

RIVER TRAILS SCHOOL DISTRICT 26
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2012

President Reese called the first regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education for the month of March to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the ESC.

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

Present: Bradley, Nasser, Johnson, Linder, Fiarito, O'Mara, Reese

Absent: None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Linder requested the Staffing Plan be pulled from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

Mr. O'Mara moved, seconded by Mr. Fiarito, to approve the Consent Agenda for Tuesday, March 6, 2012 consisting of only the following items:

A. Minutes of 02/21/12 Including Closed Session Minutes

The Minutes of 02/21/12 including Closed Session Minutes were approved as presented.

B. Personnel Report

The Personnel Report consisted of one letter of resignation and one new hire.

YES: Reese, O'Mara, Nasser, Linder, Johnson, Bradley, Fiarito

NO: None
 Motion carried

Mr. O'Mara moved, seconded by Mr. Fiarito, to approve the 2012-13 Staffing Plan as presented.

C. 2012-13 Staffing Plan

The 2012-13 staffing totals reflecting a reduction of three (3) full-time equivalent certified teaching positions and one (1) position at the ESC were approved as presented.

YES: Nasser, Fiarito, Johnson, Bradley, Reese, O'Mara

NO: Linder
 Motion carried

V. RTEA COMMENTS, RTEA REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. Forman, RTEA President, shared with the Board comments on the staff's professionalism and diligence in preparing and encouraging students during ISAT Testing and throughout the school year.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Educational Services

1. Middle School Language Arts Textbook Adoption Presentation; Dr. Silverman, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Silverman shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Board on a new English/Language Arts program being proposed for adoption in grades 6th-8th at River Trails Middle School with implementation during the 2012-2013 school year. After briefly reviewing the logic behind the process and the methodology followed, Dr. Silverman acknowledged the large group of RTMS Language Arts staff who participated in the process:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| • Chris Golko | Kathy Vanstrom | Sherry Lira |
| • Thomas Harmon | Patty Vega | Kathy Mouzakiotis |
| • Beth Lasoski | Laura Wolinski | Sara Nagy |
| • Jean Minor | Georgette Zitis | Noel Rajski |
| • Jennifer Ritchie | Meg Fiordirosa | Debra Schmidt |
| • Lea Steigerwald | Scott Kaminsky | |

He explained that the comprehensive adoption process began this year to find best practice programming and curricular options in the area of literacy and writing. An examination of the current program found:

- The current program was aligned to old Illinois Learning Standards;
- A greater balance of fiction/nonfiction and informational text is required by the Common Core Standards;
- Significant advances in technology have created more options to differentiate and engage students; and
- There was a need to coordinate with updated elementary and high school curriculums.

Three major programs were analyzed: McDougal Littell (Houghton Mifflin), Glencoe (McGraw Hill), and Prentice Hall (Pearson). The staff developed an ELA Textbook Analysis Rubric, reviewed pilot materials, participated in publishers' presentations and question/answer meetings, and held discussions on the qualitative and quantitative data analysis results. The team was especially focused on reading comprehension (understanding), rigor, and a component to develop the writing experience. The Prentice Hall program received a superior evaluation and was selected to provide the new program for River Trails School District 26. This product provides a blended program that integrates technology to increase engagement for all students while focusing on speaking, reading, writing, listening, and understanding.

Prentice Hall has a suite of on-line tools that provides a complete instructional environment for students and teachers. Additionally, leveled resources are personalized to match student skills and ancillary resources are available to supplement instruction.

Dr. Silverman informed the Board that the total value of the program is \$86,067, the cost to the District will be \$47,327, and no-charge items provided by Pearson amount to \$38,740. For this amount, the District will receive:

- Textbooks
- Online access
- Grammar handbook
- Teacher program resources
- Teacher Technology
- Integrated professional development.

Plans are to bring this purchase for approval on the March 20, 2012 Board Meeting Consent Agenda, receive teacher materials in April 2012, conduct an introductory professional development workshop on May 25, 2012, facilitate summer 2012 articulation meetings with staff and schedule on-going professional development during the 2012-13 school year.

Dr. Silverman responded to Board members' questions.

B. Business Services

1. Student Seating Equipment; Ms. Schuster, Asst. Supt. for Business Services

Ms. Schuster reviewed the trial for the Hokki Stool and the positive impact this product has been for some students at Euclid School. She explained that FGM architects provided sample furniture, the Hokki Stool, which is a lightweight, ergonomic stool with a convex base and allows high activity kids to receive kinesthetic input (rocking and moving) without being disruptive to students or teachers. Plans are to purchase 12 of these stools for targeted students for the 2012-13 school year.

Mr. Bradley questioned the moving-parts wear factor of this piece of furniture. Ms. Schuster noted that follow-up evaluations are planned.

2. Indian Grove Office Renovation Furniture; Ms. Schuster, Asst. Supt. for Business Services; Mr. Kosmicki, Dir. of Buildings and Grounds

Ms. Schuster reviewed the quotes from three companies for the office furniture required as a result of the 2012 renovation/expansion of the Indian Grove Office, the Indian Grove/Euclid Reception Area, and the Indian Grove Conference Room. Below are the quotes:

Company	Product line	Furniture IG Office, IG Conference Room, IG Reception, Euclid Reception*
Office Concepts	Currency	\$19,801.12
Office Concepts	Pay Back	\$ 20,513.33
Lowery McDonnell Company	Lacasse/United	\$17,226.06

*Includes shipping and installation.

