

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:00 p.m. – 9:43 p.m. October 21, 2015

Members Present:

Mark Mirabile, Presiding Officer

Vipul Dedhia

David Negron

Gina Scaletta-Nelson

Michael Rak

Kristin Violante

Absent:

Kim Barker

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present were staff members Erika Sawosko, Candy Kramer, Catherine Chang, Matt Vandercar, John Glimco, Karyn Lisowski, Joanne Histed, and Andrea Mars; Kevin Beese, Doings Reporter; and residents Anjali Thukral and Scott Dunning.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Present was middle school student, Grace Castro, whose artwork was chosen for the cover of the Sax Art Supply catalog which was distributed across the country.

ACTION NO. 17
Consent Agenda

Motion by Violante, seconded by Rak, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of September 16, 2015; closed session meeting minutes of September 16, 2015; payment of September payroll/October warrants; October 2015 Personnel Report including the hiring of Elizabeth Camis as full time instructional aide beginning October 13, 2015; and Finance (sec. 4) Board policies. Motion carried by a roll call of 6 ayes (Dedhia, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante) absent - Barker.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMSElementary and Middle School 2015-16 School Improvement Plans

Superintendent Dave Palzet stated that the principals prepared plans that will help improve teaching and learning as well as the student experience in our schools. These plans include goals that are directly related to student outcomes and connect to our district goals as well as to each buildings' unique priorities. Adjustments were made to the elementary academic goal to reflect new information we received after the Board packet was published. The updated plan will be available on our district website.

The Board had the following questions and requests from the presentations:

- The Board requested that the curriculum of local private preschools be a part of the preschool review.
- The Board requested to review the rationale for student placement (eg. on level/above level) at the middle school.
- The Board questioned when math lab would be held during the day, as it is currently afterschool at the elementary school.

Preschool will be presenting recommendations in January that could impact next year's programs and would include a review of local private preschools. Principal Glimco stated that in regards to placement, growth targets at the middle school level will be different than elementary. Administration is currently working on how to incorporate math lab services during the day at the elementary.

Superintendent Advisory Team Selections

Superintendent Dave Palzet stated that in an effort to get Board and community feedback the district convenes several Superintendent Advisory Teams. The goal of these teams is to provide direction and guidance when making decisions that impact students, teachers, and families. The district will host four teams including Communication, Technology, Finance, and Facilities. The Board member volunteers are: Communication – Kim Barker, Gina Scaletta-Nelson; Technology – no Board volunteers at this time, Finance – Mark Mirabile, Mike Rak, and Facilities – Mike Rak and Kristin Violante. Teams will meet from two to seven times throughout the school year, and the communications and technology teams will also include teachers and parents. To be in compliance with the open meetings act there will be only two Board members per team.

October Institute Professional Development

Superintendent Dave Palzet shared that the district had a fantastic professional development day on October 13th. The day followed a breakout session format and hosted a variety of sessions. The district partnered with the West 40 and LADSE who also hosted sessions, but the majority of sessions were offered by our staff. This teachers-teaching-teachers model worked very well. Some of our more popular sessions included *The Basics of Google Drive* and a *PERA overview*. At the end of the day staff completed a program evaluation and great feedback was received that will improve our institute days moving forward. When asked about the effectiveness of the day on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being most effective the average score was 4.1! Some of the comments teachers made were, “*I liked being able to choose my sessions,*” “*I liked the rotations that were specific to my subject matter the most.*” and “*I loved the format of this Institute Day! I appreciate how you asked for our input about what we needed/wanted. My day was individualized for my needs. I liked changing sessions/topics each 90 minutes. I feel that this Institute Day was of greater benefit to me than ones in the past. I know that it must have taken a lot of work to put this Institute Day together.*”

Visitor Management System

Superintendent Dave Palzet stated that at the September 16th Board of Education meeting the Board asked the administration to investigate and offer recommendations regarding the implementation of a visitor management system. The administration would like to continue to monitor our current visitor practice. Next year, all staff will wear identification badges. Administration feels that being a small district, the office is familiar with most of our parents who come into the building. Board member Kristin Violante stated that she had asked for the administration to research this topic, and if a system was put in place, that summer would be a good time to train the secretaries. She feels a visitor management system would give the district another safety measure. Board President Mirabile stated that based on the false positives that the system can produce and the fact that the majority of our visitors are parents, that moving forward we should allow administration to review the current processes and monitor the need for a visitor management system. The possible implementation of a visitor management system will be addressed when the Board reviews Sec. 8 Board policies moving forward.

ACTION NO. 18

Visitor Manage Sys. Not motion was made.

Communication Coordinator Update

Superintendent Dave Palzet stated it is our goal to ensure that we are adequately communicating with our families and continue to seek out new ways to engage our students, parents, and community. Therefore a shared communications coordinator position was created with LaGrange School District 102. The Board will vote to approve the intergovernmental agreement which will allow the district to begin working with the communications coordinator. Board member Kristin Violante supports the idea and is happy that this is beginning so early in the Superintendent's tenure.

ACTION NO. 19

Comm. Coordinator

Motion by Scaletta-Nelson, seconded by Violante, that the Board of Education approve the intergovernmental agreement between District 102 and 107 for a communications coordinator. Motion carried by a roll call of 6 ayes (Dedhia, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante) absent - Barker.

Food Service Professionals (FSP) Update

Superintendent Dave Palzet shared that he had taken on a 30-day challenge in which he ate school lunch for the last month. The criteria set was that he would eat the lunch every day and would eat all food presented at the time of pick up. The goal was not only to be able to comment on the quality of the food, but if the food would sustain him for the remainder of the day. Additionally, the meals were eaten in the cafeteria, with the students who were given the opportunity to provide their feedback on the quality of food as well. Below are the results of the challenge:

- If one eats the entire meal (entree, fruit, vegetables, milk, etc.) the meal can sustain an adult male until about 4:00 or 4:30 p.m.
- The quality of the food can be compared to hospital food which is not the most delicious, but is very healthy.
- The cost of a student lunch is \$2.60 which is reasonable for the amount of food one receives.
- Based on feedback from the students, this year's food is better than the food offerings last year.
- FSP is trying to make positive changes.

Students shared that the food is better this year than last year. The district will continue to research other vendors and options. Board President Mark Mirabile asked if there was enough time to eat the lunch and Superintendent Palzet commented that he had enough time to eat and the students finished even faster.

Board of Education Information Requests

No Requests

Tax Levy

Business Manager Catherine Chang presented the proposed 2015 tax levy. The levy represents a balloon of 3.76% increase over the previous year with CPI at 0.8%. The amount requested in the levy does not reflect the actual tax rate homeowners will incur. There will be a public hearing regarding the tax levy on December 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. The district currently has the lowest tax rate of all the feeder districts.

ACTION NO. 20

Proposed Levy

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by Rak, that the Board of Education adopt the proposed 2015 tax levy and authorize publication of the public hearing notice. Motion carried by a roll call of 6 ayes (Dedhia, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante) absent - Barker.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the November 2015 agenda include:
Service Contract Legal Review of Transportation (written); and Review/Approve Audit Report.

ACTION NO. 21

Closed Session

Motion by Rak, seconded by Violante, that the Board of Education go into closed session at 8:10 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 of 6 ayes (Dedhia, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante) absent - Barker.

The Board came out of closed session at 9:43 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Violante, seconded by Scaletta-Nelson, that the regular meeting adjourns at 9:43 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. ___ President _____ Secretary _____