

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:00 p.m. – 12:53 a.m. October 15, 2014

Members Present:

- Mark Mirabile, Presiding Officer
- Kim Barker
- Lisa Houk
- Gina Scaletta-Nelson
- 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, Tanya Kim, John McAtee, Joe Peloso, Karyn Lisowski, and Dana Merchant; Lauren Jiggetts and Mike McGovern, NBC News; and residents Jennifer Cooper, Alison Rich, Dariusz Ciucias, Mary Rockrohr, Sonia Dombkowski, Kim Payne, David Cassidy, Kristin Wojtulewicz, the Craggs family, and the Thalji family.

BOARD STUDENT RECOGNITION

Board member Lisa Houk presented certificates of recognition to former Pleasantdale students Joshua Craggs and Gabriel Thalji, who both recently completed Eagle Scout projects in the middle school upstairs courtyard. Gabriel Thalji built log benches and stools for use in the courtyard, as well as installed a stone entry way into the courtyard. Joshua Craggs installed a butterfly garden in the courtyard, as well as additional mulch. Both scouts contributed to weeding and beautifying the courtyard. All materials and supplies were provided by the scouts, through donations from local vendors. The entire project was completed at no cost to the district.

ADD'TL ITEMS

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf asked that an update on radon be added to the agenda.

OPEN FORUM

Jennifer Cooper currently has two students at Pleasantdale and another who has graduated. She learned about the radon issue at the elementary school and, as a healthcare provider, is very concerned about the elevated radon levels at the elementary school. She asked what was going to be done to keep students safe who are in classrooms with elevated radon. She expressed concerns about her child and the situation of the elevated levels of radon at the elementary school.

Dariusz Ciucias shared his appreciation for middle school custodian, Mr. Jim. He shared with the Board that he has heard rumors about the district asking Mr. Jim to retire. He would hope the Board would discuss these allegations.

ACTION NO. 18  
Consent Agenda

Motion by Scaletta-Nelson, seconded by Mirabile, that the Board of Education approve the amended consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of September 17, 2014; closed session meeting minutes of September 17, 2014; payment of September payroll/October warrants; Personnel (sec. 5) and Student (sec. 7) Board Policies; and October 2014 Personnel Report consisting of the request to extend temporary disability of an employee. Number 7 on the bill list was removed and added as a discussion item. Motion carried by roll call vote of 7 ayes (Barker, Houk, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante).

REPORTS AND  
DISCUSSION ITEMSRadon Testing

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf gave a brief history of the radon testing conducted from the beginning of this school year at the elementary school. Information is available on the district website regarding the results of all testing. Staff members have been advised not to turn the air handlers off as this is associated with elevated radon levels. There will be monitors in place for continuous testing to make sure the adjustments of the air handling units mitigate levels below 4.0 picocuries per liter. The administration will be meeting with a company that specializes in mitigation to explore other options for controlling the radon levels. The specialists have given the district no reason to feel there is a need to evacuate any of the classrooms. Every air handler unit will be monitored so they are not turned off. Everything necessary will be done to correct this problem. Board member Kristin Violante questioned what is the option for parents who do not want their students in a classroom with elevated levels. She feels that there has to be concern for the teachers in those rooms also. Moving the students to an alternate room until these rooms levels are lowered was discussed. Principal Matt Vandercar stated that there are options for the students to not have classes in the classrooms that have a level over 4.0. These rooms will be vacated until the results are received next week. An email communication will be sent to parents regarding the students being moved and other options for classes to be held. Staff is also not to spend extended time in the classrooms. There is no requirement for schools to do radon testing. It is recommended to do every five years. The Board authorized annual radon testing. The last time the district had done testing was 2011. No elevated levels were detected in testing done in 2007, 2009 and 2011.

ACTION NO. 19

## Radon Testing

Motion by Scaletta-Nelson, seconded by Mirabile, that the Board of Education approve annual radon testing, continuous radon testing for the remediation of the current reading, to include the modification of classrooms to accommodate the ongoing progress of the elementary school. Motion carried by roll call vote of 7 ayes (Barker, Houk, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante).

Middle School Class Size Update

Principal John Glimco shared with the Board a background of the changes in the scheduling this year. With the above level classes in grade 5 math, class size was discussed with the teacher. Board member David Negron asked how many parents have had concerns with the class sizes. Mr. Glimco stated that he had only one before last month's meeting. After the meeting he received four to five more emails, most of which he felt the parents understood the makeup of the classes. It was asked why some of the ELA classes had varied numbers of students. It was stated this was mainly due to scheduling. There has not been a concern brought to him by the teachers on the difference of the class sizes. He has talked with teachers and observed the classes. Mr. Glimco doesn't feel the number of students in the classes are a negative factor. Board member Kristin Violante stated that she was originally included among the parents who wanted 5 sections in kindergarten for this current large class of 5<sup>th</sup> graders, so she does not understand why this was not done at the middle school level. Mr. Glimco stated he has seen lots of success for students who are assigned to above level classes. Board member David Negron asked how are we able to prove that 5 sections is better for students than 4 sections. He stated that at a later time we need to know how these students are doing in those larger classes. It is not about the number of students in the classroom, but what is happening in those classes. Board Secretary Kim Barker would like to see the Board set a class size limit and hire additional staff for this school year. Mr. Glimco stated it would be hard to create new schedules or find an instructor to teach a variety of different areas. Also, some of the classes that have low numbers are needed for students who are in lab and need to transition back into those classes rather than create a new schedule. Board Secretary Barker expressed her concern, as this class size issue was discussed last spring and she specifically asked if we needed additional staffing and was

