

BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 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 6:00 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 6:18 p.m.
Mrs. Rita Mayfield-Jedkins
Mr. Michael Rodriguez
Ms. Anita Hanna
Mr. Domingo Garza
Mrs. June Maguire
Mr. Mark Hawn

Absent:

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Ms. Hanna that the Board recess and reconvene in closed session pursuant to applicable Open Meetings Act exceptions for the purpose of discussing student discipline, appointments, employment status, 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. 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 10818-10820.

BOARD RECONVENES IN OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins 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: Anderson, Mayfield-Jedkins, Rodriguez, Hanna, Garza, Hawn, Maguire. Whereupon the President declare 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. Jeff McBride led the Board and audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION ON THE 21ST CENTURY STARS PROGRAM

Dr. Batiste noted that this presentation will be given at the December 11, 2007, meeting.

SECOND PRESENTATION ON THE ELL PROGRAMS

The second in a series of English Language Learner (ELL) presentations was given by Mrs. Krajenta. The areas reviewed focused on placement, integration, retention, assessment, instructional mode for core subjects, and current findings. It was noted that last year, no students exited the program after grade 5. Mrs. Krajenta commented that the administrator who headed the program at that time believed that the transition from elementary to middle school would significantly impact the student's language transition. Dr. Lamping stated that students who demonstrated exit level achievement should be exited immediately and monitored carefully for need for language support.

Mrs. Krajenta explained that the Federal Review Panel had determined that the IMAGE test which has previously been used was not developed as a student achievement test. The State of Illinois has determined that IMAGE will be replaced by the Illinois Student Achievement Test (ISAT) this year. This will likely impact test scores. Accommodations for testing are now under discussion. Dr. Meczyk showed the statistical projection of the worst case scenario which could result from this change in testing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Hanna and seconded by Mr. Garza that the minutes of the special meeting of October 21, 2007, be approved.

After due consideration thereof, the President called for a roll call vote. The following members present voted aye: Anderson, Mayfield-Jedkins, Rodriguez, Hanna, Garza, Maguire. Absent: Hawn. 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 regular meeting of October 23, 2007, be approved.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Myra Gaytan-Morales, 217 E. Keith Ave., Waukegan, IL, stated that she represents the Lake County Latino Coalition which supports the Smaller Learning Communities proposal. She commented that this initiative will help address a number of issues and will foster a better understanding of diversity. She urged that the proposal be implemented all at the same time.

David Shrank, 2010 Washington, Waukegan, IL, apologized to the Board for remarks that he had made at a previous meeting. He went on to outline his plans to complete certification for the position of Rifle Team Coach; a position which he vacated at the end of last school year.

Bernard Carpenter, 673 S. Jackson Waukegan, IL, stated that he is the parent of a Waukegan High School student and was not informed of his son's class standing at the end of last year and, therefore, was unaware that his son may not be eligible to play basketball during the upcoming season. He suggested that a mandatory counseling session be held with each student prior to the beginning of the senior year to advise the student of necessary action to be taken in order to complete requirements for graduation in a timely manner.

Steve White, 12730 W. Grove, Waukegan, IL, endorsed David Shrank as head coach for the rifle team. He asserted that varsity students are serving as coaches and there is insufficient practice time.

Tina White, 12730 W. Grove, Waukegan, IL asked that the Board reconsider the proposed appointment listed on Schedule F633 and, instead, appoint David Shrank as coach. She stated that 4 senior students are eligible for college scholarships.

Russ Anderson, 12872 W. Grove, Waukegan, IL, commented that precision rifle shooting is a complex sport which requires expert instruction. He stated that David Shrank has experience, expertise, and is a nationally recognized coach. He also expressed his support for the Smaller Learning Communities proposal.

Jeff Dick, 2516 Walnut, Waukegan, IL, noted that his son has had success as a rifle shooter. He voiced his support for David Shrank as coach.

Cathy Stout, 1610 Henry, Waukegan, IL, has a daughter who participates in the rifle team. She expressed her support for David Shrank as coach.

John Frew, 1801 Dugdale, Waukegan, IL, alleged that the property at 742 Greenwood is not an appropriate site for District use. He commented that the building was used previously as a car dealership, and has inadequate electrical service and air conditioning.

