

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:02 p.m. – 9:13 p.m. July 15, 2015

Members Present:

Gina Scaletta-Nelson, Presiding Officer

Kim Barker

Vipul Dedhia

David Negron

Michael Rak – arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Absent:

Mark Mirabile

Kristin Violante

ROLL CALL AND
VISITORS

Present were staff members Erika Sawosko, Candy Kramer, Catherine Chang, Matt Vandercar, John Glimco, Karyn Lisowski, John Reid, Julie Crist, Andrea Mars, Tanya Kim, Donna Polerecky, Peggy Pajkos and Joanne Histed; Dr. Shirley Conibear of Carnow Conibear; and resident Michelle Wueste (sp?).

ACTION NO. 1

Consent Agenda

Motion by Barker, seconded by Negron, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of June 17, 2015; closed session meeting minutes of June 17, 2015; payment of June payroll/July warrants; establish petty cash fund; declassify closed session minutes; Board resolution for serious safety hazard approval; and middle school painting approval. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 4 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson) absent - Mirabile, Rak, Violante.

REPORTS AND
DISCUSSION ITEMS

Elementary School Environmental Conditions Investigation

Superintendent Dave Palzet shared that as part of an ongoing investigation to ensure the health and wellbeing of our students and staff the Board commissioned two studies to determine if there are environmental issues at our Elementary School. Dr. Conibear from Carnow, Conibear, & Associates submitted a report to the administration on July 7. That report outlines the results of her extensive study and is the first of two studies commissioned by the Board. Dr. Conibear presented the results of her study and the results of the second study will take place at the August Board meeting. Dr. Conibear reviewed the Pleasantdale cancer timeline based on the staff member cases that were reported. A comparison between national averages, a study done with California teachers, and Pleasantdale cases was discussed. There is nothing that shows any cancer cluster issues and that the results are based on the normal numbers you would see based on age and latency.

Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) Update

Superintendent Dave Palzet shared that in 2010 the Illinois Legislature enacted the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA). The goal of PERA is to ensure a rigorous teacher/principal evaluation system in every school district in Illinois. In regards to our teacher evaluation system, the district has added rigor to the professional practice component for our evaluation system as required by PERA. The next phase of PERA requirements will be implemented in school year 2016-17 and will require student growth to be part of the evaluation process. Additionally, we will be reviewing our principal evaluation system and making improvements. The administration has participated in professional development and will be working with teachers to create a plan and train teachers in the new model.

Class Size Update

Superintendent Dave Palzet shared that one of the major tasks of the summer is student scheduling and creating class lists. It is our goal to create sections that are balanced by gender, academic ability, and leadership ability. We also strive to maintain sections that are within the Board guidelines. This is an extensive process and one that takes many factors and constraints into consideration. Principal Matt Vandercar shared that the teachers do a great job of dividing up the classes and the situations. The Board had questions regarding the breakout of the morning and afternoon preschool classes. Also, some part-time preschool students start the year and increase their days. Principal John Glimco reviewed the first draft of section numbers at each grade level. There are different factors based on above level classes that can make the scheduling very challenging. Superintendent Palzet stated that the Board will be provided another update as the schedule is worked out and all the other factors and constraints are addressed. Board Secretary Kim Barker emphasized that the community's concern was the disparity of class sizes and she questioned if the block schedule is worth the difficulty in the scheduling. Principal Glimco stated the teachers feel that the block schedule does give them more opportunities to work with students.

District 2015-16 Goals Timeline

Superintendent Dave Palzet stated that it is our district practice to draft annual school district goals. The purpose of these goals is to ensure that our District continues to evolve and provide the best instruction and experiences to our students. District goals are currently being drafted and will be presented for review at the August Board meeting; we will be seeking approval at the September Board meeting. It is the administration's intent to get feedback on these goals from the administrative team, the Board of Education, and the staff. These goals will act as our roadmap for the year and will help us to focus our work.

Review Parent/Student Handbook

Superintendent Dave Palzet stated that both Principals Vandercar and Glimco met with a parent group to review the parent/student handbook and make recommendations for changes. This year, in an effort to be more efficient and "green" we will provide families with an electronic version of the handbook as opposed to a paper copy. Teachers will review the handbook with students in class and students will acknowledge that they have received and understand the information within the handbook. In an effort to get our student registration process up and running the administration asked the Board to review and approve the handbook. We have received several revision suggestions from Board members and will make those changes to the final version. Principal Glimco stated that the Illinois Principals' Association created a model student handbook that was used as a guideline in creating Pleasantdale's handbook. In the future, it will be easier for the committee to make the changes and meet state guidelines.

ACTION NO. 2Parent/Stu Hndbk

Motion by Barker, seconded by Dedhia, that the Board of Education approve the the Parent/Student handbook as revised. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak,) absent – Mirabile, Violante.

Additional STAR Assessment Information

Superintendent Dave Palzet stated that the Board heard a presentation on the results of our STAR assessment at the June Board meeting and was provided a follow up to answer questions. Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Candy Kramer reviewed the percentages of individual goals set by STAR and provided a more detailed explanation as to how it was reflected in the cohort. The next steps will include continued training and data meetings with teachers. There will be discussions with students to understand what the tests are about. There will be some additional parent information meetings to further explain the testing reports. The district will also be watching trends in the data in order to adjust curricular design; monitor effectiveness of resources and provide appropriate student

services. Board Secretary Kim Barker requested the district provide student growth for the students, in the form of a dashboard for easier parent review.

Review Personnel (sec. 5) and Students (sec. 7) Board Policies

Superintendent Dave Palzet stated that in an effort to ensure that our District’s policies keep pace with the current reality of running a school system, we routinely review and revise them. The Board reviewed revisions to the Personnel and Student sections of the Board policies that reflect the model policy recommended by the state. These policies will be on the August Consent Agenda.

Board of Education Information Requests

There were no additional information requests from the Board this month. Board Vice President Gina Scaletta-Nelson suggested removing this item as a standing Board agenda item.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the August 2015 agenda include: Environmental Report; Class Size Update; Tentative Budget; Approve Personnel (sec. 5) and Students (sec. 7) Board policies; Review District 2015-16 Goals.

ACTION NO. 3

Closed Session

Motion by Scaletta-Nelson, seconded by Negron, that the Board of Education go into closed session at 8:55 p.m. to discuss matters related to collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives; and matters relating to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak,) absent – Mirabile, Violante.

The Board came out of closed session at 9:10 p.m.

ACTION NO. 4

Personnel Rpt

Motion by Scaletta-Nelson, seconded by Barker, that the Board of Education approve the July 2015 Personnel Report as revised consisting of: the resignation of Becky Schildknecht (middle school resource); salary increases of 3% for Asst. Supt. of Teaching and Learning, Business Manager, Director of Special Education, Elementary Principal, Middle Principal, Technology Software Specialist, Technology Support Specialist, Superintendent’s Secretary, and Bookkeeper. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak,) absent – Mirabile, Violante.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Barker, seconded by Rak, that the regular meeting adjourns at 9:13 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. ___ President _____ Secretary _____