

**Official Minutes of the Monday, April 28, 2014  
Special 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 special meeting in accordance with provisions of the Open Meetings Act, according to Illinois law, at Grove Jr. High School, 777 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove Village, Illinois on Monday, April 28, 2014. President Roberts called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- Roll Call **Members Present:** President Sharon Roberts, Vice-President Janice Krinsky and Secretary Karen Osmanski. Members Brian Kiel, Seana McPherson, Mardell Schumacher (via speakerphone) and Barbara Somogyi (via speakerphone).
- Others Superintendent, Dr. Arthur Fessler; Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Tom Luedloff; Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Ruth Gloede; Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Nancy Wagner; Executive Director of ELL, Maureen McAbee; Chief Innovation Officer, Ben Grey; Director of Buildings and Grounds, Tony Rossi; Translator, Nancy Torres; and Recording Secretary, Betsy Boswell.
- Also Present Eydie Cohen and Michele Lara, DEA; Kelley Zerfahs, Principal of Robert Frost School; Enza Papeck, Principal of Grove Jr. High School, Dan Allaway and Phil Stevens, Assistant Principals for Grove; Rob Bohanek, Principal of Holmes Jr. High; Jane Paterala, Principal of Friendship Jr. High; Mary Ellen Esser, Principal of Admiral Byrd School; Michele Ramsey, Principal of Ridge Family Center for Learning; Christy Prikkel, Director of Fiscal Services; Ralph Kahly, Internal Services and Transportation Supervisor; Griselda Pirtle, ELL Coordinator-Elect; Michael Merritt, Principal-elect for Brentwood School; Melissa Ward, Coordinator of Early Childhood; newly hired assistant principals: Carrie Abrams, Jennifer Ramamoorthi, Griselda Tapia, Monica Farfan, Heidi Thomas, Larry Ganan, Will Hogan, and Bill Timmins; many staff and community members; Chris Placek, Daily Herald.
- Pledge of Allegiance** The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was completed.
- AUDIENCE RECESS** Mrs. Roberts welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if anyone wished to address the Board of Education. Many audience members indicated they wished to address the Board. Mrs. Roberts asked that they limit their remarks to 2-3 minutes.
- Jackie Fries, Ridge parent, stated she chose to transfer her children to Ridge 5 years ago and never regretted the decision. She stated Ridge is a special school that nurtures students and promotes growth of the whole child.
- Mrs. Fries stated the lottery system used to obtain entrance into Ridge is a fair system. She stated students also transfer in as space becomes available.
- She stated she feared the shortening of the school day at Ridge would hurt the students, who are now thriving. She pleaded with the Board to keep Ridge as it is.

Dean Fries, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Ridge spoke to the Board, asking that they not change the hours at Ridge

Kristen Hassler stated her concern about the Wednesday early release time. She stated it would be a problem for parents to pick up their students an hour early every Wednesday. She asked if there was another way to add time/days to the school calendar.

Al Brodeur stated he chose Ridge for his children and by the time they all graduate he will have had children at Ridge for 18 years. He asked that the schedule not be changed.

Jessica Martinsen stated she was a Juliette Low parent. She thanked the Board of Education for considering weekly staff development. She noted both District 54 and District 15 already have weekly staff development and that this was not unusual. She stated the additional time for teacher collaboration benefits students.

Elizabeth Galliano presented a petition from Ridge parents opposed to the shortening of the school day at Ridge.

Jim Borchick stated he moved into District 59 five years ago and was very excited when his daughter was admitted to Ridge. He stated the importance of planning and noted that without it a good idea can have a bad outcome. He stated it would be a problem to make arrangements with employers to leave work early to pick up children from school.

Kristi Kerrigan stated she chose Ridge for its full day Kindergarten program and for the 8-hour school day. She stated the opportunities for learning are amazing. She stated the Board and administration had afforded no opportunity for a discussion with parents about this issue. She stated Ridge was a great school and asked the Board not to change things.

Elizabeth Dean stated the loss of instructional time at Ridge was of great concern to her. She wondered how all activities could be maintained with the shortening of hours. She stated the students need time to process information. She stated there was little transparency regarding this change. She asked the Board why they would change one of the best performing schools in District 59. She suggested the Board rather use Ridge as a model for the other District 59 schools.

Jennifer Molawa stated she was a fellow educator with 2 children at Ridge and she felt very strongly about the situation. She stated there is magic at Ridge; that there is enough time in the school day for teachers to have fun with their students. She stated she was very concerned that with the switch to the PARCC assessment, which will be more demanding of students, the Board would be considering removal of instructional time. She asked the Board to reconsider changing Ridge.

