administration require immigration violators to pay this cost. He cited a supreme court decision concerning this issue and challenged the Board to take legal action to address the matter.

Mrs. Maguire noted that the Board does not engage in dialog with persons who come forward to speak during the Public Comment portion of 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.

PURCHASES AND CONTRACTS

APPROVAL OF THE LEASE EXTENSION FOR THE EPIC SITE AT AAUW

The Board had previously received a brief summary of the key terms of the lease extension for the EPIC site at AAUW, at 2500 Northern Avenue.

The recommendation of the Administration was: that the Board of Education approve the lease extension, as described in the attachment at an annual cost of \$8,250. This cost is covered by the Early Childhood Block grant.

A motion was made by Ms. Hanna and seconded by Mr. Garza that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Administration to extend the lease agreement for the EPIC site at 2500 Northern Avenue, AAUW Nursery School, at an annual cost of \$8,250 as presented.

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

APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ITEMS

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Hanna that the Board of Education approve the Appointments listed on Enclosure VII. B. 1 - Schedule F-658, the Resignations listed on Enclosure VII. B. 2 - Schedule L-631, and the Leaves of Absence listed on Enclosure VII. B 3 - Schedule N-514,

Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins and Mr. Garza voiced objections to the appointments listed as Assistant to the Principal and Substitute Assistant to the Principal and stated that these positions had not been posted. Mr. Anderson questioned whether the appointments are permanent or short term assignments. Dr. Batiste stated that the substitute positions are for the 2007-2008 school year only. The other appointments were posted and are permanent. Mr. Hawn defended the Administration's prerogative to make choices.

Dr. Batiste noted that as a result of the substantial number of employee resignations immediately prior to the opening of the school term, it was necessary to appoint qualified personnel to fill these position in order to ensure a smooth start to the school year.

Discussion followed concerning the appointment process. Mrs. Maguire noted that at the last meeting, a number of new positions had been approved by the Board; reassignment of current personnel created vacancies which needed to be filled immediately. Ms. Hanna commended the Administration for moving forward to ensure that qualified staff was prepared for the opening of the school year.

Mr. Garza commented that it is important to make certain that every employee has the right to apply for open positions.

Dr. Batiste read the list of administrative appointments with the salary for each position.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members present voted aye: Hanna, Rodriguez, Hawn, Anderson, Maguire.
No: Mayfield-Jedkins, Garza. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Copies of the personnel schedules are appended to these minutes.

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

There were no grants or donations to consider.

OTHER

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT SECOND HEARING OFFICER

The recommendation of the Administration was: that the Board of Education approve the Resolution to appoint Mr. Torrie Newsome as a second Hearing Officer for the District effective July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008, at a rate of \$175.00 per hour.

A motion was made by Ms. Hanna and seconded by Mr. Hawn that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Administration to adopt the Resolution to appoint Mr. Torrie Newsome as a second Hearing Officer for the District.

Mr. Anderson commented that both attorneys had done a fine job during the 2006-2007 school year; however, there is a significant difference in the hourly rate.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members present voted aye: Mayfield-Jedkins, Hanna, Rodriguez, Garza. No: Hawn, Anderson, Maguire. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

Dr. Batiste commented that he had spoken to each of the attorneys and Mr. Stiles's charge was based on his need to cover clerical cost; his legal service is provided as a community service. Mr. Newsome, however, has previously worked in the State Attorney's office and does not yet have an established private practice; his fee is needed to cover his clerical cost. Dr. Batiste also stated that the District has established a number of intervention and alternative programs to foster positive student behavior and reduce the need for disciplinary action.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

RATIFICATION OF PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR AUGUST 2007

A motion was made by Ms. Hanna and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez that the Board ratify the payment of Bills Payable for August 2007, in the amount of \$8,363,994.95 as indicated on the schedule provided.

Members posed questions concerning a number of line items which included: toilet plungers, private placement for severe behavior needs students, AT&T telephone charges, fire extinguishers, workers compensation insurance coverage, office supplies purchased from Office Plus, speech therapist fees, fees for athletic event participation, and textbook purchases. Each item was thoroughly discussed and suggestions offered. Directors from each division were present to respond to questions.

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

A copy of the accounts payable check register is appended to these minutes. Financial Statements for July will be presented for approval at the September 11, 2007 meeting.

REPORTS

BOARD COMMITTEES

Mr. Anderson commented on the meeting that the Board had held with IASB representative Dawn Miller regarding Board member team building and responsibilities.

Mrs. Maguire commented on the Insurance Plan Board meeting at which time the Plan Board received information on insurance rates. The Board will be asked to consider rate adjustments at the next regular meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Batiste informed the Board about a number of projects and upcoming activities: the opportunity for certificated staff to work toward a master's degree in curriculum and

instruction or educational leadership through the American College of Education; the untimely death of former student Matthew Medicott in Iraq on August 25, 2007; the untimely death of Juarez Middle School student Dantae Moment on August 24, 2007; the FOIA request from Ms. Kelly Below regarding the Edward Guerra consulting agreement; the request from District psychologists to form a union; the October 9, 2007, ribbon cutting ceremony for the play area at Whittier which was offered through a donation of funds by the NFL/Bears football team; the Renaissance Commission Taste of Waukegan to be held on August 30, 2007, in the City Hall courtyard; the Waukegan air show which will be held at the Waukegan Airport on September 8, 2007; and the opening day staff gathering at the Genesee Theatre on Thursday, August 23, 2007.

