

**Official Minutes of the Monday, February 23, 2015  
Board of Education Meeting**

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- Call to Order** The Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 59 in County of Cook, State of Illinois, held a meeting in accordance with provisions of the Open Meetings Act, according to Illinois law, at the District 59 Administration Center, 2123 South Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois on Monday, February 23, 2015. President Roberts called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Roll Call** **Members Present:** President Sharon Roberts and Vice-President Janice Krinsky. Members Brian Kiel, Seana McPherson, Mardell Schumacher and Barbara Somogyi.  
**Member Absent:** Karen Osmanski.
- Others** Superintendent, Dr. Arthur Fessler; Associate Superintendent, Tom Luedloff; Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Ruth Gloede; Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, Veronica Lake; Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Maureen McAbee; Assistant Superintendent for Innovation and Communication, Ben Grey; Executive Director of Human Resources, Kelley Zerbahs; Executive Director of Facilities and Operations, Tony Rossi; Translator, Nancy Torres; and Recording Secretary, Betsy Boswell.
- Also Present** Eydie Cohen, DEA; David Pohlmeier, Coordinator of Communications and Design; Christy Prikkel, Director of Fiscal Services; Cathy Savage and Travis Hodges, ISS; Susan Ejma, Principal of Juliette Low School; Mary Beth Niles, Principal of John Jay School; Meg Weickert, Principal of Forest View School; Rob Bohanek, Principal, Holmes Jr. High; Randy Haack, Coordinator of Assessment; Matt Legg, Rupley; Sunil Bhave, Board of Education candidate.
- Pledge of Allegiance** The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was completed.  
Mr. Kiel agreed to serve as secretary pro tempore.
- AUDIENCE RECESS** Mrs. Roberts welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if anyone wished to address the Board of Education. No one came forward.
- BOARD REPORTS** Mrs. Roberts reported attending the Arlington Heights Hearts of Gold dinner and award presentation on Saturday evening, where Ms. Krinsky was honored as Volunteer of the Year.  
Mrs. Somogyi reported attending a Vision 20/20 conference. She distributed materials to Board members from the conference. She noted there were representatives from 330 school districts there to support Vision 20/20, a multi-organizational movement to improve education in Illinois. She stated the conference might become an annual event.  
Mrs. Schumacher stated our District is fortunate to have Mrs. Somogyi as an IASB director.

Ms. Krinsky reported she attended a District 59 Education Foundation meeting. The Foundation is sponsoring a Star Event entitled “District 59 Has Talent”. The funds raised will allow the Foundation to resume awarding grants. Ms. Krinsky also reported attending the following events: Biliteracy training; PLT session at Holmes; Donors’ Choose grant award event at Juliette Low; PLT meeting at Ridge; UbD training; Climate Change student presentation at Harper. She also read to students at Byrd School.

Mrs. Roberts stated she also attended the UbD training with Andy Green and felt she obtained a better understanding of what we require of our teachers. She stated she would be attending the Climate Change presentation at Harper on Wednesday.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **2015/16 TECHNOLOGY E-RATE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

Mr. Grey reported the District has utilized eRate funding for many years, but in the past the funds were primarily for bandwidth expansion and access to the Internet. He stated the FCC had recently rebuilt the eRate program to focus on connecting students to the Internet. Districts can now use more of eRate funds for hardware. He stated the contracts needed to be finalized by the end of March.

Mr. Grey stated there were two areas of focus to the proposal: wireless expansion and switch/network consolidation. He stated that as the tech budget is updated we need to take advantage of eRate discounts that are currently 74% but could rise to near 80%. These funds are available now with no guarantee they will be available later. This is a good opportunity for our District.

Mrs. Roberts thanked Mr. Grey for his presentation and asked who had helped to advise him on eRate procedures.

Mr. Grey stated Mrs. Savage, Mrs. Prikkel and Mr. Hodges had all worked together to assist with the details of the proposal.

Mrs. Prikkel stated there were dramatic changes to eRate from previous years, noting the phasing out of telephone discounts. These expenses would have to be picked up by the District.

