

**Official Minutes of the Monday, October 27, 2014  
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, October 27, 2014. President Pro Tempore Somogyi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Roll Call** **Members Present:** Brian Kiel, Seana McPherson, Mardell Schumacher and Barbara Somogyi.  
**Member Absent:** Janice Krinsky, Karen Osmanski and Sharon Roberts.
- 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 Zerfahs; Executive Director of Facilities and Operations, Tony Rossi; and Recording Secretary, Betsy Boswell.
- Also Present** Eydie Cohen, DEA; David Pohlmeier, Coordinator of Communications and Design; Christy Prikkel, Director of Fiscal Services; Jan Fisher, Purchasing and School Nutrition; Ralph Kahly, Transportation and Internal Services; Enza Papeck, Director of Social Emotional Learning; Rachel Solomon and Dan Allaway, Clearmont School; Linda Buniak, Ridge Family Canter for Learning; Larry Ganan, Salt Creek School; Mary Ellen Esser and Emily Woemmel, Admiral Byrd School; Melissa Ward, Coordinator of Early Childhood Learning; Jackie Kiem, Friendship Jr. High; Yesenia Esparza-LaFronza, Juliette Low School; Jessica Shook, Paige Bending and Kellie Franke, Harper College.
- Mrs. Somogyi was appointed President Pro Tempore and Mr. Kiel as Secretary Pro Tempore.
- Mrs. Somogyi announced, if there was no objection, there would be no closed session tonight.
- Pledge of Allegiance** The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was completed.
- AUDIENCE RECESS** Mrs. Somogyi welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if anyone wished to address the Board of Education. No one came forward.
- BOARD REPORTS** Mrs. McPherson reported attending the first staff appreciation lunch at Clearmont School, stating it was very nice.
- Mrs. Schumacher reported attending the North Cook Division fall meeting, along with Mrs. Somogyi, Mr. Kiel and Dr. Fessler. She also reported attending the District 214 ELL program.

Mrs. Somogyi reported that as a board member of IASB she would be touching base with North Cook Board members to survey any needs they might have.

Mrs. McPherson reported attending the Grant Wiggins workshop, stating she found it helpful in gaining a better understanding of the work the District has undertaken. Mrs. McPherson also reported attending a Town Hall meeting regarding Senate Bill 16, where local legislators and educators discussed problems with the bill.

Mrs. Schumacher reported attending, along with Mrs. Somogyi, the parent tech night at Grove Jr. High.

Dr. Fessler encouraged the Board to attend the spring North Cook meeting to hear the scheduled speaker, Mawi Asgedom.

**SPECIAL  
INTEREST**

**FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN**

**TOPICS**

Dr. Fessler announced tonight's presentation was Part 1 of a three-part presentation on Full Day Kindergarten (FDK).

Mr. Luedloff stated the Superintendent Leadership Team, Mrs. Prikkel and Mr. Haack had gathered data for the presentation. He stated tonight's presentation would focus on the "why" of FDK.

Mr. Luedloff stated the whys of FDK were: aligns with Board focus on early intervention; provides direct intervention to at-risk students; provides the opportunity to close the achievement gap; aligns with research on impacting early learner achievement; provides equity for all students.

Mr. Luedloff noted the District had provided FDK for several years at Ridge, John Jay and in the Salt Creek Dual Language program. Also, special education students in the ELS & LOP programs have full day kindergarten. He noted there had been ongoing discussions about FDK with the Board and the community, as well as feedback from teachers and parents. He indicated the kindergarten program for the 2014/15 school year was as follows: 297 FDK students in Title I schools; 71 FDK students in choice programs; 15 FDK special education students; and 313 students are in ½ day kindergarten programs.

Mr. Luedloff presented 10 years of student demographics, noting the increase in the ELL and low-income populations. He reviewed District 59 kindergarten data. He noted a significant gap between low-income and non-low-income students. He stated most low-income students come to kindergarten with no preschool experience. He stated there also were achievements gaps between ELL and non-ELL students as well as Special Ed and Gen Ed students. He stated FDK would help to fill these gaps.

Mr. Luedloff stated research showed FDK would increase staffing costs and create space needs. FDK would also provide additional social emotional opportunities. He stated the national percentage of kindergarteners in full-day programs had nearly tripled over the last 30+ years, and that many local school

districts already offer FDK. He pointed out the benefits of FDK for students, teachers and families, including more individual time with teachers, more opportunities for social/emotional time, and more time for teachers to differentiate instruction.

Mr. Kiel asked if all District at-risk students were currently in FDK.

