

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:00 p.m. – 11:05 p.m. January 21, 2015

Members Present:

- Gina Scaletta-Nelson, Presiding Officer
- Kim Barker
- Lisa Houk
- David Negron
- Beth Tegtmeier
- Kristin Violante

Absent:

- Mark Mirabile

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf were staff members Erika Sawosko, Candy Kramer, Catherine Chang, Debbie Lubeck, Matt Vandercar, John Glimco, Tanya Kim, and Joanne Histed; Gary Zabilka, School Exec Connect; and resident Mike Rak.

ADD'L ITEMS TO AGENDA

Board Secretary Kim Barker requested that 8th grade placement on the EXPLORE and curriculum deliverables be added to the agenda.

ACTION NO. 44 Consent Agenda

Motion by Houk, seconded by Violante, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of December 17, 2014; closed session meeting minutes of December 17, 2014; payment of December Payroll/January Warrants; declassify closed session minutes; and grade 1 job share proposals for 2015-16. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Houk, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante) absent – Mirabile.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Search Update

Gary Zabilka of School Exec Connect presented to the Board the Superintendent’s profile. This profile was developed from the results obtained through the focus groups and the online survey. There were 20 people involved in the focus groups and 124 people answered the online survey. He shared how the profile will be used to screen and interview candidates; and develop interview questions. He shared the district strengths and challenges derived from the focus groups, and the priorities for a new superintendent, characteristics and attributes. The priorities for the new Superintendent focused on aligning curriculum, building trust, technology, and decision making. The desired attributes for the new Superintendent include a person who: will educate and lead the Board of Education to bring unity and professionalism to the oversight of the District, while keeping children at the heart of the decision-making; is visible throughout the District and community; enjoys interacting with staff; is approachable and genuine in relationships with staff, students and community members; communicates a clear, inspiring vision for the District that is widely shared and implemented through prioritized steps; has a deep understanding of curriculum, instruction and assessment that is aligned with the District’s overall goal to better align with Common Core; is an effective communicator with the ability to interact with all stakeholders; is a team builder who can work effectively with Board, staff, and community; values collaboration and transparency with the staff and community; is open to new ideas and is willing to listen and use the collective expertise of all to reach the best solutions for the District; and understands the value of technology and how it can be used to engage students

and improve learning. The candidates that will be brought to the Board will be matched with the profile so that they meet the needs of the district. School Exec Connect will be meeting with the Board on January 28th in closed session to present on paper the first round of candidates for the Board to review. School Exec Connect included a technology component to the profile.

ACTION NO. 45

Supt. Profile

Motion by Violante, seconded by Barker, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent Profile as revised to include technology component. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Houk, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante) absent – Mirabile.

Class Size Board Policy

Board Secretary Kim Barker shared that she drafted a policy for Board review regarding class size. Principal Matt Vandercar shared the current practice at the elementary school about class size and asked how the policy would address increases in class size during the school year. Principal John Glimco stated that above level classes can, at times, have larger class sizes. He would not want to limit students to an above level class due to class size limits. Move in and move outs are also a consideration. The proposed policy would affect staffing decisions if the levels were dictated by policy. The difference between core classes versus specials was identified as a factor to consider. Board member Negron and Board Secretary Barker volunteered to work on the wording of the policy. The policy will be a discussion item in March along with an action item.

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Asst. Superintendent Candy Kramer provided the Board with an overview of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The conceptual shifts and framework of NGSS were presented to the Board. The steps to implementation were reviewed regarding what has occurred with professional development. Asst. Supt. Kramer will be working with the science teachers during the year to work on units of instruction, secure funding, and plan professional development. Board Secretary Kim Barker asked for a snapshot of when the events would be taking place that would mirror the ELA and math professional development plan.

Preliminary Review of District Calendar

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf reviewed with the Board the preliminary calendar that was recommended by the Calendar committee. The 2015-16 calendar will be on the consent agenda in February.

District Teaching and Learning Goal

Board Secretary Kim Barker had requested that there be a revision of the teaching and learning goal that includes the STAR assessment. She stated that the goal is currently not measurable because it is a baseline year for STAR. In future years, students will have growth targets. Director of Special Education, Debbie Lubeck, stated that with intervention students, they did set growth goals at 40% as a starting point. The district will be able to make projections after one year, but that is not possible this year. Board Secretary Barker and Board member Negron volunteered to update the goal to include a measurement component.

Bond Abatement

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf reviewed the recommendation of the Finance Advisory Team to abate bonds ahead of schedule thereby eliminating the need to levy for bond payments. This action will reduce the tax burden of a house assessed at \$300,000 by \$263.78 and a house assessed at \$500,000 by \$453.92.

ACTION NO. 46
Bond Abatement

Motion by Negron, seconded by Tegtmeier, that the Board of Education approve the resolution transferring funds from the Educational Fund and O & M Fund to the Bond and Interest Fund for the payment of principal and the interest of outstanding bonds and abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2014 to pay debt service on said bonds. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Houk, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante) absent – Mirabile.

Grade 8 EXPLORE Placements

Board Secretary Kim Barker shared with the Board her concern that reading practice examples given to the students were the actual test questions from the EXPLORE test. Her concern was that the students going to LT would be placed too high. Principal John Glimco addressed that he has been in communication with LT about the process for placement. The EXPLORE is only a guideline. Additional feedback from LT was shared with the Board further explaining the placement process. Teachers have input on where the students are placed. No students are placed without teacher input and review. Board Vice President Scaletta-Nelson asked why students prepare for the EXPLORE. It was shared that the students benefit from exposure to a high stakes test. This also helps to prepare them for the ACT. It was stated that LT has also requested our STAR Assessment information so they have another data point. The EXPLORE will most likely not be given by LT in the future, but it is still a good teaching tool for teachers to use to expose the students to ACT type questions. Board Secretary Kim Barker asked that the administration review the current student placements to make sure students are not placed inappropriately.

Update of Curriculum Deliverables

Board Vice President Gina Scaletta-Nelson stated that last month she asked what deliverables have been developed through the work with the consultants. Asst. Supt. Candy Kramer provided the Board with binders that included these items. Board member Violante asked about some teachers using Engage New York for math and others using the ISBE standards. Asst. Supt. Kramer stated that grades 1 – 3 are using Engage New York. She has reviewed the standards that should occur in grade 3 and they are consistent with Common Core. The curriculum maps being created will aid a new teacher when they start at the district.

Board of Education Information Requests

Board members had information requests consisting of: Board member Violante requested information pertaining to full day implementation of kindergarten be given to the Board prior to the March meeting in a Friday update.

ACTION NO. 47
Info. Requests

Motion by Violante, seconded by Scaletta-Nelson, that the Board of Education approve the information requests as stated. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Houk, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante) absent – Mirabile.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the February 2015 agenda include:
Superintendent Interviews; 2015-16 District Calendar; and Professional Development Plan and Curriculum Update (written).

ACTION NO. 48
Closed Session

Motion by Violante, seconded by Barker, that the Board of Education go into closed session at 9:30 p.m. to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, and dismissal of personnel. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Houk, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante) absent – Mirabile.

The Board came out of closed session at 11:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT Motion by Scaletta-Nelson, seconded by Barker, that the regular meeting adjourns at 11:05 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. ___ President _____ Secretary _____