### **2015/16 TRADITIONAL AND RIDGE BALANCED CALENDARS**

Ms. Zerfahs stated she was busy finalizing the 2015/16 school year calendars but needed the pleasure of the Board regarding student attendance on Election Day. She noted the calendars would be brought to the Board for approval at the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Ms. Zerfahs stated she had met with 30 staff members and they recommended no student attendance on election days. Ms. Cohen verified that staff members support no student attendance on these days. She also noted that local police departments urge schools be closed to students on election days.

Mrs. Schumacher stated she had already made her position clear on this issue. She stated it is our duty to encourage kids to observe voting in the schools. She stated our schools are safe, often safer than the student's homes. She noted she did not want to see our schools turned into fortresses that keep the community out.

Mrs. Schumacher stated it bothered her that the state could mandate schools as polling places and then recommend closing schools to students. She stated they should not be telling us how to run our schools. She stated there was not enough pride in our country because Americanism had been replaced by multiculturalism.

Mr. Kiel noted that students were taught about Veterans Day and asked if we had curriculum for teaching students about the election process.

Ms. Zurfahs stated many of our schools hold mock elections. She also noted the students had voted on their new school mascots.

Mrs. McPherson stated she had given this issue a good deal of thought and was excited to hear that students might not be in attendance on election days. She stated she had wanted to bring her children with her when she voted and would be able to do that if they were not in class.

Mrs. Somogyi asked how many schools were used as polling places and suggested they refuse to hold elections in their buildings.

Mr. Luedloff stated the District cannot refuse school use for voting unless there is another public building close by that could be used.

Mrs. Somogyi stated it was sad that we have to secure our buildings-that the state of the world is ridiculous with all the terror threats. She stated she wished we could open our buildings to the community rather than locking the public out.

Dr. Fessler stated we want the safest possible environment for our students. We need to pay attention to the experts who are telling us to close schools to students on election days. We must be responsible and heed their warnings.

Ms. Krinsky agreed that we need to make sure our kids are kept safe.

Mrs. Schumacher stated that if the Board agrees to close schools to students on election days then we need to be sure we are teaching civics to our students.

**ACTION  
ITEMS**

**VISION 20/20**

**MOTION**

by Ms. Krinsky, seconded by Mrs. Somogyi, to adopt the following resolution:

*WHEREAS*, public education plays a defining role in ensuring equal opportunity for the children in Illinois and throughout the United States; and

*WHEREAS*, it is our collective duty to ensure that every student, no matter his or her demographic or geographic identity, has equal access to a quality education; and

*WHEREAS*, though we reject the notion that public education is currently failing, we believe that strides need to be made to continually improve our public education system; and

*WHEREAS*, there have been four areas of prioritization identified as integral in improving our public schools: Shared Accountability, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning, Highly Effective Educators, and Equitable and Adequate Funding; and

*WHEREAS*, Shared Accountability should address: providing a greater role in State education governance by practicing educators, implementing a differentiated accountability system recognizing the diversity of each individual school district, and abating and restructuring unfunded mandates on local school districts; and

*WHEREAS*, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning should address: developing the “whole child” educationally instead of only focusing on the assessment of all students in a narrow scope of test scores in math and science, preserving instructional time for the best use of teacher/student interaction, investing in Early Childhood Education, linking students to college and careers, and expanding equity in technology access; and

*WHEREAS*, Highly Effective Educators should address: recruiting and retaining high-impact educators, and providing relevant professional development for teachers and administrators; and

*WHEREAS*, Equitable and Adequate Funding should address: providing funding to school districts based on the local need, stabilizing State budgets, generally, and education funding specifically, and enhancing school district flexibility to increase financial efficiency; and

*WHEREAS*, it is imperative that any education improvement proposal for comprehensive change must be developed and supported by not only the education community, but in collaboration with parents, communities, businesses, and others whose priorities reflect the best interests of the students; therefore

*BE IT RESOLVED* that the CCSD59 Board of Education joins with the Illinois Association of School Administrators, Illinois Association of School Boards, Illinois Principals’ Association, Illinois Association of School Business Officials, Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents, and the Superintendents’ Commission for the Study of Demographics and Diversity in supporting the Vision 20/20 education improvement proposal; and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that the CCSD59 Board of Education urges the Illinois General Assembly to approve the necessary legislative changes to implement the recommendations under the four pillars of education improvement as contained in the Vision 20/20 document.

Approved this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2015 by Roll Call Vote