In light of the District's previous experience with the quality and craftsmanship delivered by Office Concept, the administration recommends the purchase of the "Currency" line in the total amount of \$19,801.12. Approval for these items will be on the March 20, 2012 Board Consent Agenda.

3. E-2 Services Renewal; Ms. Schuster, Asst. Supt. for Business Services; Mrs. Hoffman, Dir. of Technology

E-2 Services has provided excellent managed network services for the last three school years, has proven to be very responsive to issues, and has provided guidance on purchases. E-2 Services is offering a two year contract extension for services at no rate increase per device. However, three new servers will be added to the contract. This will result in a total annual cost of \$94,686 (\$12,066 increase).

This item will be brought to the March 20, 2012 Board of Education Meeting for approval on the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Schuster shared with the Board her plans to initiate several Requests for Proposals (RFP). She noted that the reason for the RFPs is to evaluate current District 26 vendors as outlined in the Finance Vision of the 2010-2013 Strategic Plan. Specific areas targeted for the proposals are: auditor, copiers, electronic document storage, fitness equipment (bid process), upgrading the wireless plan, teacher cabinets, and iPads for teachers.

Mrs. Johnson noted that the Finance Committee will have future meetings to review the auditor's RFPs in March or early April, as well as Meetings to examine other topics on the RFP list.

Ms. Schuster recently attended the Wheeling Township Treasurer's Committee Quarterly Meeting and will provide the brochure from Harris Bank on Investments to all Board members.

Ms. Schuster informed the Board that work on the lighting upgrade at the ESC and the schools has begun and should be completed before summer break.

Mr. Fiarito, NSSEO Board Representative, commented that NSSEO is beginning to review their budget and discussions will start later in March. The LICA Budget will be included as part of the FY13 NSSEO Budget.

President Reese informed the Board members of the following upcoming District events:

Mrs. Linder moved, seconded by Vice President Nasser, to approve and sign the Board Agreements as revised at the January 24, 2012 Board Self Evaluation Session.

YES: Johnson, Linder, Bradley, Reese, Fiarito, O'Mara, Nasser
 NO: None
 Motion carried

3 – Board Communications

Mr. Fiarito and Vice President Nasser both commented on the success of the Indian Grove and Euclid Schools' Fun Fairs.

President Reese shared the following comments:

- On the Open Meetings Act Workshop - She highlighted an interesting item regarding the District 26 Board of Education 3-person Committee Structure. With this committee structure, conversations between two Committee members constitutes a quorum and therefore must be conducted in Open Session only.
- On Board member recruitment – President Reese plans to begin discussions with Barbara Toney, District 26's new IASB Field Service Representative, regarding a Board Member Recruitment Process.
- On the Nekritz/Garret Town Hall Meeting – President Reese informed the Board that at the Meeting audience questions centered around utility bill increases, real estate tax increase caps, and shifting state funded pension costs. She expressed her appreciation of Rep. Nekritz's comments and explanations. She added the other participants offered insights into state unfunded mandates.
- On the RTEA Political Action Committee (PAC) – President Reese noted that the RTEA PAC sent an invitation to the Board to meet, informally, regarding issues of mutual concern.

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Delli

1. Kindergarten On-Line Registration Update

Dr. Delli updated the Board on the success of the 2012-13 Kindergarten Registration night at both Euclid and Indian Grove Schools on February 23, 2012. Over 100 students from both schools were registered using the new on-line InfoSnap software and both parents and staff had positive remarks regarding the process.

Dr. Delli also reviewed upcoming plans for the returning student registration process.

IX. FUTURE TOPICS

A. Pending Item(s)

President Reese noted that the topic of teaching Foreign Language in Grades 1-5 is still pending.

X. VISITOR COMMENTS (Non-Action Items)

Chris Golko, 8245 Fernandez, Arlington Heights, requested clarification of an email address to use for Board communications. President Reese's offered to give the RTEA her personal e-mail.

With the general consent of the Board, President Reese called for a short recess at 8:16 p.m. It was announced that the Board would enter into Closed Session after the recess for the purpose of discussing Personnel and Students. It was also noted that the Board anticipated taking no action following the Closed Session.

XI. CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Linder moved, seconded Vice President Nasser, to enter into Closed Session at 8:23 p.m. for the purpose of discussing:

- Personnel and
- Students.

YES: Fiarito, O'Mara, Johnson, Nasser, Bradley, Linder, Reese

NO: None
Motion carried

Mr. O'Mara moved, seconded Vice President Nasser, to exit the Closed Session at 8:59 p.m.

YES: Linder, Fiarito, O'Mara, Bradley, Reese, Nasser, Johnson

NO: None
Motion carried

XII. BOARD MEETING RECAP

Mr. Bradley voiced his concern regarding a sitting Board member up for re-election meeting with the RTEA PAC. Dr. Delli will contact the Board attorney regarding this topic and report back.

Mrs. Linder noted for the record that her "no" vote on the February 21, 2012 Personnel Report did not reflect an objection to the person being hired, but to the salary.

In response to Mr. Fiarito's question, Dr. Delli noted the PTC/Music Boosters/RTEF officers responded well during his meeting with them on February 27, 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to review and revise, where necessary, the language of the organizations' by-laws. Efforts are underway to align by-law language with Board Policy language.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned by common consent at 9:05 p.m.

APPROVED:

DATE: _____

Rebecca A. Reese, Board President

Donna M. Johnson, Board Secretary