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 CONTRACTSRATIFICATION OF NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT WITH LAKE COUNTY FEDERATION OF TEACHERS LOCAL 504

Dr. Batiste announced that this item is pulled from the agenda.

AUTHORIZATION TO EXERCISE PURCHASE OPTION FOR PROPERTY AT 742 GREENWOOD AVENUE

In December 2004, the Board of Education entered into an agreement with Sherman Swopes and Gloria Jean Swopes to lease property at 742 Greenwood Avenue to house a District alternative education program. The lease agreement contained a provision regarding an option to purchase the property; said option to expire November 30, 2007.

The recommendation of the Administration was: that the Board of Education exercise the current lease agreement option to purchase, and approve the Real Estate Purchase Contract and the related note and mortgage to acquire the property at 742 Greenwood Avenue at a cost of \$1,188,208 over a seven (7) year period at an annual interest rate of 5.75%; the funding to be provided by the IDEA Grant, the Local Rent Fund, and the General Fund.

A motion was made by Ms. Hanna and seconded by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Administration to purchase the property at 742 Greenwood Avenue as presented.

Mr. Garza asked if the District has had the building inspected and if the decision to purchase could be postponed.

Mr. Gaudin noted that environmental studies were completed prior to occupancy by the District as a part of the Lease Agreement; the building has also been appraised. Mrs. Maguire noted that the roof has been replaced.

Mr. Gaudin commented that the Option to Purchase expires on November 30, 2007; the deficiencies noted are minor and can be easily remedied. There is insufficient time to complete further studies prior to the expiration of the lease.

Mr. Morris stated that the District had retained an architect to examine the structure at the time the environmental studies were done. The District is aware of the history of the building and has occupied it during the three-year term of the lease.

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

APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ITEMS

Mr. Garza moved that the coaching positions listed on Schedule F-633 be considered individually and not as a part of the Appointments list; Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Members of the Board concurred by voice vote. The President declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Hanna and seconded Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins that the Board of Education approve the Appointments listed on Enclosure VII. B. 1 - Schedule F-633 as amended and the Resignations listed on Enclosure VII. B. 2 - Schedule L-635

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

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded Ms. Hanna that the Board of Education approve the appointment of SGM Edgar Grace listed on Enclosure VII. B. 1 - Schedule F-633 as Head Rifle Team Coach.

Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins commented that the Board has the responsibility for making appointments. Mr. Morris commented that the Board has responsibility for management of the contract incident to the administrative process of analysis of credentials, concomitant determination of suitability, and subsequent recommendation of the candidate.

Mr. Anderson expressed his concern about insufficient practice time. Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins concurred and urged parents to contact Mrs. Schaefer and Mr. Perkins with their concerns. She thanked parents for bring these concerns to the Board.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Hanna that the two remaining appointments, Head Girls Soccer Coach and Head Varsity Softball Coach, be considered together and approved.

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

Copies of personnel schedules are appended to these minutes.

OTHER

AUTHORIZATION TO IMPLEMENT THE SMALLER LEARNING COMMUNITIES RESTRUCTURING AT WAUKEGAN HIGH SCHOOL

The Smaller Learning Communities (SLC) Planning Committee had previously made presentations to the Board and to the public at a special open forum meeting during which members of the public were invited to submit questions concerning the proposal.

The recommendation of the Administration was: that the Board of Education authorize the implementation of the Smaller Learning Communities plan at the Waukegan High School under the direction of the building principal and supervised and supported by the District Leadership and the Board of Education, respectively. Fiscal Year 2007-2008 costs of \$780,000 will be funded from the SLC grant (\$142,000) and the General Fund (\$638,000).

A motion was made by Ms. Hanna and seconded by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins that the Board of Education authorize the implementation of the Smaller Learning Communities restructuring plan at Waukegan High School as presented.

Mr. Garza asked that the CSP program, the music program, and the rifle team not be diluted.

Mr. Anderson stated that he wished to reassure the community regarding the proposal and the cost of implementation. He noted that the intention of the Board is to strengthen the educational program at the high school and while some dislocation is inevitable, the program will ultimately lead to a lower drop out rate.

Ms Hanna thanked the SLC committee and the union for their collaborative work to develop a workable plan to alleviate the issues which need improvement. She expressed her belief that with leadership, dedication, and commitment on the part of the school community, the community as a whole will be satisfied with the end result.

