

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:06 p.m. – 11:34 p.m. November 19, 2014

Members Present:

Mark Mirabile, Presiding Officer
Kim Barker
Lisa Houk
David Negron
Gina Scaletta-Nelson

Absent:

Beth Tegtmeier
Kristin Violante

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf were staff members Erika Sawosko, Candy Kramer, Catherine Chang, Matt Vandercar, John Glimco, Debbie Lubeck, Joanne Histed, John McAtee, Joe Peloso, Karyn Lisowski, and Jillian Vonnahme; Susan Jones, Betsy Allen and Andrea Meade, Miller, Cooper, et al; and residents Alison Rich, Jodi Breen, Mary Rockrohr, Sonia Dombkowski, Allison Culver, Mary Mahler, and Kelly Keeling.

BOARD RECOGNITION

To recognize the efforts of nearly 6,000 school board members in the State, November 15, 2014, is designated School Board Members’ Day in Illinois. Pleasantdale Board members were recognized by the students and staff members with posters signed by all students and certificates of appreciation.

OPEN FORUM

Kelly Keeling has had children in the district since 2004 and is a supporter of the administration. She has not addressed the Board in the past. Her daughter is in a larger class size of 28 in the middle school, her best friend is in the same class which only has 6 students. She is concerned that in 8th grade there is a disparity in class sizes. The parent expressed her opinion that the differences in class sizes were unfair. She also read emails from other parents who were not able to attend the meeting but wanted to voice their concerns regarding class sizes.

Jodi Breen has two students in the middle school. She stated that it has been a quiet topic since there has not been an issue in the past. She would like the Board to pass a class size limit and post class sizes. She feels the classes her son is in are large there by diminishing the individual help he needs.

ACTION NO. 29

Consent Agenda

Motion by Houk, seconded by Barker, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of October 15, 2014; closed session meeting minutes of October 15, 2014; special meeting minutes of October 29, 2014; payment of October Payroll/November Warrants; Library Grant; Curriculum (sec. 6) Board policies; November 2014 Personnel Report including the resignation of lunch aide Linda Balla; hiring of Katie Wojtowicz as a two hour a day lunchroom aide; and an increase in Lori McCarter’s employment from part-time to full time. Motion carried by roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Houk, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson) absent - Tegtmeier, Violante.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Audit Report

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf introduced the auditors, Susan Jones and Betsy Allen from Miller, Cooper, Ltd. Susan Jones reviewed the financial statements for FY14. She stated that next year the district will have to adopt Gatsby 68 auditing practices that will record the

unfunded IMRF obligations in the audit report. The auditors did not identify any internal weaknesses or deficiencies for the district. They did provide a letter with minor recommendations for the district. Board President Mark Mirabile asked for clarification on IMRF inclusion in the financial statements beginning next year.

ACTION NO. 30

Audit Report

Motion by Houk, seconded by Barker, that the Board of Education approve acceptance of the FY14 Audit Report as presented by Betsy Allen and Susan Jones of Miller, Cooper, and Co. Ltd. Motion carried by roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Houk, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson) absent - Tegtmeier, Violante.

Technology Plan Recommendations

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf requested that the Board approve the technology plan recommendations presented to the Board at the October Board meeting. He also reviewed the technology skills and utilization document provided to the Board. Laptops purchased three years ago were deployed in grades 3-8. Based on the positive result to date, grade 2 teachers are now requesting classroom sets of laptops. Regarding the positions recommended in the three year technology plan, no recommendations are being made at this time for additional hiring. The district Technology Committee is not recommending the addition of full time positions because the current number of new staff members, particularly at the middle school, is unprecedented. Furthermore, it is recommended that Skyward be hosted externally which will free up time for existing technology specialists. The Technology Committee will make recommendations for additional staff for next year, if needed, later in the year. With the recommendations being approved, the new technology will be deployed as soon as possible. Board President Mark Mirabile stated he would like to see before next school year a plan for outsourcing certain technology support. Business Manager Catherine Chang also stated that the district will need additional computers for PARCC testing. A 3-5 year technology plan including infrastructure, security, website improvements, instructional technology with professional development, and staffing will be presented to the Board in April – June. There was a concern from the Board that they were asked to approve hardware, without seeing a full plan. The Board discussed the proposed increase for technology coaches. It was determined the budget for coaches would double in the plan to \$22,752.

ACTION NO. 31

Tech Rec.

Motion by Negron, seconded by Houk, that the Board of Education approve the technology recommendations of the district as amended to increase the recommendation by \$11,376. Motion carried by roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Houk, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson) absent - Tegtmeier, Violante.

Fall Testing Report

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf provided an overview of the first Star benchmark data for 2014 and the ISAT results from spring 2014. Director of Special Education Debbie Lubeck review baseline STAR data for kindergarten and grade 1 students. The district is performing at a higher national percentile in math compared to reading. It was stated that STAR norms are derived from all schools that administer the test as opposed to a randomly selected sample. Assistant Supt. Candy Kramer stated that STAR is an adaptive test that adjusts up or down according to student performance. When the students take it again they will start where they finished previously. She also stated that there were some changes to ISAT cut scores. She stated that the district performed well against higher cut scores. Board Secretary Kim Barker stated that based on previous discussions with administrations, the Board was advised that they would be presented with an RtI update after each data meeting indicating tier movement. Special Ed Director Debbie Lubeck will provide the Board with information to address the questions of students moving between tiers. The Board asked if there is a plan to move away from extensive use of consultants. Asst. Supt. Candy Kramer stated that she does work with the consultants and provides follow up to the staff and that, moving forward,

consultants may be needed for different initiatives such as Next Generation Science Standards.

