

BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 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:

Mrs. Rita Mayfield-Jedkins
Mr. Michael Rodriguez
Mr. Domingo Garza
Mr. Mark Hawn
Mr. Bill Anderson arrived at 6:15 p.m.
Mrs. June Maguire
Ms. Anita Hanna due to illness

Absent:

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Mr. Garza 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, purchase of real estate, 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. Douglas Stiles, Mr. William Newby, and Mr. Mark Neiberg 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 10832-10834.

BOARD RECONVENES IN OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Mr. Anderson 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, Rodriguez, Garza, Hawn, Anderson, Maguire. Absent: Hanna. 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. Eric Christianson led the Board and audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION ON TARGETING ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH GOVERNANCE

Dr. Batiste introduced Ms. Dusty Patrick of the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) who explained the opportunity available to the Board of Education to participate in training available through the IASB. The focus of the 18-month workshop participation is to guide members of the Board to a greater understanding of the principles of governance and strategies which bring about increased student achievement. The training also enables the Board to fulfill its obligation to meet the legal mandates of No child Left Behind. She also explained that this opportunity is free of charge to those districts that have not been able to make Adequate Yearly Progress.

Mr. Garza asked about the logistics of implementing the program and Mr. Anderson asked about how soon the decision had to be made. Ms. Patrick responded that workshops would be held in the District at times to be determined by members of the group. She asked that if the District decides to participate, that members commit to the entire program of 18-month duration.

Mrs. Maguire thanked Ms. Patrick for her presentation.

RECOGNITION OF JACALYN ROCHE, NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHER

Dr. Batiste announced that Ms. Jacalyn Roche, a teacher at the Ninth Grade Center, had received National Board Teacher Certification, a rigorous process. He introduced Ms. Roche who thanked the District and, particularly, Dr. Kearby for their support during the 15-month process.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins that the minutes of the regular meeting of November 13, 2007, be approved.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Chuck Gutman, 353 Rivershire Ct., Lincolnshire, IL; on behalf of Ms. Marion McElroy, Lake County NAACP President, invited members of the Board and audience to attend the 41st Annual Freedom Fund Celebration to be held at St. John Baptist Church on Saturday, December 1, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. Dr. Haki Madhubuti will read excerpts from his book about his childhood in Little Rock, Arkansas, during the incipient Civil Rights movement.

Dr. Fred Bairstow, 800 Clayton St., Waukegan, IL, encouraged the Board to adopt a "think tank" model to communicate with members of the community.

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

None

APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ITEMS

A motion was made by Mr. Hawn and seconded Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins that the Board of Education approve the Appointments listed on Enclosure VII. B. 1 - Schedule F-664 and the Resignations listed on Enclosure VII. B. 2 - Schedule L-636

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

Copies of personnel schedules are appended to these minutes.

OTHERHEARING ON THE SUBMISSION OF REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF SCHOOL CODE AUTHORIZING SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS TO TEACH FOR A PERIOD OF 176 DAYS IN ANY ONE SCHOOL TERM

The Board has, in the past, submitted requests for waiver of School Code to permit a substitute teacher to teach for a period of 176 days in any one school term rather than the statutory limit of 90 paid school days. Mr. Howard explained that the District now has a total of 32 long-term subs. If certified teachers cannot be found, these teachers would have to be replaced with different long-term substitute teachers, a procedure that is disruptive to the learning process. He commented that the District has recently been notified of the federally designated "hard to find teacher" areas.

At 7:22 p.m. Mrs. Maguire declared open the Hearing on the request for waiver of School Code.

Mr. Anderson commented that the application for waiver of school code is not a cost cutting measure. It is the intent of the District to fill every vacancy with a qualified teacher. The pay rates for substitutes are: long term substitute, \$167 per day; regular substitute, \$85 per day; Paraprofessional substitute, \$9.23 per hour.

Myra Morales, 217 Keith, Waukegan, IL, asked about strategies used to recruit certificated staff. Mr. Howard responded that the administration participates in job fairs, posts vacancies on-line, and supports two programs: NTEC and Transition to Teaching, to assist qualified persons to obtain teaching credentials. Additionally, any Waukegan High School graduate who obtains a teaching degree is offered an interview and is encouraged to return to Waukegan to teach.

