

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:02 – 10:03 p.m. February 18, 2009

Members Present:

Leandra Sedlack, Presiding Officer

Patti Essig

Lisa Houk

Mark Mirabile

Scot Orsic

Rick Rigley

Beth Tegtmeier

ROLL CALL AND
VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf were staff members Erika Sawosko, Catherine Chang, Maria Smith, Meg Pokorny, Matt Vandercar, Kim Freislinger, Kay Lewellyan, Jim Lucarelli and John McAtee; Elizabeth Hennessey of William Blair, Co.; Kathleen Gorman and Val Nelson of St. John of the Cross; and residents Karen O'Halloran, Donna Polerecky, Elizabeth Turcich, Michael Rak and Gina Nelson.

STUDENT
RECOGNITION

Board Member Mark Mirabile and Rick Rigley presented the 7th and 8th grade boy's basketball conference champions and Jamie Duncan and Collin Thomas who received perfect scores on the EXPLORE test with certificates of recognition from the Board of Education.

STAFF
RECOGNITION

Board Member Mark Mirabile and Rick Rigley presented Jim Lucarelli with a certificate of appreciation for all his hard work this winter keeping the middle school safe for students and staff.

OPEN FORUM

Principal Kathleen Gorman of St. John of the Cross addressed the Board on the district funded bussing and expressed how helpful it has been for the families of St. John of the Cross. She requested that Pleasantdale renew the transportation agreement so that services for St. John of the Cross students would continue.

Elizabeth Turcich, a parent of St. John of the Cross, thanked the Board for providing bussing for the students of St. John of the Cross.

Board Vice President Patti Essig congratulated Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf on the recent birth of his daughter.

ACTION NO. 70
Consent Agenda

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by Rigley, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda as consisting of: regular meeting minutes of January 21, 2009; closed session meeting minutes of January 21, 2009; payment of January payroll/February warrants; Annual Board Report to the Community; and February 2009 Personnel Report. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7 ayes (Essig, Houk, Mirabile, Orsic, Rigley, Tegtmeier and Sedlack.)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Bond Refunding Opportunity

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf explained that bonds from 1996 and 1997 are callable to be refinanced at a lower rate. The Board needs to take advantage at this point to be able to gain about \$160,000 in savings. Superintendent Fredisdorf introduced Elizabeth Hennessy from William Blair and Company who explained that with the interest rates dropping, the district has the opportunity to refinance two series of callable bonds. She presented a report showing the changes in the market and statistics to support refinancing of the 1996 and 1997 bonds. The bonds can be reduced to rates of about 2.5%. The terms and structure of the bonds would remain the same.

Cooperative Transportation Agreement with St. John of the Cross

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf presented the current contract that has been in place since 1998. He also congratulated Kathleen Gorman on her first year at St. John of the Cross as principal. Board President Leandra Sedlack stated that she appreciated that this is on the agenda and thinks that is a great thing to continue. The district currently has 26 St. John's families that are taking advantage of this bus.

Preliminary Discussion of School Calendar

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf presented the school calendar for 2009-2010. The calendar committee met and went through the calendar and compared with LT's calendar. The calendar committee is recommending that the Board approve the 2009-2010 school calendar at the March Board meeting.

Elementary "Action Math" Status Report

Elementary Principal Matt Vandercar presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Action Math program at the elementary school. The program is for students in grades 1 to 4 who have been identified as needing supplemental math instruction. The classes are held before school. Principal Vandercar presented an overview of the criteria to identify students, staff working with the students, instructional techniques and assessments. Board Member Mark Mirabile inquired about tests being used for the new program and parent surveys. Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf stated that a letter will be going out to the parents who are currently in the program requesting their feedback. The program will be reviewed again in July when remedial math is reviewed.

Preliminary Staffing Recommendations

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf presented the staffing recommendations for the 2009-2010 school year. There is no anticipated peak in enrollment that would cause a need for an increase in staff. Enrollment should remain approximately the same.

Follow-up to Town Hall Meeting

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf requested that the Board share their perspective on the Town Hall meeting conducted on January 28, 2009. Board President Leandra Sedlack shared her views on participation and ideas that could be used to increase attendance. Board Member Mark Mirabile felt that the participation is based on the topics presented. Board Member Scot Orisc felt that the district should solicit information from parents to find out topics of interest. Providing childcare for the families and a homework pass for the night may also bring some families out. Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf will incorporate questions on the town hall meeting in the survey that goes out to the parents in the spring.

Middle School Construction Update

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf presented the quote received regarding constructing a brick garage that would match the current façade of the middle school. Board Member Scot Orsic will provide information regarding a metal prefab structure to the administration. The Board directed that additional information be reviewed before making a decision.

Governance and Planning Policy Review (Section 1)

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf explained the change that was needed in section 1.20 and requested comments from the Board on any other changes. Board member Mark Mirabile requested that policy 1.16 and 1.30 have minor changes for consistency purposes in the wording. Mr. Mirabile also requested that the Board review policies related to the Board of Education's role in curriculum approval at the March meeting.

ACTION NO. 69

St. John Transp.

Motion by Essig, seconded by Tegtmeier, that the Board of Education approves the continuation of the Transportation Agreement with St. John of the Cross for the 2009-10 school year. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call of 7 ayes (Essig, Houk, Mirabile, Orsic, Rigley, Sedlack and Tegtmeier.)

ACTION NO. 70

Bond 2009B

Motion by Orsic, seconded by Houk, that the Board of Education approves the Bond Refunding Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$1,300,000 General Obligation Refunding School Bonds, Series 2009B, of School District Number 107, Cook County, Illinois, and for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call of 7 ayes (Essig, Houk, Mirabile, Orsic, Rigley, Sedlack and Tegtmeier.)

ACTION NO. 71

Bond 2009A

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by Orsic, that the Board of Education approves the Bond Refunding Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$1,600,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Refunding School Bonds, Series 2009A, of School District Number 107, Cook County, Illinois, and for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call of 7 ayes (Essig, Houk, Mirabile, Orsic, Rigley, Sedlack and Tegtmeier.)

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the March 2009 agenda included: Approve Board Governance and Planning Policy Section 1; Adopt FY10 School Calendar; Approve Staffing Recommendations; Re-employment of Non-tenure Personnel; Non-renewal of Non-tenured Teachers; and Appointment to Tenure of Eligible Staff Members.

OPEN FORUM

Karen O'Halloran stated that she agreed with Board Member Mark Mirabile regarding the consistency in the wording of the Board policies.

Gina Nelson would like information on the district's plan to update the current math series that is being used and if consideration was made to use some of the math resources that are here in the district.

Board Member Scot Orsic presented a five page documents regarding email exchanges between him and Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf. Mr. Orsic stated that matter concerned information he would like to obtain on the remedial reading program.

ACTION NO. 72

Closed Session

Motion by Essig, seconded by Rigley, that the Board of Education move into closed session at 9:17 p.m. discuss appointment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call of 7 ayes (Essig, Houk, Mirabile, 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

Sandra M. Sedlack

Secretary

Bruce A. Houk