told no, and the administration assured the Board that the class sizes would remain consistent. The issue of disproportionate class sizes does not only impact the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, but all grades at the middle school. Board member Violante asked what is going to be done if students are not making the progress that they should in a large class as opposed to those in smaller classes. Mr. Glimco was asked to provide the Board with a report using unit assessments and reviewing how students are performing with their peers who are in smaller classes. In November, there will be a discussion regarding class size limits and a report on what will be done to compare class to class, or any differences in student performance related to class size was requested. It was asked whether the pace of classes remains the same if class sizes differ. Mr. Glimco stated the pacing has been the same with the larger and smaller classes. Superintendent Fredisdorf stated that there is no research that shows that smaller class size is as important as the instructor teaching the class. Mr. Glimco accomplished many goals in creating the schedule. The Board also asked about the co-teaching break down of the classes.

#### Technology Plan Recommendations

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf stated that the technology committee reviewed the three-year plan created by the technology planning team last school year. The technology committee prepared recommendations for the Board's approval that included the purchase of iPads, laptops, redesigning the website and external hosting for Skyward. Board Vice President Scaletta-Nelson asked if any of the old equipment was offered to the district's free and reduced students and also requested an inventory of all technology and where it is used. John McAtee stated that the equipment is very old and not upgradeable. He did not feel comfortable giving the equipment to someone to use. Business Manager Catherine Chang shared with the Board that Skyward has issued a larger number of updates than in the past. If Skyward provides the hosting, updates will be done in a more cost and time effective manner. Board member Lisa Houk would like to see how technology is being integrated in the classrooms and requested sustained professional development. Board Secretary Kim Barker asked if we were aware that Journeys would increase the need for laptops and stated the time allocated for technologies coaches equates to 4 hours per week and that seemed insufficient. Board President Mark Mirabile stated he was looking for a plan rather than a list of expenses. He wanted to see an IT plan, not the bill for the technology. A plan would include rebuilds, how often staff are rebuilding, and would incorporate what is happening in the classroom. The Board will be provided with more specifics of the plan. At the November meeting there will be an action item for the purchase of requested items. The plan will most likely not be developed completely by November.

#### Elementary and Middle School 2014-15 Improvement Plans

Principals Matt Vandercar and John Glimco provided the Board with School Improvement Plans for the 2014-15 school year. A main focus for both schools is the implementation of Common Core State Standards; focusing on positive behaviors; and continuing a safe and healthy learning environment. The Board requested that elementary teachers consistently use Skyward for entering homework assignments at all grade levels.

#### Possible Kitchen Renovation Options

Board President Mark Mirabile requested the Board to share if they had an interest to move forward with this topic. Board member Lisa Houk shared that the district has spent a great amount of money this year and she would like to see the money be applied to the instructional program. Board Vice President Gina Scaletta-Nelson stated that she would like to have future discussions on the item to see if there is a better option. It was requested that if there was more interest from the Board it would be added to a future agenda. At this time there was not enough Board interest for future discussion.

#### District 2014-15 Goals

Board member Lisa Houk asked that annual radon testing be added to the safety goal.

ACTION NO. 20

## District Goals

Motion by Tegtmeier, seconded by Houk, that the Board of Education approve District 2014-15 goals as modified. Motion carried by roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Houk, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier,) abstain - Violante.

Determination of Board Committees and Assignments

Board President Mark Mirabile assigned Board member David Negron to the bargaining team and himself and Kim Barker to the finance team. Board member Lisa Houk stepped down from Curriculum Council and volunteered to attend the safety meeting. Board Vice President Gina Scaletta-Nelson requested to be added to the parent discipline committee that meets in the spring to review discipline policies as required by state law. Curriculum Council will only be scheduled to meet three times this year and has been a core structure for the past strategic planning process. Next year when there is a new superintendent and Board members, it may be time to initiate a new strategic planning process. Board Vice President Nelson volunteered to serve on the Curriculum Council. Board member Violante asked if a technology committee would be established. She shared her interest in being a part of the special education committee and Core Team. Board member Lisa Houk felt since communication was a part of each district goal, could the Board review if that portion of the goals was met at the end of the school year. The Board will decide by the January meeting if the communication committee will need to meet. The Board would like a technology committee including a Board member, parents, teachers, and administrators to meet and work on the technology plan.