Mr. Luedloff indicated approximately 40% of our low-income (considered at-risk) were not enrolled in FDK.

Mrs. McPherson asked if data for at-risk vs. non-at-risk FDK students had been compared.

Mr. Luedloff stated he could pull that data together.

Mrs. Schumacher asked how much money the district received in Title I funding.

Mrs. Gloede stated approximately \$1.3M Title I funds are received and these funds could be used in different ways.

Mrs. Schumacher asked about enrollment numbers in ½ day sessions vs. FDK.

Mr. Luedloff stated the ½ day K session typically had smaller numbers.

Mrs. Schumacher referred to a letter written several years ago by a former Kindergarten teacher who expressed the opinion that smaller Kindergarten class sizes would increase student achievement.

Dr. Fessler reminded Mrs. Schumacher of the extreme changes in our student demographics that have occurred since the letter was written.

Mrs. Schumacher read from a prepared statement:

#### The Case Against Full Day Kindergarten

“In 2008 Instruction coordinator Lore Levene reported that the number of kindergarten students entering District 59 had been fairly stable, except for 2007. She stated that almost 50% of our kindergarten students are in the ELL programs, and more and more of these new students are from low-income families.

In the ELL kindergarten classes they were supposedly teaching the essentials of learning English. My observation in one of our schools demonstrates that this is not happening. ELL students were taught entirely in Spanish. How can we expect them to be ready for kindergarten when they have not heard nor learned any English language.

It is obvious that the kindergarten teachers have the full job of introducing the English language. Whether they are in full or half day classes, they will start out behind. At Ridge where this happens, I would like to know how much English they are using as they enter first grade after coming from full day kindergarten class.

To me the question is not whether they are being taught well in pre-school. There is no doubt that the EC staff is working hard with the 3 and 4 year olds, BUT should we be doing more with the two full years that we have with these pre-school children to better prepare them for 'school'?

Illinois and Cook County have always had low income families. The children of these families entered school at age 5 for half day kindergarten with all the other 5 year olds. In District 59 we have already made full day kindergarten available to Special Ed and ELL students and those who are in Title 1 schools, BUT full day kindergarten is NOT mandated by the State and does not need to be offered in any more instances.

We have just embarked on a state of the art EC building that will hold all of our pre-school programs in one place. The district believes that early childhood education is essential for a large part of our population. For some years now we have been invested in preschool education. However, this is being built at the expense of our taxpayers who will be paying for this hefty building project for many years. Right now the people of Elk Grove are paying two thirds of their taxes to Districts 59 and 214. The other six taxing bodies combined, including the Village itself, account for only one third of their property taxes.

This is probably pretty much the same version in all of the communities making up District 59. None of these four communities is wealthy. In fact, the percentage of low-income families living in our district is increasing making it even more of a burden on property taxpayers.

Although I voted to support the building of the EC center, I would never support adding additions onto our buildings in order to have more full day kindergarten classes. Even if we were to add classes only in the buildings where we had space, the additional staff would be a consistent and ongoing expense. AND, when we ran out of space, it would be next to impossible to go back to half day kindergarten because once it is given, you can not likely take it away. Opting for full day kindergarten across the district would only magnify our space problems, as Mrs. Somogyi stated in 2008.

The changes at Ridge School this year are a good example of the unrest it would cause. There is still obvious displeasure at Ridge and even at other schools because of the 'school day hours' changes.

In 2008 when we considered these programs Dr. Dowd, board president, asked to see pre and post data for pre-school students. He wanted to see if full day Ridge kindergarteners were exceeding their counterparts in the other schools. We were told they were doing well, but we were never given any hard numbers. The Asst. Supt. at that time stressed that the greatest need was for the education of the parents of pre-school children. What proof do we have that our present pre-school program has given maximum dividends. Can we expect

that the results will improve with the advent of the new centralized pre-school approach? I hopefully await that updated report.

Before locking ourselves into an ongoing expensive full day kindergarten program, let us evaluate the benefits of the new EC program and what rewards it will give our children as we regularly keep track of district enrollment numbers.

Let me say in closing that research shows that the gains from all day kindergarten only last for 2 or 3 years. By third grade they level off and gains are not significant. There are two sides to every issue. This is the ‘other’ side.”

Mrs. Schumacher also stated she was not sure the benefits of FDK were worth the cost.

Dr. Fessler stated the financial piece of FDK would be presented at the next Board meeting. He also indicated that the District would continue to offer a ½-day Kindergarten program as required.

Mr. Kiel stated he could see the benefits of FDK but wondered about the lack of sustained growth after grade 3.

