

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:00 – 9:18 p.m. March 17, 2010

Members Present:

Leandra Sedlack, Presiding Officer
Patti Essig
Lisa Houk
Mark Mirabile
Karen O'Halloran
Rick Rigley
Beth Tegtmeier

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf were staff members Erika Sawosko, Meg Pokorny, Catherine Chang, Kim Freislinger, Matt Vandercar, Jeanne Williamson, Maureen Olsen, Michelle Neuberg, Laura Senft, Jeanine O'Connor and Lori McCarter; and residents Erik Thorell, Linda Thorell, Scot Orsic, Diane Norris and Gina Nelson.

STAFF RECOGNITION

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf and Board Members Patti Essig and Rick Rigley who presented LADSE employee Laura Senft, school psychologist, a certification of appreciation from the Board of Education due to the large amount of extra activities she has taken on to help support the parents and students of Pleasantdale.

OPEN FORUM

Gina Nelson commented about the highlights from the past month, claiming that former Board members suggested the Bright Beginnings/extended day kindergarten program be discontinued if it could not sustain itself financially. The parent clarified that she agreed it should be discontinued. Also, she wanted it noted that she tapes Board meetings.

ACTION NO. 36
Consent Agenda

Motion by O'Halloran, seconded by Tegtmeier, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda as amended consisting of: regular meeting minutes of January 20, 2010; regular meeting minutes of February 17, 2010; closed session meeting minutes of February 17, 2010; payment of February payroll/March warrants; Annual Board Report to the community; appointment of Board member Rick Rigley as Board of Education representative for contract negotiations; external actuarial service provider required by GASB45; and Pleasant Dale Park District before and after school program agreement. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call of 7 ayes (Essig, Houk, Mirabile O'Halloran, Rigley, Sedlack and Tegtmeier).

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Review of Financial Auditing Request for Proposals

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf discussed the results of the request for proposal (RFP) process for both auditing and writing external financial reports. Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, the district's current auditor, came in the lowest for auditing services at \$12,000. Only one firm, Legacy Professional, submitted an RFP for writing external financial reports at a cost of \$16,000 to \$17,000. Board member Rick Rigley suggested that the RFP process be repeated for external financial reports that would include other firms potentially interested in submitting a proposal. Board member Mark Mirabile suggested trying other non-school auditing firms. The Board directed the administration to solicit additional RFPs for writing financial reports to be considered at the April meeting.

Discussion of Items for Future Agenda Consideration (Bright Beginnings/Extended Day Kindergarten Cost Analysis, Future Continuance of Bright Beginnings and Extended Day Kindergarten, and Review of Extended Day Kindergarten Curriculum)

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf discussed the Board's interest in adding the following items to a future Board agenda: Bright Beginnings/Extended Day Kindergarten Cost Analysis, Continuance of Bright Beginnings and Extended Day Kindergarten, and Review of Extended Day Kindergarten Curriculum. Superintendent Fredisdorf asked that the conditions of satisfaction for each item be specific if any of the items were to be added to a future agenda. Board member Mark Mirabile shared with the Board that that Finance committee is reviewing existing methodology for computing indirect costs currently used for all programs. The Board felt they would wait until May for the recommendation from the Finance committee on the methodology for computing indirect costs. Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf reiterated that he is not recommending discontinuing the Bright Beginnings/Extended Day Kindergarten programs. There was not sufficient interest on the Board to add a future agenda item on whether to discontinue the Bright Beginnings and extended day Kindergarten programs. It was the consensus of the Board that Kindergarten curriculum should be the work of the curriculum council. Recommendations for curriculum changes to the extended day Kindergarten program should come from the curriculum council.

OMA (Open Meetings Act) Designation Discussion

Board Secretary Lisa Houk and Board member Karen O'Halloran expressed their interest in being OMA designees. Board member Patti Essig requested being able to take the training, but was not interested in being named a designee.

LADSE Articles of Agreement Revisions

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf discussed the new State of Illinois legislation that was voted in last year pertaining to special education cooperatives. LADSE (LaGrange Area Department of Special Education) has a Board consisting of 17 superintendents from member districts who reviewed the revised Articles of Agreement with Dana Cromley of Franczek Radolet on March 3, 2010. Legal counsel informed the LADSE Board that all 17 Boards of Education would need to approve the amended Articles of Agreement. Failure of any of the districts to approve the revisions would result in a forfeiture of federal IDEA Part B funding. The majority of LADSE's funding is from federal IDEA Part B funding.

Grade 1 Job Share Proposal

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf shared with the Board that there are 42 families interested in the Grade 1 job share option for next year. This is enough students to create classes that would be balanced. Board Secretary Lisa Houk shared that she was able to attend one of the parent meetings where she heard current grade 1 parents express their extreme satisfaction with the program.

ACTION NO. 37

OMA Designee

Motion by Rigley, seconded by Mirabile, that the Board of Education appoint Board Secretary Lisa Houk and Board member Karen O'Halloran as additional OMA designees for the district. Voice vote. Motion carried.

ACTION NO. 38

Grade 1 Job Share

Motion by O'Halloran, seconded by Rigley, that the Board of Education approve continuation of the grade 1 job share option in 2010-11 with teachers Lucy Leone-Arroyo and Judy Sarwark. Voice vote. Motion carried.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the April 2010 agenda include:
Revise FY 10 Calendar; Approve LADSE Articles of Agreement Revisions; Review Service Contracts; Review School Board (sec. 2) Board Policies; Organizational Meeting; Election of President, Vice President and Secretary; Appointment of Recording Secretary; Establish Regular Meeting Day, Time and location; Readopt Board of Education Policy Manual; PTAB Resolution Discussion; Review RFP Proposals; and Follow-up to National Board Convention.

OPEN FORUM

Gina Nelson requested that the staffing report be reviewed from a past Board meeting regarding the number of nurses and instructional aides.

Scot Orsic was interested in the discussion of the Bright Beginnings program. He recommended that future analysis of preschool and extended day kindergarten consider external services students receive such as tutoring or attendance at a separate preschool. He also suggested the Board should review the financial impact made by the last increase on Bright Beginnings and extended day kindergarten fees.

ACTION NO. 39

Closed Session

Motion by Essig, seconded by Rigley, that the Board of Education move into closed session at 8:22 p.m. to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel; and contract negotiations. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Board came out of closed session at 9:16 p.m.

ACTION NO. 40

Personnel Report

Motion by Rigley, seconded by O’Halloran, that the Board of Education approve the March 2010 Personnel Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call of 7 ayes (Essig, Houk, Mirabile O’Halloran, Rigley, Sedlack and Tegtmeier).

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

App. ___ President *Shandra M. Sedlack* Secretary *Lisa A. Houk*