There being no further comment, at 7:30 p.m., 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 substitute teachers for the 2008-2009 school year.

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Hawn to authorize the Superintendent to submit a request for waiver of the Illinois School Code mandate for substitute teachers for the 2008-2009 school year.

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

RATIFICATION OF BILLS PAYABLE FOR NOVEMBER 2007,

The recommendation of the Administration was: that the Board of Education accept the subject bills payable for the month of November 2007 in the amount of \$2,295,496.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins and seconded by Mr. Hawn that the Board of Education accept subject bills payable for the month of November 2007 in the amount of \$2,295,496.

Mr. Hawn commented on the incident of vandalism and damage to the sprinkler system that took place at Washington school which resulted in a loss of \$68,000 worth of books. He asked if any restitution was paid to the District.

Mr. Morris responded that significant damage occurred from flooding which included structural damage as well as books and musical instruments. The total amount of damage was quantified and although the District pursued restitution through court action, only the insurance deductible could be obtained; insurance covered the quantifiable loss.

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

Copies of said financial statements are appended to these minutes.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

COMMITTEES

There were no committee reports.

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Batiste commented on a number of matters:

Word has been received from the Illinois State Board of Education concerning the Academic Improvement Award for notable achievement by schools with 50% low-income students who have demonstrated significant improvement in state test scores. Illinois Spotlight Awards were given to Clark, Glenwood, and Lyon Elementary Schools.

Procedures for alerting the community and staff to the closure of schools due to inclement weather or other hazardous conditions are being put in place. Only essential service personnel will be required to report for work on those days when the District is closed for an emergency.

An invitation has been received from Lake County United, an organization of civil society institutions, to join that organization on Thursday, November 29, 2007, at the Greenbelt Cultural Center to discuss education in Waukegan, a topic which has been of particular concern.

The Neighborhood School Committee will meet on Thursday, November 29, 2007, at Lincoln Center to continue its work to develop a proposal for implementation of that concept. Interested persons are invited to meet at 6:30 p.m. in Room 129.

The administration thanked Township Supervisor Patricia Jones for the tickets to the Illinois Brass Band concert to be held at the Genesee Theatre. These tickets will be given to students who participate in the band and choral programs.

On December 4, 2007, Mr. Rafael Mendez, Residency Officer/Children in Transitional Settings Program Coordinator, will distribute coats to homeless students at Glenwood, Glen Flora, North, Webster, and Whittier. Funds for purchase of the coats were raised by the "Coat 4 Kids" program, City of Lake Forest Employees and Friends.

Dr. Batiste noted that Mr. Morris had responded to a FOIA request from the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform concerning use of Tort funds to lobby the State. Mr. Morris commented that he had been informed that numerous school districts, and other public entities across the state, were alleged to have used Tort funds improperly for lobbying purposes. District #60 was accused of improperly using the tort immunity levy to raise funds for unauthorized purposes. He noted that Hinshaw and Culbertson had worked with Rep. Washington and Sen. Link to pass legislation which would allow the use of the tort levy to pay the costs associated with environmental remediation. Mr. Morris stated that there was a question about whether legal work for a client should be considered lobbying but the law firm registered to be safe.

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Maguire commented that Congressman Kirk had invited her to participate on a committee to discuss No Child Left Behind. The meeting will take place on December 8, 2007.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Dr. Batiste noted the passing of Eileen Pettclair and Rosalind Woolf. Mrs. Woolf's family has requested to hold a life celebration gathering at Waukegan High School in January. It is also their intent to establish a scholarship fund in memory of Mrs. Woolf. Mrs. Maguire commented that she had served with Mrs. Woolf in several community organizations; Mrs. Woolf had established a scholarship fund in memory of a daughter who passed away prematurely.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

LEGAL ADVISOR'S REPORTSTUDENT DISCIPLINE ACTION

The following Resolution was read by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Waukegan Community School District No. 60, did through its hearing officer on November 20, 2007, hold a hearing concerning possible expulsion of Student No. 919969; and

WHEREAS, the evidence taken at said hearing shows that; Student No. 919969 has been found guilty of Weapons/Criminal Code 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 No. 919969 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 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

It was moved by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins 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: Mayfield-Jedkins, Rodriguez, Garza, Hawn, Maguire. Pass: Anderson. Absent: Hanna. Whereupon the President declared the motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER TIME

Mr. Hawn had previously asked for an audit of the AT&T telephone bills for the District. Mr. Pattison responded that a meeting is scheduled for November 30, 2007, to discuss the findings of a thorough investigation. Telephone numbers listed on the bills will be reviewed to determine location and usage.