Mr. Rodriguez commented that his son has been a part of the CSP program which in itself is a small learning community. He expressed his concern that the current members of that group be permitted to finish the program as an already established community.

Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins commended the person(s) who had prepared the succinct outline of the program and the implementation and assessment plan.

Mrs. Maguire thanked the staff members who had worked to research the proposal, plan its detailed implementation, and demonstrate their support for its underlying philosophy and intent.

Mr. Garza thanked the Committee and stated that each Board member wants the best for every child.

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

HEARING ON THE SUBMISSION OF REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF SCHOOL CODE FOR LEGAL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

The Board has, in the past, submitted requests for waiver of School Code to permit the District to remain open on the legal school holiday, February 12, Lincoln's Birthday.

Mrs. Maguire declared open the Hearing on the request for waiver of School Code.

Mr. Bob Braden, 1018 Sheridan Waukegan, IL, asked for clarification of the need to request waiver of School Code and asked if this waiver increases the number of days of student attendance.

Dr. Batiste noted that this is consistent with past practice and is done to allow one additional day of instruction prior to the administration of the ISAT test. Mr. Howard explained that the District will celebrate the national holiday, Presidents Day, as an alternative.

Mr. Anderson commented that the calendar for the school year had anticipated this proposed substitution.

Mr. Jeff McBride, 2515 Chestnut, Waukegan, IL, asked about the purpose of this request.

Mr. Morris explained that Statute mandates the celebration of Lincoln's Birthday as a school holiday. This waiver request is made to allow the District more flexibility in adopting the annual calendar to maximize the opportunity for continuity of instruction.

There being no further comment, Mrs. Maguire declared closed the Hearing on the request for waiver of School Code.

AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF SCHOOL CODE

The recommendation of the Administration was: that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to submit a request for waiver of the Illinois School Code mandate for observance of President Abraham Lincoln's birthday as a legal school holiday.

A motion was made by Ms. Hanna and seconded by Mr. Garza to authorize the Superintendent to submit a request for waiver of the Illinois School Code in reference to observance of the Lincoln's Birthday school holiday.

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

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO RENT TRAPP AUDITORIUM AND TO WAIVE THE FACILITY RENTAL FEES - SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH

The Administration had previously received a letter of request from the Men's Ministry of the Shiloh Baptist Church for use of the Trapp Auditorium to hold a fund raising activity to benefit the National Transplant Assistance Fund.

The recommendation of the Administration was: that the Board of Education consider the request for use of the Trapp Auditorium by the Men's Ministry of Shiloh Baptist Church for November 30 or December 15, 2007, for a fundraiser gospel concert for the Reverend Marcus Burnett with a waiver of facility fee (\$800), and authorize the Superintendent to notify the requesting church.

A motion was made by Ms. Hanna and seconded by Mr. Garza that the Board of Education approve the request for use of the Trapp Auditorium with a waiver of facility fee only; security and personnel fees to be paid.

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

RATIFICATION OF BILLS PAYABLE FOR NOVEMBER 2007, MANUAL AND IMPREST CHECKS FOR SEPTEMBER 2007, AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

The recommendation of the Administration was: that the Board of Education accept the bills payable for the month of November 2007, Manual/Imprest checks for September 2007, and the financial reports for the quarter ending September 30, 2007, which have balances as shown.

A motion was made by Ms. Hanna and seconded by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins that the Board of Education accept the financial reports as presented.

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

Copies of said financial statements are appended to these minutes.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

COMMITTEES

Ms. Hanna noted her attendance at the Student Achievement Committee; implementation of the Smaller Learning Communities proposal was discussed. She urged implementation of the proposal as soon as possible.

Ms. Hanna also commented on the Open House which was held at the Technology Campus. Attendees were able to view the operation of the various programs. She urged greater participation by Waukegan students.

Mr. Anderson commented on his attendance at the Neighborhood School Committee. He noted that the District could save money on transportation cost if students were assigned to buildings closer to their homes.

Mr. Anderson also attended the Curriculum Committee meeting and the Finance/Operations Committee meeting. Discussion was held on the implementation and financing of the Smaller Learning Communities restructuring.

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Maguire commented that the Neighborhood School Committee is off to a good start. She urged parents to come forward to share their ideas and concerns with the Committee. Transportation was a topic discussed at this committee as well as the Finance/Operations Committee; school closing and security were also discussed. She and Mr. Rodriguez also attended the Technology Campus Open House.