Nichol Novoselsky stated she had students at Devonshire and Grove. She stated she wanted to know what would happen during this additional 30 minutes of time being added to the school schedule. She wondered if students would be watching videos or would there be actual instruction. She stated she supported professional development time if it would make better teachers.

Monika Kurdziel stated her child attended the Polish dual language program at Ridge. She stated she was unsure about the program at first, but was now happy with it. She wondered if the program would continue with a shortened school day.

Scott Albers stated he had a son at Ridge and would also like his younger son to attend Ridge. He stated he was confused and concerned. He stated there are wonderful things happening at Ridge; that students are not wasting instructional time. He stated it would be better to increase hours, not decrease hours. He stated the Board should list the facts and allow parents to see how this new schedule would or would not work.

Kelly and Dave Snoble stated they had recently moved but chose to stay in District 59 so their child could remain at Ridge. Mrs. Snoble stated Ridge was a great school with great programming. She suggested the Board consider the Balanced Calendar at other schools.

Dr. Fessler noted the Board would not be voting on this matter tonight. He stated the approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement did not include approval of the new school schedule. He stated the district was in the process of moving away from traditional teaching toward a common district curriculum. He stated he had the same expectations for all teachers and students.

Mrs. Roberts stated the Collective Bargaining Agreement had not set hours of attendance. She stated the Board sets attendance hours.

Dr. Fessler thanked parents for coming to the meeting and sharing their thoughts.

**Consent  
Agenda**

**MOTION**

by Mrs. Schumacher, seconded by Mrs. Osmanski, to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 28th day of April, 2014, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented/amended:

- 5.01 Acceptance of Recommendations: Human Resources Report
  - a. Administrative Contracts
  - b. Certified Contracts
  - c. ESP Resignation
  - d. Job Share
  - e. Certified Lane Change correction



Dr. Fessler stated that when administration and the DEA came together to negotiate a new agreement, each expressed an interest in a longer school day and weekly professional development for staff. They also agreed on the “One District” approach, with the curriculum focused on 21<sup>st</sup> century skill development, which will take 2-3 years to implement. He stated the proposed new schedule came from negotiations. He stated this was not an actionable item, but was the pleasure of the Board.

Mrs. Osmanski stated her supported the weekly PD for teachers, which will decrease the teachers’ time away from their students.

Ms. Krinsky noted the idea of weekly PD came from Ridge’s plan.

Mrs. Somogyi suggested looking at before and after school programming for Ridge students. She stated more information needs to be gathered.

Mrs. Schumacher stated she had served on the original committee that established Ridge, served on its BLT and assisted with the lottery. She stated each new superintendent brings changes and the changes suggested for Ridge are part of a larger plan. She stated she was hopeful that the wrinkles could be worked out and the way could be smoothed for Ridge families.

Mrs. McPherson stated she felt there was not sufficient time for Ridge families to adjust to the new schedule and suggested the current schedule be left in place for the 2014/15 school year. She suggested the coming year could be used to study the role of a school of choice in District 59.

Mr. Kiel stated his 4 children attended Ridge but as a Board member he had to look at what was best for the whole district. He stated he needed to take a closer look at the proposed schedule and felt there would be a short turn around time for Ridge families.

Ms. Krinsky stated there seemed to be two issues: 1. day care and 2. the benefits of a longer school day. She stated these are separate issues. She stated the larger question was whether there was a role for a school of choice in District 59. She stated the importance of having the time to take a good look at the larger question.

Dr. Fessler stated the need to set a goal time for making a decision. He stated all schools are impacted by this piece.

Mrs. McPherson suggested the Board look at creating a schedule for 10 elementary schools that would possibly limit the need for childcare to one end of the school day. She suggested tabling the Ridge discussion until next year.

Mrs. Schumacher stated she wished to reiterate Mr. Kiel’s comment that Board members represent all the schools.

Mrs. Somogyi stated these types of discussions are never easy. She noted that in the past she had to make decisions to close schools, and that these were difficult decisions. The Board must look at what is best for all students in the long run. She stated there would always be some who disagree with change.

She stated there is usually a rainbow at the end of the storm.

Dr. Fessler stated that when he came to District 59 there were fourteen schools rather than one school district. We need to have teachers collaborate together frequently. He noted the leadership team meets weekly for two hours for the improvement of our schools. He stated he understands that more instruction time is effective, but there also is a saturation point. We are working together to create a world-class education for all of our students. He asked for the pleasure of the Board.