He also expressed his belief that it is important for central office administration to partner with building administration to change the perception of some individuals that Lincoln Center staff is unconcerned about building activities. To that end, District administrators were present in buildings on the first day of student attendance and will continue to make a special effort to lend support to building activities.

INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no other information items.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Hanna asked about negotiations with the City regarding police officers assigned to schools. Mr. Gaudin replied that several attempts had been made to schedule a meeting with Chief Biang and Mr. Vukovich; however, schedule conflicts necessitated cancellation. He anticipates that the matter will be resolved in the near future.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins and seconded by Mr. Garza that the Board rescind the appointments which were made at the August 14, 2007, meeting regarding New Positions. Mr. Morris advised that the positions could be reconsidered, but not rescinded because this item is not listed on the agenda for action.

Discussion followed concerning reassignment of current staff, job descriptions for new jobs, lack of an organizational chart to illustrate the line of supervision for each new job, possible duplication of assigned tasks, and the consideration of new positions during the budget formulation process.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

LEGAL REPORT

Mr. Morris presented no other legal matters.

BOARD MEMBER TIME

Mr. Hawn voiced his opinion concerning the approval of multiyear contracts for administrators. He commended Dr. Batiste for the excellent opening day event and asked that the spirit of cooperation be ongoing. He then opened a discussion of Board meeting starting time and the possibility of hiring a grant writer.

Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins asked for a copy of Ms. Below's FOIA request and noted that the school district is a customer service industry.

She rejected the suggestion made earlier that tuition be charged to immigrant students and then commented on the Governor's initiative in the arts. She stated that District #60 arts funds will not be cut and noted the correlation between student participation in the arts and student academic achievement.

Mr. Rodriguez related his personal experience with the District Bilingual Education program. He affirmed his resolve to make certain that the program is carefully monitored and assessed.

Mr. Anderson commended Dr. Batiste for the high energy beginning of the school year. He commented on the request for appointment of an Assistant Athletic Director and the denial of the request to institute a new position for library supervision stating that this is not a trade off. He noted that he sits on the Board of the Waukegan Library and is supportive of library issues.

In the matter of alternative learning programs, Mr. Anderson commented that high needs students require special services.

Ms. Hanna added her commendation to the administration for the school opening program. She commented on the efforts of the Wellness Committee to encourage healthful lifestyle choices for students and staff through foods offered by the new District food service provider. She asked if the health record requirement had impacted first day student attendance. Dr. Lamping stated that the initial enrollment is down but it has not been determined if that is a result of the health requirement for registration.

Ms. Hanna commented that the District will offer evening registration hours beginning on August 30 in an effort to include students who have attempted to register at the last moment before school opening and offered her assistance.

Mr. Garza spoke about his personal experience with the District bilingual program and had personally visited a number of District schools during opening day. He noted his conversation with Mrs. Krajenta in reference to more rapid transition to English language acquisition.

In reference to the appointment of Mrs. Schaefer as Waukegan High School principal, he commented that she is doing a commendable job. He also offered his congratulations to the Bulldogs.

Mrs. Maguire noted her participation in the opening day gathering and thanked the City for its generosity in allowing the event to be held at the Genesee Theatre. She noted the meet and greet events being held in several buildings to welcome students and parents prior to the official first day of attendance. She also commented on the landscaping provided by volunteers at Glen Flora, Webster, and Greenwood and the welcoming atmosphere which this provides for all those entering the buildings.

In regard to implementation of the Wellness Policy, Mrs. Maguire noted that food portion size as well as lack of exercise may well be contributing factors to child obesity. Although this correlation has been well publicized, few families participate in these programs. She noted that staff should set a good example. Dr. Lamping commented that the PEP grant includes provision for determining body mass index for students.

Dr. Batiste gave kudos to Mr. Gaudin and Dr. Lamping for their assistance in the opening of the school year.

Mrs. Maguire announced special meetings for Board participation: Tuesday, September 4, 2007, a meeting with the Superintendent to establish his contractual goals for the 2007-2008 school year; Wednesday, September 5, 2007, a meeting of the Committee of the Whole in conjunction with the Board Student Achievement Committee to be informed about the Smaller Learning Communities grant implementation at Waukegan High School; Thursday, September 6, 2007, a meeting of the District Finance Committee; and a meeting with community members, at a date and time to be determined, to inform the public about the Smaller Learning Communities initiative.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:45 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins and seconded by Mr. Garza that the meeting be adjourned.

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

President

Secretary