

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:00 p.m. – 9:16 p.m. August 12, 2015

Members Present:

Mark Mirabile, Presiding Officer
 Kim Barker
 Vipul Dedhia
 David Negron
 Gina Scaletta-Nelson
 Michael Rak – arrived at 7:03 p.m.
 Kristin Violante

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present were staff members Erika Sawosko, Candy Kramer, Catherine Chang, Matt Vandercar, John Glimco, Karyn Lisowski, Julie Crist, Andrea Mars, and John McAtee; John Dobby, of Carnow, Conibear & Assoc.; and Kevin Beese, Doings Reporter.

ACTION NO. 5

Consent Agenda

Motion by Scaletta-Nelson, seconded by Violante, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of July 13, 2015; closed session meeting minutes of July 15, 2015; special meeting minutes of July 23, 2015; closed session meeting minutes of July 23, 2015; payment of July payroll/August warrants; Personnel (sec. 5) and Students (sec. 7) Board policies. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 7 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante).

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Elementary School Environmental Update

Superintendent Dave Palzet stated that at last month's Board meeting, Dr. Conibear presented the results of her study regarding the incidence of cancer at the elementary school. The Board heard from Mr. John Dobby from Carnow, Conibear & Associates, whose study included an extensive visual inspection of classrooms and the ventilation systems within our school accompanied by measurements of numerous indoor air quality parameters and mold. The administration has reviewed his report and is in the process of implementing the recommendations outlined by Mr. Dobby. Mr. Dobby presented the results of the environmental testing which took place in various areas of the elementary based on information received from the TAP survey. After testing in multiple facets, there are no unsafe or hazardous conditions noted and the building is safe to occupy. The inspected areas were clean, orderly and well maintained. The majority of the IAQ (indoor air quality) measurement results were normal. Mr. Dobby made recommendations that a mechanical engineering evaluation be performed on the ventilation system and thermal insulation system due to relative humidity and moisture issues. Superintendent Palzet stated that all recommendations will be implemented. There will be a plan put in place that will address replacing ceiling tiles, painting, and cleaning of remaining carpets. Over the summer, carpets were removed at the elementary and replaced with tile. There will be discussion with the teachers regarding blocking the univents. There is also going to be a maintenance program put in place. Julie Crist asked if the univents run all night and Superintendent Palzet stated that the mitigation system and univents run 24 hours a day. Also, a checklist will be put in place in the morning and mid-day which will include univent inspections.

Summer Construction Update

Superintendent Dave Palzet shared that over the course of the summer carpet was removed from all classrooms at the elementary school. This was done to address concerns from staff regarding allergens and odor. It also provided a much-needed facelift and brightened the

classrooms. At the staff's request, there is still carpet in the office, library, resource office, and music room. The project came in ahead of schedule and under budget. At the middle school, the all purpose room and south gym were painted over the summer. The administration is in the process of creating a five-year maintenance plan that will ensure our facilities are well maintained and updated appropriately.

2015-16 Professional Development Plan

Superintendent Dave Palzet stated that Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Candy Kramer, has been working with staff to create a new professional development plan. Asst. Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Candy Kramer presented to the Board the new multifaceted professional development plan which will include institute days, half day in-service days, Wednesday meetings, Team meetings, focused release time and Curriculum Council. The Board will receive reports during the year on the status of professional development.

Class Size Update

Superintendent Dave Palzet stated that in a constant struggle to strike the perfect balance in our class section numbers, Principals Matt Vandercar and John Glimco have been working diligently over the summer to schedule students. The principals addressed questions about section numbers and the current class sizes. Principal John Glimco stated that this year there have been over 24 new enrollments. It has made scheduling challenging, but the most important thing is the needs of the students are being met.

Review District 2015-16 Goals

Superintendent Dave Palzet presented a draft of the 2015-16 District goals. The district has six goal areas, Teaching & Learning, Technology, Communication, Finance & Facilities, Culture & Climate, and School Board Governance. Superintendent Palzet also reviewed the process for goal setting that included, discussions with stakeholders, review of survey data, review of academic data and assessment of current systems and structures. The Board will vote to approve the goals at the September Board meeting.

Service Contract Review

Superintendent Dave Palzet stated that on an annual basis the Board reviews our service contracts for transportation, food service, custodial services, and auditing services. Board member Kristin Violante asked about food services and would like to have the administration investigate some alternative food options. It was stated that our current food provider has sub-contracted with a new provider, so there should be a change in the food. Superintendent Palzet will be eating the food for the next 30 days and at the October Board meeting will provide an update on his perception of the food along with the number of lunches ordered. Fresh Expectations was previously offered by FSP, but based on prices, the company has discontinued. Board President Mark Mirabile would like the administration to share with parents that FSP is now contracted with Aramark and the hope is that the quality of the food will be better.

Review Curriculum and Instruction (sec. 6) Board Policies

Superintendent Dave Palzet shared the revisions to our current Curriculum and Instruction (sec. 6) Board Policies. The policies will be on the September Consent Agenda for approval.

Board of Education Information Requests

There were no additional information requests from the Board this month. Board President Mark Mirabile stated that a month ago requested to take this standing item off the agenda, he would like to have it stay on, as the Board had requested the agenda item and feels this would help to make sure Superintendent Palzet is working on issues the full board are in agreement with and feel are important.

Tentative Budget

Heard from Business Manager Catherine Chang shared the model of development for the creating of the district budget. Due to no ratification of the teacher’s contract, this presentation is tentative and will have changes. For FY15, the actual revenues were 2.9% less than anticipated and FY15 expenses were 6.5% under budget. For FY16, revenues are expected to increase by 4% and expenses are budgeted to increase by 9%. These numbers include the possibility of the Board wishing to abate debt service for the upcoming year. The district is in a good financial position.

ACTION NO. 6
Schedule Budget
Hearing

Motion by Violante, seconded by Rak, that the Board of Education approve to schedule a budget hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16, 2015; display the tentative FY16 budget from August 14 till September 16; and publish a notice outlining the display process and budget hearing date. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 7 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante).

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the September 2015 agenda include:
Adopt Annual Budget; Approve Curriculum and Instruction (sec. 6) Board Policies; Review Finance (sec. 4) Board Policies; Review and Approve Board/Superintendent Operating Procedures; Summer Work Update; New District Website Update; and Approve District 2015-16 Goals.

ACTION NO. 7
Closed Session

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by Violante, that the Board of Education go into closed session at 8:44 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 7 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante).

The Board came out of closed session at 9:15 p.m.

ACTION NO. 8
Personnel Rpt

Motion by Violante, seconded by Rak, that the Board of Education approve the August 2015 Personnel Report as amended consisting of: the resignation of Lydia Wayne (instructional aide), Morgan Olsen (instructional aide), Jennifer Soverino (instructional aide), Jessica Strama (instructional aide), and Gina Czerniak (clerical aide) effective the end of the 2014-15 school year; the hiring of Joy Tristano (resource teacher), and Gina Czerniak and Kathy Mergenthaler (full time instructional aides); the extension of Lisa Penrod’s unpaid temporary disability leave to return to work no later than October 1, 2015; and an increase in employment for Barb Pristo from 5 hours a day to 8 hours a day as elementary clerical aide. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 7 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante).

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Barker, seconded by Rak, that the regular meeting adjourns at 9:16 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. ___ President _____ Secretary _____