Mr. Hawn urged the administration to not close schools unnecessarily. He also asked that retired teachers be contacted determine if any of them are interested in returning to the classroom.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that his attendance at the conference of the Illinois Association of School Boards had been a positive experience. He commented that he had attended a session featuring the Addison School District which has adopted the Smaller Learning Communities (SLC) model and noted that it is important to have support from the entire community to make the adoption a success.

Mr. Garza commented that the Waukegan SLC Committee had visited the Addison district which had implemented the program all at once. He concurred that it is important the all parties agree on the philosophy and implementation of the program.

Mr. Garza noted that he had visited Carman-Buckner, Cooke, Glenwood, and the Ninth Grade Center. During his visit at the Ninth Grade Center, 2 fights broke out. He urged that the security staff receive comprehensive training to manage confrontational situations. He congratulated the WHS girls basketball team on their success at the Deerfield tournament.

Mr. Anderson congratulated the girls basketball team and the students who performed in the production of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. He also noted his attendance at the conference of the Illinois Association of School Boards.

Mrs. Maguire noted her attendance at the IASB/IASA/IASBO Conference in Chicago November 16 - 18, 2007. She particularly commented on the implementation of the SLC model at Quincy Valley and Joliet High Schools and stated that the process is dynamic in that changes are made as new opportunities arise. She also commented on a discussion of making meetings matter.

HEARING ON THE TAX LEVY FOR TAX YEAR 2007

Mr. Gaudin thoroughly explained the process for establishing the District tax levy. He noted that while the District must attempt to maximize the amount of the request to which it is legally entitled in order to support the ongoing effort to provide quality education, the amount of tax is established through assessment which is the purview of the County Assessor and through the use of an equalization multiplier. He noted that by statute, the District must publish notice of the levy and permit opportunity for members of the public to comment.

At 8:08 p.m., Mrs. Maguire declared open the Hearing on the Tax Levy for Tax Year 2007.

Mr. Hawn asked about the impact of declining real estate values on the taxes collected to support District programs. Mr. Gaudin stated that the administration is committed to fiscal responsibility.

Mr. James Eck, 329 Longview, Waukegan, IL, stated that he is opposed to a property tax increase. He alleged that the District has not been prudent its use of funds in the areas of personnel appointments, District programs, and school assignment of students. Mr. Anderson noted that the District is mandated to provide equal opportunities for students regardless of ethnicity.

Ms. Alejandra Rodriguez, 916 Sunset Terr., Waukegan, IL, alleged that the District does not engage in fiscal responsibility, that school security is not properly maintained, and that public opinion is not heard.

Mr. Anderson explained that an increase in the tax rate could only be accomplished through referendum. Mr. Gaudin stated that the levy must be proposed and discussed prior to the time that actual assessed valuations are known. If the proposed levy is too low, the District does not have the opportunity to reevaluate its request. Mrs. Maguire noted that Lake County is one of the "collar counties" which is restricted in its ability to raise taxes beyond an amount determined by the State.

Mr. Kiiskila noted that the tax rate for tax year 2006 was 5.255% which was actually lower than the preceding year. Mrs. Maguire noted that real estate values are examined by the State. Mr. Gaudin reiterated that taxation is an extremely complex issue; the District request is only one factor in the amount paid by the individual taxpayer.

Ms. Kelly Below, 1026 Pacific, Waukegan, IL, requested the Resolution be placed on the District web site.

At 8:30 p.m., Mrs. Maguire declared closed the Hearing on the Tax Levy for Tax Year 2007.

ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION FOR TAX LEVY FOR TAX YEAR 2007

The recommendation of the Administration was: that the Board of Education adopt the proposed property tax levy for calendar year 2007, with levies for all funds, except Bond Issues, totaling \$63,568,958.

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Hawn that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Administration to adopt the Resolution for proposed tax levy for calendar year 2007 as stated.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:35 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Mayfield-Jedkins that the meeting be adjourned.

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

President

Secretary