

RIVER TRAILS SCHOOL DISTRICT 26
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2010

President Bradley called the second regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education for the month of March to order at 7:05 p.m. The meeting was held at River Trails Middle School.

The Board and audience members stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Nasser, Fallucca, Carrillo, Bradley, Reese, O'Mara, Johnson

Absent: None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Action

Vice President Fallucca moved, seconded by Mrs. Nasser, to approve the Consent Agenda for Tuesday, March 16, 2010 as presented, consisting of the following:

A. MINUTES OF 03/02/10 INCLUDING CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Minutes of 03/02/10 including Closed Session Minutes were approved as presented.

B. PERSONNEL REPORT

The Personnel Report consisted of one new hire.

C. ACTUAL PAYROLLS, BILLS AND CHECKS

The actual payrolls for February 12, 2010 in the total amount of \$712,269.27; and the February/ March bills and checks as follows: February 12, 2010 in the total amount of \$150,005.25, February 19, 2010 in the total amount of \$149,878.76, February 26, 2010 in the total amount of \$177,821.04, March 5, 2010 in the total amount of \$163,599.02, and March 5, 2010 in the total amount of \$3,865.73.

YES: Reese, O'Mara, Nasser, Carrillo, Johnson, Bradley, Fallucca

NO: None

Motion carried

V. RTEA COMMENTS, RTEA REPRESENTATIVE

Information

Mrs. Ann Forman, RTEA President, stated for the Board that while the RTEA takes no position for or against the Grade Level Centers, the staff would be agreeable to providing input to the Board. Mrs. Forman added that, should the Board vote to change the configurations of the schools, the RTEA requests a 2010-11 implementation not be considered.

VI. VISITOR COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items)

Lori Hurley, 1306 Burning Bush, Mount Prospect, reminded the Board members of their list of what they wanted to accomplish as a Board including bringing the community together and noted that a move to GLCs would have an opposite effect.

Al Engberg, 1801 Hopi Lane, Mount Prospect, reminded the Board that they are elected to represent the whole district and charged by Illinois School Code to provide the best quality education for all students based on available resources. He sees no overwhelming financial or academic benefit to changing the current school configurations and believes this move would be a distraction for the work the Board needs to accomplish in the near future – negotiations, funding issues and curriculum updates.

Christian Wilson, 1755 Camp McDonald Road, Mount Prospect, voiced his concern with busing students around to different schools to create ethnic diversity like he was made to do as a child.

Carla Hommerding, 1808 Hopi Lane, Mount Prospect, told Board members how she grew up and was educated in District 26 and came back to the area so her daughter would have the same kind of education and positive community experience. She believes GLCs would tear apart the community not pull it together.

Tim Hurley, 1306 Burning Bush, Mount Prospect, spoke to the Board addressing the negative impact of GLCs on busing.

Andy Grycuk, 1609 Lama Lane, Mount Prospect, noted that the GLC change lacks community backing and is not supported by the research.

Carolyn Malz, 1008 Hopi Lane, Mount Prospect, noted that she does not see the financial benefit to changing away from the neighborhood school configuration.

Michael J. Bailey, 910 Pecos Lane, Mount Prospect, emphasized the fact that Board members are elected officials and represent the people of the District.

Dena Spire, 1401 Boro Lane, Mount Prospect, stressed the importance of stability in a child's ability to learn and added that Dr. Warren's study supports this theory.

Frank R. Fiarito, 1703 Regency Court, Mount Prospect, was concerned with the GLC's impact on parent involvement at the schools and cautioned the Board to have the same kind of loyalty to their constituents as parents have to their school. He is investigating an advisory referendum for the November ballot.

Michael Diaz, 1818 Hopi Lane, Mount Prospect, was concerned with confusing and conflicting statements made publicly by Board members.

Amy Laures, 1327 Peachtree Lane, Mount Prospect, pointed out that the GLC Study shows 80% of the respondents oppose the GLC change. She implored the Board to vote on the facts not on their personal agenda.

Ron Rogowski, 1328 Peachtree Lane, Mount Prospect, does not support the move to GLCs as the change does not successfully address financial, academic, transportation or social concerns.

