

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:00 p.m. – 9:18 p.m. December 17, 2014

Members Present:

- Mark Mirabile, Presiding Officer
- Kim Barker
- Gina Scaletta-Nelson
- Beth Tegtmeier
- Kristin Violante

Absent:

- Lisa Houk
- David Negron

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf were staff members Erika Sawosko, Candy Kramer, Catherine Chang, Matt Vandercar, and John Glimco; and radon specialist David Kredowski.

MOTION NO. 36 Tax Levy Hearing

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by Violante, that the Board of Education declares the tax levy hearing open at 7:01 p.m. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante) absent – Houk, Negron.

In her presentation to the Board, Business Manager Catherine Chang stated that based on the 2014 CPI figures, residents can expect an average 1.5% increase in property taxes assessed for District 107 school operations. There were no public comments.

Motion by Scaletta-Nelson, seconded by Mirabile, that the Board of Education declares the tax levy hearing closed at 7:08 p.m. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante) absent – Houk, Negron.

ACTION NO. 37 Tax Levy Adoption

Motion by Violante, seconded by Mirabile, that the Board of Education adopts the 2014 tax levy as presented in the public hearing and authorizes the President and Secretary of the Board to sign all appropriate documents. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante) absent – Houk, Negron.

ACTION NO. 38 Tax Levy Resolution

Motion by Violante, seconded by Mirabile, that the Board of Education adopts a Resolution approving to proportionately reduce each fund where the levy exceeds the tax cap limitation. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante) absent – Houk, Negron.

ADD'L ITEMS TO AGENDA

Board Secretary Kim Barker requested adding a discussion on a Board policy regarding class size at the January meeting along with an NGSS update.

ACTION NO. 39 Consent Agenda

Motion by Tegtmeier, seconded by Barker, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of November 19, 2014; closed session meeting minutes of November 19, 2014; payment of November Payroll/December Warrants; Community Relations (sec. 8) Board Policies; December 2014 Personnel Report including the hiring of Jolene Lorimer as elementary reading specialist; and Lydia Wayne as full time middle school instructional aide. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 4 ayes (Barker, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier) abstain – Violante, absent – Houk, Negron.

REPORTS AND
DISCUSSION ITEMSRadon Mitigation System

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf stated, pending Board approval, the district is positioned to install a sub slab mitigation system over winter break. David Kedrowski, radon consultant, explained to the Board the function of the sub slab system. The system will include six separate exhaust pipes that will vent sub slab air out the roof. He doesn't anticipate that there will be elevated radon levels in the future. There will be testing done during the installation and building-wide testing after the fans are installed. Future yearly testing will be conducted in subsequent school years.

ACTION NO. 40

Radon Mitigation

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by Tegtmeier, that the Board of Education approve the radon mitigation system proposal from Elliott & Associates in the amount of \$50,965. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante) absent – Houk, Negron.

Review Fees

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf reviewed the district's fee structure. It is being recommended that fees for 2015-16 remain unchanged.

Discussion of Service Provider Contracts

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf provided a preliminary review of the current district contracts. GCA has provided excellent cleaning service to the district for over 16 years. It was recommended that the district continue to receive cleaning services from GCA. It was also recommended that the contract with Food Service Professionals be extended for the 2015-16 school year. It was also recommended that the District continue with Miller, Cooper, et al. for auditing services for the 2015-16 school year. The current transportation contract can be extended on an annual basis with the increase limited to the consumer price index. The Superintendent recommended that the contract be extended for the next school year. Board Vice President Scaletta-Nelson mentioned the option of the district operating its own busing fleet.

Superintendent Search Update

Business Manager Catherine Chang provided the Board with an update on the recent administration, staff and community focus groups that occurred on December 15. Board member Violante was disappointed that only one community member attended the meeting. Board President Mirabile stated that he was not shocked since he encountered the same lack of participation when LTHS was hiring a new Superintendent. A reminder will be sent to parents to fill out the survey online. School Exec Connect will be in attendance at the January 21 meeting to share with the Board the Superintendent's profile created from information gathered at the focus groups and surveys.

District Goals Mid-year Review

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf provided the Board an update on the District 2014-15 goals. The Board received information in October 2014 regarding the STAR assessment. In June 2015, the Board will receive a report on expected student growth using three data points. January will be the next administration of STAR. Superintendent Fredisdorf informed the Board of serious issues that are raising concerns among school districts regarding the PARCC test. First, representatives from colleges have stated that they will not use PARCC for admissions for at least 5 years, if at all. Second, high schools across the state are concerned about the time requirements of PARCC as their priorities are AP and ACT tests. Third, the number of states who may be administering the PARCC has dwindled to eleven. After the test has been administered, representatives of participating states will convene to set benchmarks after the fact. This process will be complicated because there will be a wide variation of paper and computer based testing. Increasingly, states are declaring they are not