ACTION NO. 21

## Board Teams

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by Tegtmeier, that the Board of Education approve advisory teams and assignments; bargaining – Negron; finance – Mirabile, Barker; safety – Houk; parent discipline, Curriculum Council – Scaletta-Nelson; special education, technology and Core Team – Violante; Core Team – Tegtmeier; communication – Barker, Scaletta-Nelson. Motion carried by roll call vote of 7 ayes (Barker, Houk, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante).

Superintendent Search Update

Board President Mark Mirabile stated that Board members Houk and Tegtmeier worked with the Superintendent on the district newsletter. The Board received eight requests for proposals from search firms. Board member Lisa Houk stated that the Board had not set the criteria for what the Board is looking for in a search firm. Board President Mark Mirabile stated that the Board received a large amount of information and additional time would be needed to review the information. The Board will invite the following Illinois search firms for interviews: BWP, HYA, Proact, IASB, School Exec to attend a special Board meeting possibly on October 29. Board President Mark Mirabile requested that the Board forward to the Superintendent questions to ask the search firms. The February 2015 hiring date of the Board was discussed. The Board changed the wording in the newsletter to state spring 2015 instead of February 2015.

ACTION NO. 23

## Supt. Search Comm.

Motion by Tegtmeier, seconded by Violante, that the Board of Education approve community communication regarding the Superintendent search as modified. Motion carried by roll call vote of 7 ayes (Barker, Houk, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante).

ACTION NO. 24

## Supt. Search Process

Motion by Houk, seconded by Negron, that the Board of Education approve the process to select a search firm as follows: interviewing 5 search firms on October 29 with the outcome to select one at that time. Motion carried by roll call vote of 7 ayes (Barker, Houk, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante).

BoardBook Update

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf shared that Erika will be starting training next week and information will then be going out to the Board regarding training. District laptops will be set up for those Board members requesting usage.

Board of Education Information Requests

Board members had information requests consisting of: technology inventory; dollar amount the district receives from the National School Lunch program be sent to the Board via a Friday packet. A map of the elementary classrooms affected by radon is listed on the district website, but will also be forwarded to the Board.

ACTION NO. 24

## Info. Requests

Motion by Barker, seconded by Violante, that the Board of Education approve the information requests as stated. Motion carried by roll call vote of 7 ayes (Barker, Houk, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante).

Consultant Math Bill

Board Vice President Gina Scaletta-Nelson claimed that at the April Board meeting Claran Einfeldt stated that mileage was included in her daily rate; she previously sent the video clip to Superintendent Fredisdorf. Superintendent Fredisdorf stated that travel was going to be included in Claran's bill and not part of her daily rate. Superintendent Fredisdorf shared that the Board had previously approved a bill in April where it was included. Board Vice President Scaletta-Nelson stated that the bill was not approved until June. The ELA consultants are also charging for mileage. Board President Mirabile stated that this discussion was only about the math consultant. The professional development calendar was approved without mileage costs for the consultants. It was requested that Business Manager Catherine Chang provide to the Board a breakdown of the revised bill.

ACTION NO. 25

## Consultant Bill

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by Houk, that the Board of Education approve payment of the C2Math, Inc bill, in its entirety minus discounts and mileage. Motion carried by roll call vote of 7 ayes (Barker, Houk, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante).

Tax Levy

Heard from Business Manager Catherine Chang regarding the proposed 2014 tax levy. The levy represents a 4.63% increase over the previous year. There will be a public hearing regarding the tax levy on December 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

ACTION NO. 26

## Tax Levy

Motion by Barker, seconded by Tegtmeier, that the Board of Education adopt the proposed 2014 tax levy and authorize publication of the public hearing notice. Motion carried by roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Houk, Mirabile, Negron, Tegtmeier, Violante) absent - Scaletta-Nelson.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the November 2014 agenda include: Middle School Class Size; Fall Testing Report; Approve Technology Recommendations; Service Contract Legal Review; Approve Library Grant; Superintendent Search Update; Professional Development Plan and Curriculum Update (written); Review Curriculum and Instruction (sec. 6) Board policies; Audit Report; and Approve Audit Report.

OPEN FORUM

Bill Cassidy has a son in the classroom with the 29 students. He feels there should be a better balance to class sizes.

Dariusz Ciucias stated he cannot login to Skyward through his phone. He suggested that the elementary school HVAC be rebalanced. If a vent is off, then someone should know what is happening with the system. He suggested doing maintenance and changing the filters when no one is in school.

ACTION NO. 27

Closed Session

Motion by Barker, seconded by Negron, 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 7 ayes (Barker, Houk, Mirabile, Negron, Scaletta-Nelson, Tegtmeier, Violante).

The Board came out of closed session at 12:52 a.m. (10/16/14)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Houk, seconded by Violante, that the regular meeting adjourns at 12:53 a.m. (10/16/14). Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. \_\_\_ President \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_