

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:00 – 11:29 p.m. April 15, 2009

Members Present:

Leandra Sedlack, Presiding Officer

Patti Essig

Lisa Houk

Mark Mirabile

Scot Orsic

Beth Tegtmeier

Absent:

Rick Rigley

ROLL CALL AND
VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf were staff members Erika Sawosko, Catherine Chang, Maria Smith, Meg Pokorny, Matt Vandercar, Kim Freislinger and Kay Lewellyan; Mike Henderson, STR Partners; Ares Dalianas, Francek, Radet & Rose; and residents Karen O'Halloran, Gina Nelson, Sandra Hannan, Opheila Peroutka, Beth Schwartz, Julie Ryan, Lori Veroeven, Pam Banda, Stan Piskorski and Susan Camba.

STUDENT
RECOGNITION

Board President Leandra Sedlack and Board Member Scot Orsic presented certificates of recognition from the Board of Education for winning West 40's SCOTY award to Austin Graf and Michael Pajkos, and to Kole Sedlack for winning the IESA Scholar Attitude award.

OPEN FORUM

Karen O'Halloran congratulated the incumbents on winning the election and thanked Board member Scot Orsic for his service on the Board. She also stated that the elementary school construction bid was up for approval and expressed her concern that there was no time for the architect to see if there is a less expensive route for the project.

Sandra Hannan stated that after attending her son's reading workshop she'd done extensive research into the many reading programs available. She would like the Board to consider looking into the "The Wilson Reading System" and "The Stevenson Program". She stated that she is grateful for the reading workshop program for struggling students.

Lori Veroeven shared the same feelings regarding the reading program and expressed that it is important to find out who is receiving outside instruction in addition to district reading services. She reported that her son is attending Huntington Learning Center and benefitting from the experience.

ACTION NO. 78
Consent Agenda

Motion by Houk, seconded by Orsic, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda as consisting of: regular meeting minutes of March 18, 2009; closed session meeting minutes of March 18, 2009; payment of March payroll/April warrants; Revised FY09 School Calendar; Amendment to Student/Parent Handbook Pertaining to Electronic Devices on Busses; and Board Policies Relating to Curriculum Approval. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Essig, Houk, Mirabile, Orsic, Tegtmeier, Sedlack) Absent – Rigley.

REPORTS AND
DISCUSSION ITEMSElementary School Construction

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf recommended the Board approve the elementary school construction bid. Mike Henderson from STR Partners explained the steps that took place to develop the plans, estimates, and bids for the elementary school construction project. Since the start of the base project, there were items added including a HVAC upgrade, windows, and flooring. With the additional items, a revised estimate of \$254,000 was done by STR Partners. Construction Solutions' came in as the second lowest bidder at \$236,723 out of 15 bids submitted. The first bidder withdrew because the bid was incomplete. Board President Leandra Sedlack questioned some of the additions and the rationale for adding them. Mr. Henderson explained that doing the additions at a later date would result in greater costs. Board Member Scot Orsic expressed that the renovation would not do anything regarding security and that it is more of a remodel. Board member Mark Mirabile requested more information pertaining to the HVAC and cabinets. Board member Lisa Houk asked Mr. Henderson if he felt that the bids were competitive in the current economy. Mr. Henderson explained that public projects must pay prevailing wages regardless of the economy, however the cost of materials have gone down. He felt that Construction Solutions' bid was very competitive. Business Manager Catherine Chang explained where the additional line item money would come out of the budget.

Math Textbook Adoption

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf explained that the math committee and Curriculum Council have been working together to replace math materials in grades K-7. The publisher chosen is Pearson. The "EnVision" series will be used for grades K through grade 6 on level. Prentice Hall will be used for above level grade 6 and above level grade 7. The Superintendent requested that the Board approve the order now so that training with the teachers can begin immediately. Grade 8 books were upgraded a year ago to align with the high school. The math committee will be meeting on May 18th to adjust the curriculum maps. Additional training may be needed the week before school starts, pending review by representatives from the Curriculum Council. Five major publishers met with the math committee. The decision to choose Pearson was by consensus. Board President Leandra Sedlack requested more information regarding student access to textbooks by electronic means. Board Member, Mark Mirabile requested additional information regarding the Student Edition CD Rom included in the Series.

