

RIVER TRAILS SCHOOL DISTRICT 26
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2010

President Bradley called the second regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education for the month of April to order at 7:02 p.m. The meeting was held at Indian Grove School.

The Board and audience members stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Nasser, Fallucca, Carrillo, Bradley, O'Mara, Johnson

Absent: Reese

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Action

Vice President Fallucca requested the Minutes be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Vice President Fallucca moved, seconded by Mr. O'Mara, to approve the Consent Agenda for Tuesday, April 20, 2010 as presented, consisting of only the following two items:

B. ACTUAL PAYROLLS, BILLS AND CHECKS

The actual payrolls for March 15, 2010 in the total amount of \$716,181.96 and March 31, 2010 in the total amount of \$716,077.67; and the March/April bills and checks as follows: March 12, 2010 in the total amount of \$61,336.66, March 19, 2010 in the total amount of \$1,250.00, March 19, 2010 in the total amount of \$124,700.20, March 26, 2010 in the total amount of \$52,943.06, April 5, 2010 in the total amount of \$3,865.73, March 5, 2010 in the total amount of \$34,916.81 and April 9, 2010 in the total amount of \$126,003.43.

C. APPROVE 2009-10 SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR FINAL DAY

Having used no official District emergency days for the 2009-10 School Year, the 2009-10 School Calendar for the Board of Education, River Trails School District 26, was revised to reflect the final closing day of school to be Wednesday, June 9, 2010, deleting June 10, 11 and 12.

YES: Fallucca, O'Mara, Johnson, Nasser, Bradley, Carrillo

NO: None

ABSENT: Reese

Motion carried

A. MINUTES OF 04/06/10 INCLUDING CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Vice President Fallucca moved, seconded by Mr. O'Mara, to approve the Minutes for Tuesday, April 20, 2010 including Closed Session Minutes as presented.

Vice President Fallucca voiced his objection to a visitor comment recorded in the Minutes of 4/20/2010 indicating that the Board had "devalued its own study." He believes the Board has tried very hard to accommodate and be sensitive to the public's feelings regarding the GLC and also consider what is best for the children of District 26.

YES: Bradley, Carrillo, Johnson, Nasser, O'Mara, Fallucca
 NO: None
 ABSENT: Reese
 Motion carried

V. RTEA COMMENTS, RTEA REPRESENTATIVE

Information

Mrs. Ann Forman, RTEA President, addressed the Board regarding statements made at the April 6, 2010 Board Meeting regarding District 21's salary freeze recently negotiated into their four-year agreement. She highlighted additional benefits of the contract that were not disclosed at the April 6th Board Meeting and added that it is unfair to publicize only parts of an agreement as it presents and unbalanced picture of what has actually occurred.

VI. VISITOR COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items)

Dan Miller, 1330 Peachtree Lane, Mount Prospect, reminded the Board members that there are positives and negatives regarding moving forward with GLCs but the constant, as evidenced by petitions, public turnouts and the GLC Survey, is that the vast majority of the community does not want the change. He added that the Board members are elected to represent the community interest and future of the District and, in his opinion, any reason to override the opinions of the community should be compelling.

Frank Fiarito, 1703 Regency Court, Mount Prospect, informed the Board of plans for an advisory referendum regarding the GLC issue for the purpose of gauging what the community really feels though a democratic process. He provided some financial savings data for the Board and summarized a series of phone interviews he conducted with Euclid parents to assess their opinions on GLCs. Mr. Fiarito shared that he and other Indian Grove and Euclid parents met to exchange ideas with Mrs. Nasser earlier in the week and he offered this informal format for dialogue to the other Board members and Dr. Delli.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1 – Finance Committee; Mrs. Johnson, Chair

Information

Mrs. Johnson deferred to Ms. Schuster, Assistant Supt. for Business Services, who shared information on current revenue collection. The 2010 state revenues are better than last year due to a change in law which provided a larger prorated first half collection of taxes. Additional good news is that, to date, the District owes no negative refunds to the state. The "bad news" however is that the State of Illinois still owes District 26 two payments, monies from several grants and reimbursement payments for special education and transportation.

5 – NSSEO Update; Vice President Fallucca, Representative

Information

Vice President Fallucca, NSSEO Board Representative, noted that the NSSEO Articles of Agreement had not been reviewed/revised for 13 years. Dr. Delli added that member Districts' superintendents, respective Board attorneys and member Board representatives had input into the revisions to the NSSEO Articles of Agreement.

a. Approve NSSEO Articles of Agreement **Information/Action**

Vice President Fallucca moved, seconded by Mrs. Nasser, to approve the NSSEO Article of Agreement as presented.

YES: Carrillo, Fallucca, O’Mara, Bradley, Nasser, Johnson
 NO: None
 ABSENT: Reese
 Motion carried

b. NSSEO 2010-2011 Budget **Information/Discussion**

Vice President Fallucca presented the NSSEO 2010-2011 Budget to the District 26 Board of Education. He noted that the NSSEO bargaining unit members and administrators held their current salaries in order to save jobs and create no increase to the Budget for FY11.

This item will be brought on the May 4, 2010 Board Agenda for approval.

B. PRESIDENT’S REPORT; President Bradley

1 – Upcoming Events **Information**

President Bradley informed the Board members of the following upcoming event:

April 26-30, 2010 - MAP Testing at Indian Grove and Euclid (all week)

Mrs. Reese entered the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

2 – NSBA Annual Conference **Information**

Vice President Fallucca, Mr. Carrillo, Mrs. Nasser, Mr. O’Mara and Mrs. Reese attended the 70th Annual National School Board Association’s Annual Conference held in Chicago April 10th through 12th. These Board members expressed their appreciation for the unique opportunity to network with colleagues and participate in specials sessions and workshops to develop leadership skills. They took advantage of the experience to learn new approaches to education and innovative methods to improve student performance; acquire ideas on dealing with conflict and improving communications; and discover proven solutions to funding challenges.

