

Board Meeting Highlights

Regular Meeting February 18, 2009

At its regular meeting on February 18, 2009, the Board of Education of Pleasantdale School District 107...

- Student Recognition

Heard from Board Members Mark Mirabile and Rick Rigley who presented the 7th and 8th grade boy's basketball conference champions and 2 students who received perfect scores on the EXPLORE test with certificates of recognition from the Board of Education.

- Staff Recognition

Heard from Board Member Mark Mirabile and Rick Rigley who 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

Heard from Principal Kathleen Gorman of St. John of the Cross who addressed the Board on the district funded busing 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.

Heard from a parent of St. John of the Cross who thanked the Board for providing bussing for the students of St. John of the Cross.

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

- Consent Agenda

Unanimously approved the consent agenda 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 the February 2009 Personnel Report.

Reports and Discussions:

- Bond Refunding Opportunity

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who 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 \$180,000 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 term and structure of the Bonds would remain the same.

- Cooperative Transportation Agreement with St. John of the Cross

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who 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 families that are taking advantage of this bus.

- Preliminary Discussion of School Calendar

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who 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
 Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who 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
 Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who requested that the Board share their perspective on how 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 Orsic 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
 Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who 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. The Board directed that additional information be reviewed before making a decision.
- Governance and Planning Policy Review (Section 1)
 Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who 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.
- Action Items
 Unanimously approved action items regarding the continuation of the Transportation Agreement with St. John of the Cross for the 2009-10 school year; 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; and 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.
- Next Agenda
 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
 Heard from a parent who stated that she agreed with Board Member Mark Mirabile regarding the consistency of the Board policies.

 Heard from a parent who 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.

 Heard from Board Member Scot Orsic who presented a five page letter regarding conversations between him and Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf regarding information he would like to obtain on the remedial reading program.
- Closed Session
 The Board met in closed session from 9:17 – 10:02 p.m. to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel.
- Adjournment
 Adjourned the regular meeting at 10:03 p.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be
 Wednesday, March 18, 2009
 7:00 p.m. in the
 District 107 Administration Building**