Melissa VanDermeir, 1748 Indigo Court, Mount Prospect, expressed her concern with losing quality time with her children due to increased time on busing.

Barbara Mackenzie, 1830 Sitka, Mount Prospect, requested the Board not rush to make a decision but take their time and investigate all concerns. She reminded Board members that there is a history of District 26 Boards reversing themselves and it would not be in the best interest of the children to gamble on their education.

Maria G. Rabadan, 1052 Boxwood Drive, Mount Prospect, shared that her child has special needs and continuity of services is critical not only to his learning but to his well-being. She implored the Board not to make a test-case of her son.

Kathleen Viers, 1512 Thayer Street, Mount Prospect, stated that she is against the configuration change due to the expected loss in learning during the transition year, the difficulty in teacher communication, the lack of older role models for younger students and the inconvenience to parents.

Curt Carlson, 1321 Wood Lane, Mount Prospect, told Board members that he is a long time resident and his children were educated in District 26 and he does not see how this change will positively impact the social mind of the neighborhood.

Kathy Riley, 1823 Hopi Lane, Mount Prospect, noted that GLCs will eliminate the connection that younger students have with older students. She asked that Board members think twice before tearing down a working system.

Dori Matanovic, 1705 Regency Court, Mount Prospect, emphasized the sense of community and consistency the current school configurations fosters.

Aga Makowski, 1003 Burning Bush Lane, Mount Prospect, added her concerns for the stability and continuity of services for children with the GLC configuration.

Vicky Luciano, 724 Timothy Lane, Des Plaines, spoke to the ethical process used in acquiring petition signatures and noted errors in the consultant's GLC Report to the Board.

Lori Methner, 1822 Basswood, Mount Prospect, explained that she does not understand why we have gotten to this point and are taking so much time away from our families addressing this issue. To her the results seem to be a "no-brainer" as there is no fact based impetus to initiate the change.

Tina Kozil, 2003 Ivy Lane, Mount Prospect, believes the GLC would create a negative academic environment for children in the areas of continuity of service, sense of ownership, stability and confidence.

Karen Rehnberg, 1751 Wood Lane, Mount Prospect, noted that the data does not point to any gain by moving to GLCs and requested the Board "drop" the topic. She added that the Board is elected to represent the people and they should "do it."

Harold Rehnberg, 1751 Wood Lane, Mount Prospect, wondered why the Board is considering this change when our own consultant confirmed the fact that benefits would be marginal.

Catherine Napoli, 1312 Peachtree Lane, Mount Prospect, voiced her concern that GLCs would affect her ability to continue her level of involvement at the schools. She is also concerned with the loss of programming.

Monica Fazekas, 1325 Peartree Lane, Mount Prospect, emphasized the effect Board decisions have on families and encouraged the Board to drop this topic soon so families can make plans.

Jan Fetyko, 1745 Tano Lane, Mount Prospect, questioned why the topic of GLCs is still on the table after the petition was presented. She emphasized that while data is on paper, the signatures and the people at the meetings are real and they oppose this move.

Joel Kragt, 1106 Burning Bush Lane, Mount Prospect, stated he agreed with the sentiments already presented, had nothing new to add and passed on speaking.

Randy Nalepa, 1404 Park Drive, Mount Prospect, shared that his student has special needs and this type of change would have a devastating effect on his child.

Lester Miazga, 1820 Azalea Lane, Mount Prospect, voiced his agreement with other opinions expressed at the Meeting and added his concern regarding a drop in his property value to the list of consideration.

Lori Naumowicz, 1405 Park Drive, Mount Prospect, offered suggestions for alternative activities that embrace and celebrate diversity.

Peggy Tsevis, 1764 Cree Lane, Mount Prospect, agreed with Mrs. Nanowicz regarding promoting collaboration and cooperation between the neighborhoods. She reminded the Board again that moving to GLCs should be data driven and a review of the results does not support the move. The voice of the people does not show overwhelming community support either.

