

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:01 – 10:03 p.m. November 19, 2008

Members Present:

Leandra Sedlack, Presiding Officer
 Patti Essig
 Lisa Houk
 Mark Mirabile
 Scot Orsic
 Rick Rigley
 Beth Tegtmeier

ROLL CALL ANDVISITORS

Present with Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf were staff members Erika Sawosko, Catherine Chang, Maria Smith, Meg Pokorny, Matt Vandercar, Kim Freislinger, Jeanne Williamson, Brent Eldridge, and Maureen Olsen; Dr. John Wick; Bob Horstman of Virchow Krause; and residents Michelle LeBeau, Susan Camba, Karen O'Halloran; Julie Smentek, Geroges Youssef, Nathalie Youssef, William Harvel, Milica Harvel, and Gina Nelson.

STAFFRECOGNITION

Board President Leandra Sedlack recognized Kindergarten teacher, Erin Oskroba, for her work with the elementary butterfly garden and 5th grade teacher, Jennifer Carnes, for her work with the middle school pond.

STUDENTRECOGNITION

Board President Leandra Sedlack and Board Vice President Patti Essig presented the 7th grade girls basketball, 8th grade boys softball, IMEA participants and LaGrange Art League show winners with certificates for their accomplishments this year.

OPEN FORUM

Gina Nelson informed the administration and Board that LADSE has written the Preschool for All grant for other districts and requested that the district investigate grant opportunities.

ACTION NO. 60Consent Agenda

Motion by Sedlack, seconded by Rigley, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda as consisting of: regular meeting minutes of October 15, 2008; payment of October payroll/November warrants; November 2008 personnel report; Board of Education Record Retention Policy; and 403b retirement plan. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7 ayes (Essig, Houk, Mirabile, Orsic, Rigley, Tegtmeier and Sedlack.)

REPORTS ANDDISCUSSION ITEMS*Academic Goals Status Report Using Standardized Test Data*

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf introduced John Wick to present portions of the testing report. The testing report is available for the community on the district website. Superintendent Fredisdorf presented information showing that the ITBS scores are the highest they have ever been with substantial gains for students going from 6th to 7th and 7th to 8th and 8th to high school. Dr. Wick discussed the goal setting process and talked about how teachers were very eager to set high targets. He felt it was good that they set high targets emphasizing reading comprehension. Reading scores have been going up continually. Grammar and usage will be a focus in the year ahead. This will help students prepare for the ACT test. The grammar section of the ACT has similar content to the ITBS. Math concepts and problem solving are very solid. Math computation improved in grades 6-8 but remained weak in grades 3-5. For the students going from 5th to 6th, scores have gone down. The teachers for the 5th grade have been provided with error data on each 5th grader to determine specific areas of weakness. Kindergarten and grade 1 DIBELS scores were again very strong

with very few students scoring in the “at risk” category. Dr. Fredisdorf commended 1st grade teacher Brent Eldridge and his team for all the hard work they have done. Mr. Eldridge felt that the work the students are doing in Kindergarten involving Orton-Gillingham has helped the students be better prepared for 1st grade.

Audit Report

Bob Horstman of Virchow Krause addressed the Board regarding the audit report. He stated that the district’s financial position is very strong. There were some significant changes in accounting requirements creating a lot of extra work for the district and auditors. According to Mr. Horstman, Pleasantdale has one of the best reports in the area. He discussed that the material weakness comments in the report are the same for all school districts due to the new requirements. There was nothing in the report that the Board needed to take any action on at this time. Some of the new auditing standards will commence in 2010. Superintendent Fredisdorf commended Business Manager Catherine Chang on all her work on the audit report and in managing the budget.

Strategic Planning Report from Core Planning Team

Board member Rick Rigley shared the outcomes of the October 20 and 21 strategic planning meeting. The group came up with the following new strategic objectives and strategies.

Strategic Objectives (New)

By 2014:

*each student will consistently exhibit behaviors that reflect our core values.

*each student will meet or exceed individual academic goals consistent with district academic standards.

*each student will demonstrate the desire, ability, and confidence to pursue and apply new learning.

Strategies (New)

We will:

Evaluate and adjust our communication system to efficiently and effectively convey information to our school community critical to the success of our strategic plan.

Create a system that focuses available resources to elevate our existing curricula so that each student attains our strategic objectives.

Set, monitor and adjust the pace of implementation to preserve the energy and commitment of our staff in order to achieve our strategic objectives and mission.

Objectives and strategies were identified by consensus.

Board member Mark Mirabile stated that he also thought the meeting was very productive and the team felt that there were no major issues in the district at this time. Superintendent Fredisdorf stated that the core values and mission did not change.

Town Hall Meeting Planning

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf discussed the upcoming January 28, 2009 Town Hall Meeting. The Board decided that the Town Hall Meeting will consist of more than one topic.

There will be a welcome and summary of strategic planning to begin the meeting.

Subsequently, there will be two break out sessions on social emotional learning and academic goal predictions.

ACTION NO. 61

Audit Report

Motion by Orsic, seconded by Houk, that the Board of Education approve the FY08 audit report as presented by Robert Horstman. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7 ayes (Essig, Houk, Mirabile, Orsic, Rigley, Tegtmeier and Sedlack.)

ACTION NO. 62

Strategic Plan Update

Motion by Rigley, seconded by Houk, that the Board of Education approve recommendations from the Core Team regarding the strategic plan changes as presented. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried.

NEXT AGENDA Items submitted for the December 2008 agenda included: Tax Levy Hearing; Adopt Tax Levy; Mid-term Superintendent review; Approve State Report Card; Strategic Planning Report; Town Hall Meeting Planning; Five Year Financial Projections; RTI Plan Approval; and District Contract Review.

OPEN FORUM Karen O'Halloran requested more information on the keys in the testing report and questioned why IEP and free and reduced students were broken into other categories on the testing reports.

ACTION NO. 63
Closed Session Motion by Sedlack, seconded by Orsic, that the Board of Education move into closed session at 9:12 p.m. to discuss appointment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call of 7 ayes (Essig, Houk, Mirabile, Orsic, Rigley, Sedlack and Tegtmeier.)

The Board came out of closed session at 10:02 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT The regular meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

App. ___ President *Leandra M. Sedlack* Secretary *Beverly A. Houk*