

REVISED MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Middle School Library 7:00 p.m. – 2:02 a.m. December 20, 2006

Members Present:

Sandra Hannan, Presiding Officer
Patti Essig
Barbara Lamb
Mark Mirabile
Scot Orsic
Rosaria Becker
Leandra Sedlack

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf were staff members Mary Ann Molina, Catherine Chang, Meg Pokorny, Matt Vandercar, Kim Freislinger, Maria Smith, Ruth Burke, and Maureen Olsen; visitor Larry Heidemann of StratPlan Consulting, and resident Dianne Norris.

MOTION NO. 31

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by Lamb, that the Board of Education declares the tax levy hearing open at 7:03 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

In her presentation to the Board, Catherine Chang stated that based on the 2006 CPI figures, residents can expect an average 3.4% increase in property taxes assessed for District 107 school operations.

Motion by Hannan, seconded by Orsic, that the Board of Education declares the tax levy hearing closed at 7:08 p.m.

ACTION NO. 32

Tax Levy Adoption

Motion by Lamb, seconded by Hannan, that the Board of Education adopts the 2006 tax levy as presented in the public hearing and authorizes the President and Secretary of the Board to sign all appropriate documents. Voice vote, Motion carried.

ACTION NO. 33

Tax Levy Resolution

Motion by Lamb, seconded by Hannan, that the Board of Education adopts a Resolution to direct the Cook County Clerk in the event the school district exceeds the tax cap limitation: working cash (100%), and Life Safety (as needed). Voice vote. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Hannan, seconded by Becker, that the Board of Education approves the consent agenda consisting of the regular meeting minutes and closed session minutes of November 15; payment of November payroll and December warrants; Virchow Krause & Co. as FY06 auditor, and the December 2006 Personnel Report. Motion carried by roll call of 7 ayes (Hannan, Becker, Essig, Lamb, Mirabile, Orsic and Sedlack.) Approval of the gym floor bid was removed from the consent agenda to gather additional information prior to a vote at the January 2007 Board of Education meeting.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONSFinancial Projections

Mr. Larry Heidemann of StratPlan Consulting presented preliminary financial projections models. This was the Board's first opportunity to respond to the models created by Mr. Heidemann. The models took into account the most recent Kasarda enrollment projections, class size, inflation, and estimated

revenues/expenditures. Mr. Heidemann noted that the Savoy Club and Burr Ridge Town Center will have a sizeable impact on district revenues, but anticipates a delay in receipt of the revenues. The Board will again have an opportunity to discuss/refine the final projections model(s) at its February meeting.

Cost Accounting

The Board discussed the proposed cost accounting methodology developed by Board members Barbara Lamb, Rosaria Becker, Business Manager Catherine Chang, and Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf. The discussion centered on direct/indirect costs. Administrative costs will be spread according to the percentage of direct expenses spent on a particular program. This item will be a discussion item in February 2007.

Standardized Testing

The Board received a report from Dr. Mark Fredisdorf regarding ITBS and DIBELS test results (excluded were spring ISAT results which are still not available from state). In summary, the results show:

- a. 9% of grade 1 students in “at risk” category of DIBELS – goal is to reduce below 5% by May 2007
- b. 4 of 7 cohorts (e.g. grade 2, 3, etc.) scored above the 75% target in reading and math
- c. Grade 3, 4, and 6 students, as a group, exceeded predicted scores
- d. Overall trend is for cohorts to improve academic performance from 2005-06 to 2006-07.

Dr. Fredisdorf addressed questions from the Board regarding the accuracy of comparison student data (2005 NPR compared to 2006 NPR) and concerns regarding cohorts whose longitudinal scores do not show an increase although they are performing at a grade level equivalency higher than their predicted.

Elementary/Middle School Improvement Plans

Improvement plans were presented by Principals Matt Vandercar and Meg Pokorny for their respective schools.

Middle School:

Mrs. Pokorny’s presentation included growth patterns evidenced by ITBS and Gates test scores. Explore scores for the class of 2006 were 17.6 (total language), 16.1 (total reading), 17.9 (total math), and 17.9 (total science). The highest possible score is 25. Actions being taken to improve reading are:

- Reading workshop classes at each grade level involving a total of 35 students
- *Tools for Teaching Content Literacy* book given to all exploratory and content-area teachers for discussion and implementation of ideas
- L.A. teachers focus on Guided Reading as an instructional technique
- Guided reading library established for all grade levels
- Teachers read/discuss chapters of *When Kids Can’t Read* and share ideas for implementation

Actions taken to improve science include

- Realignment of curriculum with most recent Explore test goals
- Revised grade 8 science curriculum to include additional interpretation of charts and graphs
- Emphasis on charts/graphs expanded to math and social studies areas

Actions taken to improve math include

- Math teacher available for lunchtime “math lab”
- Math teachers working on how to better teach extended response writing in math for standardized testing
- District math assessments revised and reviewed regularly at department meetings

Elementary School:

According to Mr. Vandercar, the classroom buddy system, Eagle Way/Eagle’s Nest behavior plan, guided reading program, Orton Gillingham methods, Write Stuff, and Jr. Great Books are some of the strategies in place to improve student behavior and academic performance. Approximately, four students per class (60 total) are taken from Spanish class to attend reading labs. Literacy teams have been established and all teachers are committed to making reading a priority. Math also continues to be a priority.