Ted Tsevis, 1764 Cree lane, Mount Prospect, pointed out to the Board how GLCs are already negatively impacting the school as tonight's 2nd Grade play was postponed to accommodate attendance at the Board Meeting.

Richard Broderick, 2014 Kiowa Lane, Mount Prospect, spoke in support of the community school concept. He added that the GLC concept seemed to trade teachers for bus drivers.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1 – Grade Level Centers

Discussion

President Bradley opened the discussion by asking if Board members believed they had enough information for an in-depth discussion of the Grade Level Center topic.

Some general comments/concerns from Board members follow:

- Mrs. Reese pointed out that acquiring additional information and discussion of issues will require time and impact the scheduling of any implementation.
- While not in favor of Grade Level Center in 1995, Mr. Fallucca does favor the change at this point.
- Mrs. Nasser emphasized that, to date, the Board has not discussed this issue and no one's input has been ignored. She noted that supporters of GLCs may not be vocal but "they are out there."
- Mrs. Johnson would like to examine other variables of the change like transportation and space for programs.

- Mrs. Reese added that while academics and finances are important and called-out in the Strategic Plan, it is narrow-minded to limit the Board's focus to these two factors only when considering a decision on this important topic.
- Mr. Carrillo addressed the accuracy of the GLC Study's Report and the need to correct any errors.

President Bradley then surveyed the Board members regarding the Staff Survey. Items being considered were:

- Survey vs. dialog vs. further study/exploration of research;
- Hiring an outside source to perform the survey;
- The fairness of placing the staff in a position of answering questions of this type; and
- Extracting the desired information from the current survey.

Mr. Carrillo and Mr. O'Mara emphasized a gap in information from critical stakeholders and spoke-out strongly in favor of a survey of the staff. Board members were in consensus that the staff survey should be done. A Committee of Dr. Delli, Mr. Carrillo and Mrs. Forman (RTEA President) will meet and develop the survey questions and a timeline for the survey.

Board members also reached consensus that implementation for the 2010-11 school year would not be considered.

President Bradley next moved to the topic of potential school configurations. While several options were mentioned, Board members were in agreement that the PreK-Grade 2, Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8 concept can most easily be accommodated by current building facilities.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1 – Finance Committee; Mrs. Johnson, Chair

Information

Mrs. Johnson and Ms. Schuster, Asst. Supt. for Business Services, reviewed information from the March 16, 2010 Finance Committee Meeting with the Board. Highlights from this Meeting are below:

- The Committee examined options to reduce the fiscal year budget deficit in light of the proposed reduction in revenues from the state for 2010-11..
- A discussion was initiated on the option of using bonds as a means to fund capital items.
- The Committee members previewed a pilot check fraud program called Positive Pay
- An update was provided on the use of credit/debit cards for student fees for the 2010-11 school year.

Mrs. Reese added a thank you to the administrative staff for the budget reduction information. It was noted that the State currently owes District 26 \$500,000 with two payments still due.

2 – Operations Committee; Mr. O'Mara, Chair

Action

Mr. O'Mara moved, seconded by Mr. Carrillo, to award the 2010 Summer Projects bid to Anthony Roofing in the total amount of \$171,017.

Mrs. Schuster reminded the Board that the Life Safety projects are partially funded by bond money and are required to be done.

Yes: Fallucca, O'Mara, Johnson, Nasser, Bradley, Carrillo, Reese
 No: None
 Motion Carried

5 – NSSEO Update; Vice President Fallucca, Representative Information

Vice President Fallucca share with the Board that he recently attended a craft fair to raise funds for Kirk School.

C. PRESIDENT'S REPORT; President Bradley

1 -- Upcoming Events Information

President Bradley informed the Board members of the following upcoming events:

- March 18, 2010 - Band Concert at RTMS - 7:00 p.m.
- March 19, 2010 - Last day of classes before Spring Break
- March 29, 2010 - Classes Resume
- April 1, 2010 - Third Quarter Ends
- April 2, 2010 - Non-Attendance Day for staff and students

2 – IASB Spring Dinner Meeting Update Information

President Bradley shared information from the March 8, 2010 IASB Spring Dinner Meeting which he and Vice President Fallucca attended. The focus of the meeting was a Superintendent's Round Table update of area initiatives.