Middle School Class Size Update

Principal John Glimco stated that the Board had asked how the class size has impacted the students. He provided the Board with information from an on task study by observing the classroom engagement of students. The data are inconclusive. Some of the larger classes were more on task than some of the smaller classes. There is no evidence that variation in class sizes negatively impact learning. He requested an additional instructional aide to assist in some of the math and science classes. Principal Glimco stated that scheduling is complicated as many variables need to be considered. Board member David Negron stated that pacing does not appear to be an issue. From a parent prospective, he understands why some parents may be concerned with the size of the classes. He suggested that the request for an additional teacher for next year may help balance some of the class sizes. Principal Glimco stated that there are minor disadvantages of smaller classes when there are fewer students to provide input for topics under discussion. An aide candidate will be sought who is endorsed in math and science, but there is no guarantee an applicant with these qualifications is available. The Board requested an additional aide for 5th grade science so that the aides would be allowed to plan with the full time teachers in the classroom. The Board also requested up to 2 more aides for 6th-8th grade to help with the disparity in class size there as well. It was suggested that Principal Glimco review the schedules and hire more aides.

ACTION NO. 32

Gr. 5 Inst. Aide

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by Barker, that the Board of Education approve up to four additional instructional aides as needed. Motion carried by roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Houk, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson) absent - Tegtmeier, Violante.

Superintendent Search Planning

Board President Mark Mirabile shared with the Board that he had worked with School Exec Connect to consummate the contract for their services. Dr. Harry Rossi and Dr. Gary Zabilka were in attendance to conduct a planning session with the Board. The following was determined as part of that meeting: Board liaison, Business Manager Catherine Chang; logistics, Supt. Secretary Erika Sawosko; technology contact, Ms. Chang and Ms. Sawosko will provide information to Technology Specialist John McAtee. Board President Mark Mirabile and Board Secretary Kim Barker will revise the letter to go out to the community that will be posted on the website and mailed to the community in a postcard format. Staff members will be invited to a focus group on December 15th, at 3:30 p.m. in the middle school APR. Community members and parents will be invited to a focus group on that same date at 7:00 p.m. Board members and administrators will not be in attendance at either of the focus groups. At the January 21st Board meeting, the Board will review and approve the Superintendent profile. The following Special Board meetings were also scheduled, January 28 at 7:00 p.m. for presentation of the candidates (on paper) to the Board; February 4 and 5 will be candidate interviews; February 17 and 18 will be second round of interviews. Prior to these two meetings, there will be stakeholder meetings with the candidates prior to the Board interviews. The stakeholder groups will consist of building administrators, central office staff, TAP President and Vice President, and 2 members from the executive committee of the PTA. The Board may approve the new Superintendent at the March 18th Board meeting or sooner at a special meeting.

Service Contract Review

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf shared which contracts were reviewed last year. No recommendation is being made to have any contracts reviewed by legal counsel at the current time.

Consultant Contract Review

Board President Mark Mirabile stated that this would be a generic contract that the district could use for consultants in the future. In December, the Board will receive individual contracts for our current consultants.

ACTION NO. 33

Consultant Cont.

Motion by Barker, seconded by Scaletta-Nelson, that the Board of Education approve the consultant contract template as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Houk, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson) absent - Tegtmeier, Violante.

Radon Update

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf shared with the Board that sub slab testing has been done for radon mitigation at the elementary school. The specialized companies that are licensed to install commercial mitigation systems will be contacted to submit proposals. Radon mitigation does not require a formal bid process because only licensed companies are able to submit proposals. The work will be done over winter break. Superintendent Fredisdorf would like to move forward with obtaining the proposals with the assistance of STR and David Kedrowski. At the December Board meeting, the Board will vote to approve the sub slab mitigation to be done over winter break.

Board of Education Information Requests

Board members had information requests consisting of: an RtI update and the traffic study previously conducted by the insurance company. Both will be sent to the Board via the weekly update.

ACTION NO. 34

Info. Requests

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

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the December 2014 agenda include:
District Goal Mid-year Review; Review Community Relations (sec. 8) Board policies; Review Fees; Discussion of Service Provider Contracts; Radon Proposal; Tax Levy Hearing; Adopt Tax Levy; Superintendent Search Update; Professional Development Plan and Curriculum Update (written).

ACTION NO. 35

Closed Session

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by Barker, that the Board of Education go into closed session at 11:22 p.m. to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, and dismissal of personnel. Motion carried by roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Houk, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson) absent - Tegtmeier, Violante.

The Board came out of closed session at 11:34 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Scaletta-Nelson, seconded by Houk, that the regular meeting adjourns at 11:34 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. ___ President _____ Secretary _____