adopting Common Core standards including Wisconsin and Indiana. In Illinois, there are many unknowns given a newly elected Republican Governor. Fourth, the high school is currently investigating the ACT Aspire to replace the EXPLORE test used for grade 9 placement. If that occurs, the PARCC results will have limited utility for middle school students. Superintendent Fredisdorf asked for clarification on the conditions of satisfaction regarding researching the costs/academic benefits of free full-day kindergarten. Those include: student enrollment projections, facility needs, programming, books, staffing, etc. Board Secretary Barker to share with Superintendent Fredisdorf the detailed research that Orland School District conducted so the administration could utilize it as a template. Board President Mirabile stated that there has to be a half day program because some 5 year olds won't be ready to attend all day. The Board will discuss free full-day kindergarten at the March Board meeting. Board member Violante asked for Asst. Supt. Kramer to compare a full day kindergarten curriculum with a half-day. The district is scheduling interviews with potential vendors to redesign the website. Curriculum documentation is progressing including the adjustments to scope and sequence. The documents will be complete by the end of the year. The Board will receive an updated technology plan by the end of the year. Board President Mirabile would like to see items from Asst. Supt. Kramer relating the curriculum and technology. The purpose of the information is to justify how technology supports the curriculum. Superintendent Fredisdorf asked for clarification on a previous Board request to have parents and/or Board members on the technology committee. It was clarified that Board members Violante and Scaletta-Nelson would meet with administrators about technology concerns. The technology committee would continue to work as it is currently composed of teachers and administrators. Negotiations will begin after winter break as has been past practice. Board member Violante stated that there are conflicting views on whether or not the Board works together effectively. In May, the Board will schedule a special board meeting for development purposes. The District's financial position continues to meet criteria articulated in Board policy. Board Secretary Barker questioned whether the STAR assessment provides student growth projections to measure the teaching and learning goal. Asst. Supt. Kramer explained that STAR does provide growth projections. Board President Mirabile would like to see a report on the progress students have made from one year to the next. Asst. Supt. Kramer will provide information in a Friday weekly update regarding STAR and how to use it to measure student growth. The Board may schedule a future update on the STAR assessment.

Finance Advisory Team Meeting and Negotiation Team Schedule

Board President Mark Mirabile stated that the finance advisory team will meet on January 15 at 6:30 p.m. Teachers Association of Pleasantdale (TAP) has sent a notice of demand to bargain. The negotiations team is still working on dates to meet. There is a tentative date of February 11.

Consultant Contracts

Superintendent Fredisdorf stated he used the template the Board approved and created uniform contracts for the consultants so the district pays the same for the same service for the consultants. He recommended the Board approve the contracts because it would provide consistency and save money as well. Board member Violante was concerned that this was sent to the 3 consultants without bringing to the Board; that the amounts included in the contracts do not align with the previous Board approved Professional Development plan; and that 1 individual was increased and 2 were decreased. She suggested going back to what was previously approved via email and that the fees were different from previously paid fees to the three consultants. Board President Mirabile echoed the fact that the contract that was developed a month ago, was based on the district's attorney recommending that there are contracts in place with individuals. He further stated that the BOE approved the contract template last month and when it was said to utilize the template he assumed the terminology would be the same for everyone. He was shocked to see these changes in daily rates as well. Superintendent Fredisdorf stated that the ELA consultants accepted the lower amount and this would provide the same amount being paid to all consultants and save the district money.

Board Secretary Barker stated that when she talked to math consultant Claran Einfeldt in September, she was unhappy with the rate being paid as compared to the ELA consultants and she further stated that when Ms. Einfeldt was first presented to District 107 the intent was she would replace Ms. Tribby, with a rate of \$1000 per day (the DuPage County ROE rate); Superintendent Fredisdorf stated in a March 28th weekly update that Ms. Einfeldt's daily rate was \$1850 per day; her invoices show her daily rate of \$2000 minus her \$250 discount; and now in this contract the district just offered her \$2000 per day. She was also concerned that this did not make the district look professional as there were verbal agreements made with these consultants. The Board directed the superintendent to have the consultants presented with contracts that included the amounts that were previously approved by the Board and copy the Board on the email communication.

ACTION NO. 41
Consultant Contr.

No motion due to lack of motion.

Board of Education Information Requests

Board members had information requests consisting of: requests from Board Secretary Barker for an implementation plan for NGSS (including a training/professional development plan for both schools, rewriting our standards, books/resources needed, and a timeline) and a background regarding NGSS. Asst. Supt. Kramer will prepare this information as a written update for the Board for discussion in January. Board Vice President Scaletta-Nelson asked about receiving deliverables from the consultants. Asst. Supt. Kramer stated she is working with the teachers based off of what she is receiving from the consultants. Asst. Supt. Kramer will provide the Board information about curriculum documentation in the format of the written monthly updates. The Board can then decide if further detail is desired. The written curriculum will be on the website in the future. Board Vice President Scaletta-Nelson also asked for an update on the Journeys technology component which she believed is not working. Asst. Supt. Kramer stated that a consultant recently provided training to the teachers on the technology components of the program. It was also asked to investigate a refund because the tech portion was not available until October 1. Board Secretary Barker asked if there are enough computers available for all the students in the classrooms.

ACTION NO. 42
Info. Requests

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by Barker, that the Board of Education approve the information requests as stated. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante) absent – Houk, Negron.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the January 2015 agenda include: NGSS Update; Board Policy regarding Class Size; Revised Teaching and Learning Goal; Mid-year Review of Non-tenured Teachers and Administrators; Abatement of Bonds; Job Share Proposals; Preliminary Review of District Calendar; Declassify Selected Closed Session Minutes; Superintendent Search Update; and Professional Development Plan and Curriculum Update (written).

OPEN FORUM

Board member Violante stated that as a parent she wanted to thank Principal John Glimco and the administration for hiring the additional aide in grade 5.

ACTION NO. 43
Closed Session

Motion by Violante, seconded by Scaletta-Nelson, that the Board of Education go into closed session at 9:00 p.m. to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, and dismissal of personnel. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante) absent – Houk, Negron.

The Board came out of closed session at 9:18 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT Motion by Mirabile, seconded by Barker, that the regular meeting adjourns at 9:18 p.m.
Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. ___ President _____ Secretary _____