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Batiste commented that the Board had receive copies of the listing of students who attend the Tech Campus.

November 7, 2007, Dr. Batiste, Mr. Flink, and Mrs. Figueroa attended the Borders Bookstore celebration of the Jesse White Illinois Literacy award of electronic gift cards to Illinois schools. The District received cards worth \$1,331 which will add to the literary experience for children.

Dr. Batiste urged everyone to observe National School Board Member Day on November 15, 2007, by sending a word of appreciation to District #60 Board Members who work on behalf of the 17,000 students of the District.

Dr. Batiste announced that on November 16, 2007, he will be attending the National Conference of the Catalyst group whose member ministers have partnered with District schools to provide needed resources.

The District will be closed November 21, 22, 23, 2007, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Dr. Batiste noted the FOIA request received from Ms. Kelly Below for a copy of the Superintendent's contract. He commented that the information was made available as soon as a signed copy could be produced.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Ms. Maguire noted that Judge Lloyd A. VanDeusen, former Waukegan Township High School Board President, had recently passed away.

Mrs. Molly Schaefer invited the Board and audience to attend the performance of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern* which would be performed at the high school later in the week.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

LEGAL ADVISOR'S REPORT

RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE YEOMAN CREEK REMEDIATION GROUP (YCRG) AND HERITAGE INDUSTRIAL SERVICES (HIS); AND THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE YEOMAN CREEK REMEDIATION GROUP (YCRG) AND GEOSYNTEC/PARSONS ENGINEERING SCIENCE

Mr. Morris had previously advised the Board of the circumstances surrounding the claims for payment of obligations concerning work, materials, and services connected with remediation of the Yeoman Creek landfill.

A motion was made by Ms. Hanna and seconded by Mr. Garza that the Board of Education ratify the Agreement with Heritage Industrial Services, and the Agreement with Geosyntec and Parsons Engineering Services, Inc. as presented.

Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins asked if this cost is shared by other YCRG members. Mr. Morris responded that District #60 is responsible for 10% of the cost.

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

BOARD MEMBER TIME

Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins noted that Mr. Shrank had outstanding credentials for the Rifle Team appointment. She recommended that parents to contact Mrs. Schaefer and Mr. Perkins with their comments. She also urged everyone to support the Girls Basketball team. She noted that each girl on the team has GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins thanked Mrs. Myra Gaytan-Morales and the Latino Coalition for the support for the Smaller Learning Communities proposal and thanked the participating staff members who had contributed to the SLC proposal. She also commented that each student should meet with his/her counselor at least one time per year.

Mr. Rodriguez commented that the Smaller Learning Communities concept is a good one; his concern is in regard to the cost and implementation. He thanked everyone who had called during the week with their concerns.

Mr. Garza spoke on the matter of coaching appointments. He stated that it is important for each coach to have the appropriate credentials; no exceptions should be permitted. He expressed his belief that each applicant should have the same opportunity to receive consideration for his/her candidacy.

Ms. Hanna thanked Dr. Batiste for sending letters of congratulation to newly appointed staff members. She reiterated her support for the programs at the Tech Campus and requested a report on the number of students currently in attendance. She also asked that non-traditional students be encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity, perhaps through a visit to the campus.

Mr. Anderson thanked members of the Smaller Learning Communities Committee for their work in developing the proposal. He commented that improvement in AYP has been made at the elementary and middle school levels; it is imperative to address the high school level.

In regard to teacher negotiations, Mr. Anderson commented that the Board supports the administration effort to reach an equitable agreement with the teachers in the settlement of issues which remain unresolved.

Mrs. Maguire commented on the JROTC Parents Night activity; 400-500 students participated. She also noted that Waukegan students had participated in the Tech Campus Open House. Specifically, she noted that students in the Firefighter program can earn a certificate through that program.

She concurred with the suggestion that a letter be sent home at the close of the year to inform parents of the class standing of their child.

Ms. Hanna encouraged fellow Board members to visit the program at AOEC. She noted that this is also a small learning community.

Mrs. Maguire informed the public that Board members and senior administrators will be in attendance at the IASB/IASA/IASBO Conference in Chicago November 16 - 18, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:07 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Hanna that the meeting be adjourned.

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

President

Secretary