3 – Board Communications **Information**

Mrs. Reese shared a positive review on the Euclid Second Grade Musical.

Mr. O’Mara commented on the success of the River Trails Middle School’s production of Grease and the positive impact of the fine arts on education.

C. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT; Dr. Delli**1 – ISBE 2010 School District Financial Profile****Information**

Dr. Delli congratulated Mrs. Schuster and her staff for once again achieving for District 26 the status of Financial Recognition. He noted that the District received the score of 3.65 (out of 4.0) which indicates the highest category of financial strength. Given the economic difficulties facing school districts, this is a significant accomplishment and he commended the Business Office staff and the Board for their watchful eye on revenues and careful spending

Dr. Delli warned the Board of current legislative conversations aimed at balancing the State budget by withholding funding to school districts with fund balances.

2 – Student Registration Review**Information/Action**

On April 7 and 8, 2010 District 26 held its first evening student registration. Approximately 1000 students (out of 1300) were registered over the two days. The administration is very pleased with the initial turnout and a last minute registration night is scheduled for Thursday, April 22, 2010 from 3:00-6:30 p.m. to facilitate the registration of the remaining students.

Board members expressed an interest in a report on the use of credit cards for payment and on the impact of the new rider fee on the transportation. Mrs. Schuster will provide information at the May 4, 2010 Board Meeting.

3. – GLC Staff Survey Update**Information**

Dr. Delli met with Mrs. Forman and Dr. Carrillo on April 13 and April 20th to develop a staff GLC Survey. He believes an effective survey has been assembled and, following a final draft review, the format will be selected and the survey delivered to staff.

Dr. Carrillo also noted that he believed the survey was one to which the staff could feel safe responding and would provide the Board with more condensed and usable data.

VIII. FOIA REQUESTS

A FOIA request from Monica Fazekas was received on April 13, 2010 for the Board Member Election Application for President Bradley. The document was provided to the requestor on April 13th.

IX. FUTURE TOPICS

Mrs. Reese requested that the Board of Education Meeting Calendar and Agenda Items document be expanded to include anticipated annual “Board Reports.”

Board members will discuss the Board of Education Meeting Calendar and Agenda Items at the Board Reorganization Meeting on May 4, 2010.

X. VISITOR COMMENTS (Non-Action Items)

Frank Fiarito, 1703 Regency Court, Mount Prospect, noted that he believes the GLC issue has brought the residents of District 26 together in the goal of a more cohesive community through the schools.

Lori Hurley, 1306 Burning Bush Lane, Mount Prospect, suggested the early entrance to kindergarten policy be reevaluated to be more flexible for acceleration based on the individual performance of a child.

Jessica Riley, 1907 E. Euclid, Mount Prospect, shared positive comments on the evening student registration process.

Christian Wilson, 1755 Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, believes the Board should be more open and forthcoming on issues. He also commented that he found the student registration process confusing.

With the general consent of the Board, President Bradley called for a short recess at 8:30 p.m. President Bradley announced that the Board would enter into Closed Session after the recess. It was noted that the Board did not anticipate taking action following the Closed Session.

XI CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Nasser moved, seconded by Mrs. Reese, to enter into Closed Session at 8:41 p.m. for the purpose of discussing:

- Personnel; and
- Negotiations.

YES: Reese, O'Mara, Nasser, Carrillo, Johnson, Bradley, Fallucca

NO: None

Motion carried

Hearing no objections, Closed Session was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The Board resumed Open Session at 9:01 a.m.

Mrs. Johnson voiced her concern regarding Mrs. Nasser's individual meeting with district residents to review thoughts on GLCs. Mrs. Nasser responded that she received an e-mail inviting her to meet with a resident group regarding the GLCs and she agreed. The resident group consisted of Dan Miller, Lori Hurley, Frank Fiarito, Julie Nemcek, Sam Duray and Peggy Tsevis. Mrs. Nasser stated that she did not communicate the fact that she was meeting with this group to any other Board member or any District 26 Administrator.

Dr. Carrillo announced that he also received an invitation to meet with this group but declined as he believed the Board needed to discuss the issue further prior to any exchange with the public. He expressed his opinion that if each Board member met individually with groups, it could be problematic.

Mr. O'Mara and Mrs. Reese had no objections to an individual Board member meeting with a group of constituents.

Mrs. Johnson wanted to know if any Board member can speak with any group to exchange ideas or provide information. She noted her concern that the Board has not yet shared information with each other and now one Board member has spoken and shared her thoughts with a public group.

Vice President Fallucca believes that elected officials have an obligation to be available to their constituents. If a question is addressed to “the Board,” the answer should come from the Board President but, if an individual Board member is asked a question, he can speak with his own voice. Once a Board decision has been made the Board supports the decision and speaks with one voice.

Additionally, there was a concern expressed as to the possible misuse of student directory information during the unofficial phone survey of Euclid parents conducted by Mr. Fiarito.

Dr. Delli suggested that the Board move forward with their discussions and a decision on GLCs sooner rather than later in light of a possible community initiated advisory referendum.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned by common consent at 9:23 p.m.

APPROVED:

DATE: _____

Jeffrey W. Bradley, Board President

Donna M. Johnson, Board Secretary