Mrs. McAbee stated she had looked into the research on how to best use the extra time afforded FDK students. She indicated a balanced approach was recommended, looking at educating the whole child. She stated the need for lots of assessments to guide instruction. She also stated the need to expand the focus of kindergarten and to incorporate the 4 Cs.

Mrs. McPherson stated FDK should be for all students, rather than the current focus on at-risk students. She favored a one-district approach.

Dr. Fessler asked the Board to email him with any requests for additional data on FDK.

Mrs. Schumacher stated the District should look at the benefits of preschool and whether the students are learning English to prepare them for kindergarten. She stated the ELL preschool students are still speaking in their native language after two years in preschool.

Dr. Fessler stated he had confidence in the District’s ELL leadership and its research-based approach to biliteracy.

Mrs. McAbee stated that only a small fraction of our ELL students attend our preschool, or any preschool, and those that do are often there only 6 months to a year. They are in the preschool as at-risk students for a reason other than language.

Mrs. Somogyi reminded the Board that the topic was FDK and this was Part 1 of the presentation. She stated there would be more time for questions following the second presentation.

**ACTION  
ITEMS**

**APPROVING THE PARTIAL ABATEMENT AND PERMANENT TRANSFER  
OF \$9.9 MILLION FROM THE WORKING CASH FUND TO THE  
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FUND**

**MOTION**

by Mr. Kiel, seconded by Mrs. McPherson, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Working Cash Fund of Community Consolidated School District No. 59, Cook County, Illinois (the “School District”) was created so the School District would have in its treasury at all times sufficient money to meet demands for expenditures for corporate purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Working Cash Fund was funded in part by the issuance and sale of certain General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2014 of the School District pursuant to Article 20 of The School Code of Illinois (the “School Code”); and

WHEREAS, as of October 6, 2014, the Working Cash Fund had on hand a balance of at least \$29,171,820; and

WHEREAS, Section 20-10 of the School Code provides that the Board of Education has the power to abate and permanently transfer a portion of the fund balance in the Working Cash Fund to any fund or funds of the District most in need of the money; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the School District that the Board of Education direct the School Treasurer to abate and permanently transfer a portion of the fund balance in the Working Cash Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund of the School District, the same being the fund of the District most in need of the money;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District No. 59, Cook County, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. Recitals. That the Board of Education hereby finds that all of the recitals contained in the preambles to this Resolution are full, true and correct and does hereby incorporate them into this Resolution by reference.

Section 2. Transfer. That the Board of Education hereby directs the School District’s School Treasurer, pursuant to Sections 20-10 of the School Code, to abate and permanently transfer \$9,900,000 from the moneys in the Working Cash Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. It is hereby found and determined that following said abatement and transfer, the amount to the credit of the Working Cash Fund, within the meaning of said Section 20-10, will be at least equal to .05% of the current equalized assessed value of the taxable property in the District.

Section 3. That all other resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith be and the same are hereby repealed, and this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately and forthwith upon its passage.



**ADOPTION OF BOARD POLICY**

Mrs. Schumacher asked if the District no longer recommended students take the District offered optional insurance coverage.

Mrs. Gloede stated the District does encourage families to be sure their children have insurance coverage, but does not recommend them taking the insurance offered by the District.

Mrs. Schumacher suggested posting a video on CPR and AED on the District’s website.

**MOTION** by Mr. Kiel, seconded by Mrs. Schumacher, to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 27th day of October, 2014, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education approve the following additions to the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education Policy Manual.

SECTION 1- District Organization

(Update) 1.20 BP --District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements

SECTION 4- Operational Services

- (Revised) 4.100 BP --Insurance Management
- (Updated) 4.160 BP --Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds (Footnote updates)
- (Revised) 4.170 BP --Safety
- (New) 4.175 BP --Convicted Child Sex Offender; Criminal Background Check and/or Screen; Notifications

SECTION 5- Personnel

(Revised) 5.280 BP --Educational Support Personnel

SECTION 6- Instruction

(Revised) 6.150 BP --Home and Hospital Instruction

SECTION 7- Students

(Revised) 7.250BP --Student Support Services

Roll Call  
 Ayes: 4 Kiel, McPherson, Schumacher and Somogyi.  
 Nays: 0  
 Absent: 3 Krinsky, Osmanski and Roberts.  
 Abstain: 0

Motion Carried: 4-0-3-0

**ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS TO CLEARMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Mrs. Schumacher stated she was pleased to see her neighbors again donating such a generous gift to Clearmont School.



