

BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE **OPEN** SESSION
OF THE **SPECIAL** MEETING
September 18, 2007

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 60, Lake County, Illinois, convened in special session in the Trapp Auditorium of Waukegan High School, 2325 Brookside Avenue, Waukegan, IL at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and audience recited the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSAL TO RESTRUCTURE WAUKEGAN HIGH SCHOOL

Also present for the meeting were: Dr. Donaldo R. Batiste, Superintendent; Mr. Jules Gaudin, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Operations Officer; Dr. Mary Lamping, Chief Academic Officer; and members of the Steering Committee for implementation of the Smaller Learning Communities Grant: Mrs. Molly Schaefer, Waukegan High School Interim Principal; Mrs. Rita Melius, consultant; Maj. Carter Bell; Mr. Marshall Ruetz; Ms. Deborah Rakestraw; and Ms. Asia Turman.

Dr. Batiste announced that the purpose of the meeting was to present to the public, a proposal to restructure Waukegan High School to enhance the ways in which education is delivered, to raise academic achievement, to foster positive interpersonal relationships, and to advance family support and interaction with the school.

Dr. Batiste introduced special guests: Alderman Greg Moio, Rev. Walstone Francis, Mr. Ray Vukovich, Dr. Sherman Beverly, Dr. Lynn Reynolds, and Dr. Hilary Ward-Schnadt. He noted that Mayor Hyde, City Aldermen, and state and federal representatives had also been invited. At that time, he introduced Dr. Mary Lamping who served as moderator for the remainder of the meeting.

Dr. Lamping explained that during the first portion of the meeting, members of the Steering Committee would introduce the proposal by way of a PowerPoint presentation. She then invited members of the audience to submit their questions/concerns on forms which were provided; members of the Committee would respond to these requests during the second part of the meeting.

Maj. Carter Bell emphasized that the school will be a single, unified program held at two campuses; WHS Brookside and WHS Washington. The philosophy of the program will be to change the ways that the education program is delivered; to enhance interaction between persons (students, teachers, and families); to raise expectations; and to help the student discover the connection between education and adult life.

Maj. Bell presented a brief history of the current initiative and commented that the College Studies Program (CSP) model will be used to structure the sequence of course offerings. The high school student population of approximately 4,000 students would be divided into 10 communities (Houses) of 400 students each and would include grades 9 - 12. Each "House" will have its own supervising Dean, an interdisciplinary team of teachers for core subjects, an advisory period, and social work support. Each student will remain in the same "House" during his/her high school years, but will have access to all electives and higher level courses. Scheduling will be structured to maintain the unified concept; one football team, one fine arts program, one graduation exercise, etc. It was emphasized, however, that the College Studies Program will be held at both sites and Technology Campus courses will be available to all students.

Mr. Marshall Ruetz reviewed the physical structure of each facility to show where each "House" would be located. The compact structure will decrease the time needed to move between classes. It is anticipated that the positive outcomes will include: increased student attendance, increased academic achievement, increased participation in activities, improved discipline, decreased dropout rate, and reduced academic gap between various ethnic and socioeconomic groups.

It was noted that some physical structures will need to be modified and additional equipment purchased to make the program equitable for all students. The cost is estimated to be \$2.7 million; funds to be provided through modification of budgets for FY 2007-2008 and FY 2008-2009. Additionally, job descriptions and teacher assignments will be changed. The unions currently in collective bargaining are seeking to include contract language which will address these changes.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Dr. Lamping had received a number of questions from members of the audience seeking clarification of various aspects of the proposal. She stated the questions; members of the Steering Committee responded and elaborated on information given during the PowerPoint presentation.

Information being sought included: scheduling of extracurricular activities, particularly music and sports; phasing in changes to the program; dress code; programs for bilingual and special education students; access to upper level and advanced placement courses; instructional mode for upper level courses with low enrollment; access to bathroom facilities; assignment of students to a particular location, especially if it involves siblings; structure of the CSP program; ways in which conflicts would be addressed; preparation of current students for the Prairie State exam this year; student transportation; timeline for and cost of construction; access to Project Lead the Way and Schuler Foundation scholarships; student fees; advisory periods; leadership roles among teachers; planning time for teachers/teams; lunchroom facilities; parent contact; security; research done prior to formulating the proposal; counseling for college preparation; extended school day; provision of more information for the community; services provided by counselors and social workers; and mainstreaming special education students.

Dr. Lamping noted that individuals submitting questions were asked to provide an address to facilitate further communication. Additional information will be posted on the District web site as it becomes available.

Mrs. Maguire thanked the audience for their interest and participation.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:02 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Mr. Anderson 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