

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting                      Administration Building                      6:03 – 8:07 p.m.                      June 8, 2010

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Members Present:

Leandra Sedlack, Presiding Officer

Patti Essig

Lisa Houk

Karen O'Halloran

Rick Rigley

Beth Tegtmeier

Absent:

Mark Mirabile

ROLL CALL AND  
VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf was staff member Erika Sawosko and facilitator Theresa Arpin.

DISCUSSION ITEMSWelcome

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf introduced Theresa Arpin as facilitator. Theresa is a retired administrator from Grand Rapids, Michigan who now works as a full time facilitator. Board President Leandra Sedlack thanked Theresa on behalf of the Board for coming to facilitate the meeting.

Board Self Evaluation

Theresa Arpin reviewed the Board's answers to the Board Self Evaluation. The following topics were discussed.

**Board Members**

Board Member Patti Essig shared her perspective that when the Board has come to consensus on a issue, at times the issue will come up again even though a decision had been made with consensus in the past. This may occur as members change and new members bring up items that have been discussed in the past. Board President Leandra Sedlack expressed she would like to see the Board work as a whole and not get side tracked with the concerns of just one individual or small group. Individual Board members should not be a conduit for community members to advance personal agendas to the Board. Board Member Beth Tegtmeier stated that Board members must remember that they are a member of the Board and refrain from engaging in conversations regarding school opinions of others who might have passionate feelings regarding certain items. Board President Leandra Sedlack expressed a desire to strengthen public confidence in the Board and district leadership when face to face discussions occur with community members. Board member Patti Essig suggested the Board show a better sense of unity when decisions are made. The Board reviewed their procedures for adding items to future agendas. The Board was encouraged to contact Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf about questions regarding information forwarded to the Board.

**Meetings of the Board**

There was discussion regarding how items are placed on the agenda. The practice of discussing whether to include an item on an upcoming agenda through a straw poll at the end of a meeting is working. There was discussion about reminding the community members about the appropriate person/process for addressing different concerns as all items may not be appropriate for Board discussion.

**Vision and Planning**

There was discussion about the importance of representing the community and providing educational leadership. There was agreement that it will be important to revitalize support for the strategic plan as the work in curriculum and assessment continues.

**Policy**

Board members expressed a desire to gather more input on new or revised policy. The Board will investigate designating policy that is being revised on the website in a manner that allows community input prior to adoption.

**Board/Superintendent Relations**

Board members reaffirmed delegating authority to the superintendent to implement policies. It was acknowledged that if the Board is clear on its policy role, the authority to conduct operations belongs to the superintendent. There may not always be agreement on how operations are conducted.

**What members value most about this Board and its work**

The following comments were made:

- Hard working Board,
- Maintaining focus,
- Our hearts are in it
- We are able to disagree
- Feel comfortable and trust others
- We are fiscally sound, not cutting
- The Board supports the curriculum work
- We have opportunities to continue to learn

**What members would most like to change about this Board**

- Some feel a small group of the public perpetrate a negative impression of the Board
- Some Board conversations may appear confrontational and cause individuals to refrain from commenting

**The Board identified the following areas where changes could be made (just do it)**

- Improve the process of input on policy by formalizing input process (perhaps using web to gather some input)
- Continuing to inform public of chain of command by defining who to seek out for answers on particular issues. The Board brochure should be reviewed and redistributed.
- Revitalize the strategic plan with the community to garner ongoing support.
- Continuing to learn/develop as a Board by attending training through the IASB.

Board/Superintendent/District Goals 2010-11

Theresa Aprin asked the Board to brainstorm potential goals for next year. After discussion, it was decided that there would be two district goals in the areas of Communication and Curriculum. The Board will refine goals at the June, July and August Board meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

App. \_\_ President Leandra M. Sedbeck Secretary Lisa Hawk