Remedial Reading Program Review

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf explained the items in the Board packet regarding the remedial reading program. Board Member Scot Orsic asked the Board to share what they felt about the program. Board Vice-President Patti Essig asked about the one on one conferences with the students. Conferencing occurs on a daily basis. Principal Meg Pokorny stated that the students in the middle school will meet with the teacher or in small groups to discuss the materials that they are reading and to assess comprehends skills. Board President Leandra Sedlack asked what criteria are used to see if a student is falling behind or in need of additional help. Board Member Lisa Houk asked if there was any parent training by teachers to help with their students at home and during the summer. The district does offer opportunities such as Orton Gillingham parent night and teachers will talk with the parents to give them strategies to use at home. Board member Mark Mirabile feels that we should have reading lab binders available with all the strategies for anyone who requests to look at them. There was discussion of what could be done during the summer for remedial reading students. Board Vice-President Patti Essig asked if we work with the high school to implement any programs to help the students in the transition from 8th grade to high school. The high school offers programs for 8th graders to attend LT's summer school. Even though summer programs are offered, many students choose not to attend. Board Member Scot

Orsic wanted to know if interim testing was done and do we have a documented curriculum for the remedial reading program. He feels that there are not enough gains and would like to see better gains. The Board felt that their questions had been answered and that they would like to further review it in the near future. The remedial reading program will be looked at again in July.

Board Policy Review of Section 2

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf asked the Board if there were any changes to the policy section 2 that was reviewed in June 2008. Board member Scot Orsic had questions on 2:140 pertaining to “Communications To and From the Board” and 2:70 pertaining to “Vacancies on the School Board- Filling Vacancies”. Superintendent Fredisdorf was directed to determine if these policies are up to date.

Review Service Provider Bids/Contracts

Business Manager Catherine Chang stated she had requested proposals from six auditing firms for services. Only four firms provided proposals. Our current auditor, Virchow Krause, provided the lowest proposal for services at \$17,000. It is Business Manager Catherine Chang’s recommendation that the Board approve the proposal to stay with Virchow Krause for the next school year. Business Manager Catherine Chang reviewed the list of contracts up for approval at the May Board meeting. Board Member Scot Orsic would like to see if there was anything that could be done about the fuel surcharge regarding the transportation contract with First Student.

ACTION NO. 79

ES Construction

Motion by Houk, seconded by Mirabile, that the Board of Education approves the Elementary school construction bid submitted by Construction Solutions’ for \$236,723. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 ayes (Essig, Houk, Mirabile, Tegtmeier, Sedlack), 1 nay (Orsic), Absent – Rigley.

ACTION NO. 80

Textbook Adoption

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by Orsic, that the Board of Education approves the math materials purchase as submitted. Voice vote. Motion carried.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the April Organizational Meeting and May 2009 agenda include:
 (Organizational Meeting, April 29): Election of President, Vice President and Secretary; Appointment of Recording Secretary; Establish Regular Meeting Day, Time and Place; Readopt Board of Education Policy Manual; Appointment of IASB Representative; New Board Orientation.
 (Regular Meeting, May 20): Curriculum Council Status Report; Strategic Planning Status Report; Approve Section 2 Board Policy Changes; Grade 1 Job Share Proposal; Approve Milk Bid and Fees; Approve Paper Bid; Approve Hot Lunch Contract Renewal; Appointment of Auditor; Approve Cleaning Service Contract; Information on Textbooks and Home Access; Math Action Parent Feedback (written); and Administrative and Confidential Employee Contracts.

OPEN FORUM

Julie Ryan inquired whether students in the remedial reading program attended preschool. She felt students who have IEP's are receiving services and the ones who don't might be falling through the cracks. Her child is not able to receive outside services due to financial reasons.

Gina Nelson congratulated all the winners on the Board and thanked Board Member Scot Orsic for his service to the Board. She stated that the elementary office windows face east, not south. The parent further expressed that there may be too many students in remedial reading.

Lori Veroeven inquired about the number of her student on the remedial reading example. She expressed approval to share with the Board his scores and how she helped her student improve. She offered her son to be tracked and volunteered his records to use as a sample.

ACTION NO. 81

Closed Session

Motion by Essig, seconded by Sedlack, that the Board of Education move into closed session at 9:17 p.m. to discuss appointment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel and pending litigation. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call of 6 ayes (Houk, Mirabile, Orsic, Sedlack and Tegtmeier.) Absent – Rigley.

The Board came out of closed session at 11:27 p.m.

ACTION NO. 82

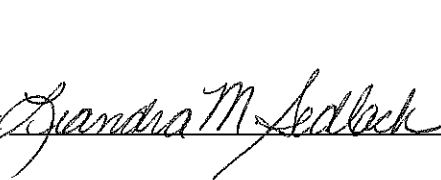
Personnel Report

Motion by Houk, seconded by Orsic, that the Board of Education approves the April 2009 Personnel Report as presented. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Essig, Houk, Mirabile, Orsic, Tegtmeier, Sedlack) Absent – Rigley.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 11:29 p.m.

App. ___ President



Secretary