**MOTION** by Mrs. Schumacher, seconded by Mrs. McPherson, to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education accepts the donation of \$2000 to Clearmont Elementary School from the Pecoulas family of 568 Dogwood Trail, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Superintendent shall communicate to the donors, in writing, expressing the appreciation of the members of the Board of Education, and that these donations shall be listed in the “official” minutes of this meeting.

Roll Call	Ayes:	4	Kiel, McPherson, Schumacher and Somogyi.
	Nays:	0	
	Absent:	3	Krinsky, Osmanski and Roberts.
	Abstain:	0	

Motion Carried: 4-0-3-0

**DISCUSSION  
ITEMS**

**AWARD OF BID FOR PAPER**

Ms. Fisher stated the District annually issues a paper bid. Ten vendors were contacted and seven submitted bids. The bids had to include shipping costs and multiple deliveries. Ms. Fisher noted the bid stipulations allow the District to compare prices to the state contract.

Ms. Fisher reported she had attempted to combine bids for all paper categories as Mrs. McPherson had suggested, but had no success.

Ms. Fisher stated the administration recommended accepting the low bids from Murnane Paper and Pyramid School products, for a total bid of \$101,130.48, which was \$12,000 less than last year.

Mr. Kiel mentioned he had heard about iBid at the IASB meeting and was wondering if the District could look into that service.

Mrs. Gloede stated she would investigate to see what services they offered.

**PREPARATION OF 2014 TAX LEVY AND TAX LEVY HEARING**

Mrs. Gloede stated she would delay the presentation of the long-term plan until she could hold another “FUNancial” workshop with the Board.

Mrs. Gloede reviewed the levy process. She commented the levy is done “in the dark”, as not all the information is available. The only information we have is the prior year’s extension. The EAV is unknown, although it will probably remain flat.

Mrs. Gloede stated our tax rate is the levy divided by the EAV. She stated the proposed levy is 2.52% more than the prior year’s extension, excluding bond and interest. She stated that including debt, the levy is 2.23% more. She stated that, as promised, the new debt would not present an increase to the taxpayer.

Mrs. Gloede also pointed out the shift in property taxes from commercial/industrial to residential.

**STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES CONTRACT EXTENSION AND RATES FOR 2015/16**

Mrs. Gloede stated the District’s contract with Grand Prairie Transit is in its second year of the two-year contract extension. She stated Grand Prairie had agreed to a 1.7% increase for the 2015/16 school year. She stated administration was happy with Grand Prairie’s service and recommended renewal.

Mr. Kahly stated the bus company had challenges this year with driver shortages. He stated the improving economy makes it difficult to find part-time workers. He stated Grand Prairie is currently 15 drivers short, with office staff and company executives forced to drive. He stated all of our routes are covered, but we have seen delays.

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A REVISED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO THE O’HARE NOISE COMPATIBILITY COMMISSION**

Mr. Rossi stated Chicago had asked the ONCC to approve membership to a 40<sup>th</sup> Ward representative. The change to the agreement has to be approved by all members. This item will return for approval at the next Board meeting.

**NEW/OLD BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Schumacher stated she and Mrs. McPherson had completed final edits to the Board’s governance document and was ready to be placed on the November 10<sup>th</sup> agenda for Board approval.

Mrs. Gloede stated a Doodle calendar would be sent out to help schedule a Board financial workshop.

**REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT’S TEAM**

Mrs. McAbee reported the links to the new State School Report Cards would go live on Friday on our website. She stated new features were added this year that give a better view of all the great things happening in our schools. She stated an e-newsletter would be sent on Wednesday to parents with information about the new report cards.

Mrs. Zurfahs reported on the ESP symposium held last week during the Institute Day. She thanked Ms. Cohen for her assistance in planning the symposium. She stated she received good feedback from support staff.

Dr. Fessler acknowledged two Holmes staff members who were chosen to receive “Those Who Excel” awards from ISBE. He indicated they would be invited to the next Board meeting to be recognized. He stated he would like to ramp up our efforts next year to have more staff recognized for the great work they do.

**MOTION**

at 9:15 p.m. by Mrs. Schumacher, seconded by Mrs. McPherson, to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 27th day of October, 2014, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education meeting is adjourned.

Roll Call	Ayes:	4	Kiel, McPherson, Schumacher and Somogyi.
	Nays:	0	
	Absent:	3	Krinsky, Osmanski and Roberts.
	Abstain:	0	

Motion Carried: 4-0-3-0

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Sharon Roberts, President

ATTEST:

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Karen Osmanski, Secretary