Academic Goal Proposal

Superintendent Fredisdorf presented the academic goals committee’s proposal to accomplish Superintendent Goal #3 of generating appropriate targets for standardized test scores that will achieve mission objective based on data analysis. The committee reviewed various software products. The proposal recommended an independent audit of ITBS and ISAT test data for the past 5 years. The audit will also include as much Explore data as can be obtained from LTHS. This testing data can then be used as the basis for establishing future academic targets. The committee also recommended that Dr. John Wick be retained to conduct the audit at a fee of \$9500. Dr. Wick will present his report to the Board in February or March. It is the intention to recommend 2007-08 academic achievement targets in May 2007 and adopt the actual goals in June 2007.

Board Protocols

The Board discussed additional protocols proposed by Board members Scot Orsic and Mark Mirabile. They were:

1. Board member Orsic stated his belief that protocol 4 (Board members will support actions taken by the Board) has the “capability to limit information presented to the public. I believe that Board members have a responsibility to provide the community all viewpoints when dealing with issues that will ultimately be determined by a community vote. If a Board member has a dissenting vote to a particular issue such as a tax rate increase or extension this provision restricts that member’s ability to present alternative points of view for the community to consider.”

2. Board member Mirabile stated that

- “a reply, either from the BOE or approved by the BOE, will be provided for all comments/questions from community members who have addressed the BOE either during Open Forum of a BOE meeting or via written or electronic communication directed to the BOE where reply is requested or deemed necessary by the BOE. Should the comment/question be vague in

nature, or the request for a reply be unclear, the BOE reserves the right to request clarification.”

- “Communication to the BOE, delivered, in final delivery format, by 12 PM (noon) on Friday of each week to the Pleasantdale School District Office, shall be delivered in the Friday packet delivered to the BOE on that same day. All communications not delivered in a final delivery format, may be delayed to allow for duplication.”
- “All U.S. Mail, delivered to and received by the Pleasantdale School District, and, addressed individually to any or all BOE members, must be delivered in next available Friday Packet in same format as it was received.”

Mr. Orsic’s proposal included discussion items such as an individual Board member’s right to campaign against a split-decision of the Board that is subject to a public vote, a Board member’s right to explain their voting decision, and their position as a community member that may differ from their position as a Board member. This proposal was informally rejected by the Board of Education.

Mr. Mirabile’s proposal included discussion items such as appropriate procedures for Board of Education response to community members and whether pre-approval should be required by all Board members or Board president only. One recommendation was to create audience participation guidelines that would clarify the process of and follow-up for comments heard during open forum.

Board Communications

Board member Rosaria Becker reiterated her belief that the Board of Education should institute a vehicle or avenues for communicating with the public. She suggested discussion focus groups structured so that the Board could gather community input. It was pointed out that the PTA will be holding a BOE candidates night in the spring, and that the principals host a breakfast every other month during the school year. Board member Leandra Sedlack pointed out that Board communications had been selected as a priority of the Board when the Board chose the topics for its retreat. Mrs. Sedlack further stated that the BOE had not yet fully addressed the entire communications report resulting from the Board’s retreat.

Joint Conference Sharing

Board Members Rosaria Becker, Patti Essig, and Leandra Sedlack briefly informed other Board members of the workshops they attended at the Joint Conference in November.

Strategic Planning Report Format

The Board reviewed the proposed format developed for reporting strategic planning progress. There seemed to be a desire resonating from the Board to provide further conciseness in the form of a one or two page document.

ACTION NO. 34 Strategic Planning

Motion by Lamb, seconded by Becker, that the Board of Education approve the formation of the Academic Goals Committee to assist with the accomplishment of goal 3. Voice vote. Motion carried.

ACTION NO. 35 Motion by Hannan, seconded by Mirabile, that the Board of Education approve
Acceptable Use revisions to the Acceptable Use Policies for students and staff. Voice vote.
Motion carried.

ACTION NO. 36 Motion by Hannan, seconded by Mirabile, that the Board of Education approve
Academic Goals the academic goals proposal (goal #3) as presented, including a \$9,500
Proposal expenditure to retain the services of Dr. John Wick to audit testing data for the
past five years. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call of 7 ayes (Hannan,
Becker, Essig, Lamb, Mirabile, Orsic and Sedlack.)

NEXT AGENDA Construction Update, Approval of Procurement Card, Preliminary Discussion
of School Calendar, Preliminary Staffing Recommendations, Bright Beginnings
Program/Extended Day Kindergarten Written Evaluation, Board Self-
Evaluation, Financial Projections and Cost Accounting Status Report

WRITTEN REPORTS The Board received written reports on middle school construction progress and
an interim status report on Remedial Reading Program.

ACTION NO. 37 Motion by Mirabile, seconded by Lamb, that the Board of Education move
Closed Session into closed session at 11:50 p.m. to consider information regarding the
superintendent's interim performance review. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Motion by Hannan, seconded by Orsic, that the Board of Education move out
of closed session at 2:02 a.m. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call of 7
ayes (Hannan, Becker, Essig, Lamb, Mirabile, Orsic and Sedlack.)

ADJOURNMENT The regular meeting adjourned at 2:02 a.m.

App. ___ President _____ Secretary _____