3 – Board Communications Information

Mrs. Reese noted that she will share information with Board members regarding an upcoming Illinois House Bill related to choices for school district in connection with unfunded mandates.

Mr. Carrillo encouraged Board members to read last week's Newsweek article dedicated to the challenges of public education.

D. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT; Dr. Delli

1 – Strategic Planning Update Information

Dr. Delli recapped the March 15, 2010 Strategic Planning Oversight Committee Meeting with the Board. At this meeting each Vision Team presented their Goals and Action Plans. All were approved. The next step is for the Board to review the work. Dr. Delli anticipates being prepared to present the New Strategic Plan to the Board for approval by the end of June with implementation in the fall.

2 – 2010-2011 Staffing Plan Information/Action

Dr. Delli presented the 2010-2011 Staffing explaining that it was the identical plan as presented at the March 2, 2010 Board of Education Meeting. He reviewed the highlights of the Plan as follows:

- Euclid – Two certified staff reduction offset by programming needs and a reduction of four teaching assistants.
- Indian Grove – One additional teacher due to enrollment but a .5 reduction in a teacher for Special Education.
- RTMS – A reduction of one teacher, one interventionist and two teaching assistants.

The approval of this plan will effectively reduce the certified staff by one and the non-certified staff by six.

Vice President Fallucca move, seconded by Mrs. Nasser to approve the 2010-2011 Staffing Plan as presented on the Proposal Summary Worksheet.

Yes: Johnson, Carrillo, Bradley, Reese, Fallucca, O'Mara, Nasser

No: None

Motion Carried

IX. FUTURE TOPICS

Mrs. Reese requested that high school matriculation analysis be presented again this year as a regular report.

X. VISITOR COMMENTS (Non-Action Items)

Gail Dieterich, 1524 Peachtree, Mount Prospect, spoke in opposition to President Bradley's position on the School Board.

Andy Grychuk, 1409 Lama, Mount Prospect, expressed concern that moving to GLCs would be an extra stressor for dual language students.

Peggy Tsevis, 1764 Cree Lane, Mount Prospect, restated many of her concern over the GLCs. She asked that such a huge outcry as was present at tonight's meeting not be ignored.

Jessica Riley, 1907 Euclid, Mount Prospect, requested the Board's assistance with application for sidewalks and crossing guards from the Village to facilitate children walking to school.

Dan Miller, 1330 Peachtree Lane, Mount Prospect, noted his opinion that the Board was dismissive of both the academic research presented to the Board by citizens and the signed petitions.

Bobbi Viegas-Miller, 1330 Peachtree Lane, Mount Prospect, stated that she is confused by the focus on GLCs as no factual reason, financial or academic, has been borne-out. She added that GLCs are taking away from other important issues on which the Board needs to focus.

Monica Fasekas, 1325 Peartree Lane, Mount Prospect, encouraged getting feedback from all staff. She also expressed concerns for: the rules for releasing students from school, student fees, and supply list items.

Lauren Naumowicz, 1405 Park Drive, Mount Prospect, offered additional suggestions for cooperative efforts to unite the two elementary school communities.

Lori Hurley, 1306 Burning Bush, Mount Prospect, summarized her thoughts on the Grade Level Centers.

With the general consent of the Board, President Bradley called for a short recess at 11:24 p.m. President Bradley announced that the Board would enter into Closed Session after the recess. It was noted that the Board did not anticipate taking action following the Closed Session.

XI CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Reese moved, seconded by Mr. O’Mara, to enter into Closed Session at 11:38 p.m. for the purpose of discussing:

- Personnel; and
- Negotiations.

YES: Carrillo, Fallucca, O’Mara, Bradley, Reese, Nasser, Johnson

NO: None
Motion carried

Hearing no objections, Closed Session was adjourned on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 12:25 a.m.

The Board resumed Open Session on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 12:25 a.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned by common consent on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 12:26 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

Jeffrey W. Bradley, Board President

Donna M. Johnson, Board Secretary