Mrs. McPherson stated she favored putting off any change to Ridge.

Ms. Krinsky stated she agreed with Mrs. McPherson that the Ridge schedule change be taken off the table for the coming year.

Mrs. Schumacher stated her preference was to continue the discussion and try to come up with options for Ridge rather than take it off the table. She stated the Board needs a vision of parity.

Ms. Krinsky stated she was not happy with the equity idea. She stated she would listen to other ideas.

Mrs. Osmanski suggested the Board look through a one-district lens at the purpose of Ridge. We need to make the decision as to whether we still need a school of choice.

Mrs. Somogyi noted 2 members seemed to want a delay.

Mrs. Roberts stated the Board needs to take more time to discuss the relevance of the school of choice. She suggested the Board look at further options for next year.

Ms. Krinsky asked if there might be alternate busing proposals.

Mrs. McPherson stated she wanted to keep the 8-4 schedule at Ridge.

Mrs. Somogyi asked if the Board did not approve the change to the Ridge school day, what would happen to the “One District” philosophy.

Dr. Fessler stated it would put a wrinkle in the plan. The Board tentatively agreed to the new schedule. He stated his believe that we can accomplish a world-class education during a 6 hour and 50 minute school day.

Mrs. Schumacher noted the changes to the schedule would not change the uniqueness of the school, as it would still have the balanced calendar and the wonderful teachers who say they can adapt to the shortened day.

Mrs. McPherson asked what it would take to move ahead as planned.

Mrs. Gloede explained the buses run on 2 tiers, with Ridge and the Jr. High Schools in Tier 1 and followed by all other elementary schools in Tier 2. She explained that to have Ridge grouped with the other elementary schools we would need to have another 7 bus routes. She stated there needs to be a 45-50 minute gap between the two tiers.

Mr. Kiel stated he was unsure of where the discussion was going.

Dr. Fessler suggested the Board move forward on 13 school schedules and reflect on the Ridge conversation.

Mrs. Somogyi responded the sooner we come to agreement the better.

Mrs. Roberts asked Board members to give information requests to Dr. Fessler as soon as possible.

### **NSSEO BUDGET FOR 2014/15**

Dr. Judy Hackett and Julie Jilek presented information regarding NSSEO plans and information on their 2014/15 budget.

Dr. Hackett presented a review of the 4 Board goals for 2013/14: student achievement, continuous improvement, collaborative partnerships and fiscal responsibility. She noted they had worked with state and national researchers to align student achievement and assessment. She also noted the inclusion of the deaf and hard of hearing programs that were now offered through NSSEO.

Dr. Hackett reported on autism coaching made available to District 59 to build capacity in our district. She noted the increase in professional development opportunities aligned to district needs.

Ms. Jilek stated there was a .61% increase (excluding federal funds) to the proposed budget for next year. She indicated both Mrs. Gloede and Mrs. Streit held seats on the NSSEO financial advisory committee. District 59's share of the proposed budget is \$4,351,399, a 2.1% increase over the adjusted 2013/14 budget.

Mrs. Gloede reported District 59 had students enrolled in all of the NSSEO tuition programs. The district also uses the coop's diagnostic services.

### **EARLY LEARNERS PROGRAMMING**

Mr. Luedloff stated that after the last board of education meeting administrators were asked to research early childhood (EC) and kindergarten programming. He stated they looked at current and new options for 3-6 year-old students.

Mr. Luedloff indicated that currently the district has 16 sections of EC at 5 sites. Three sections are full day and thirteen are ½ day. He stated most of the students are either at-risk or special education students, with only 10% being typically developing. Currently the district has 38 sections of kindergarten at 11 sites. Six sections are full day and 32 are half-day. He stated the goal for kindergarten for 2014/15 would be to add full day kindergarten at 4 additional sites or 12 additional sections. Title I funds would be used to support this initiative, which would be made available to the neediest students.

Mr. Luedloff stated the number of students in EC and Kindergarten has grown considerably since 2009, and the percentage of low income students increased from 40% to 52% between 2009 and 2013. Also, the percentage of students coming from a second language background increased from 52% to 64% during that time period.

The following options for Kindergarten were presented: Full day kindergarten for all students; Target at-risk students for full day kindergarten; Leave the programming as is.

The following options were presented for Early Childhood: Consolidation of program at one site, Reconfigure current site, Leave the program as is.

Mr. Luedloff stated research shows that early learner intervention has a significant impact on student learning. He also stated that the brain is 95% developed by the end of kindergarten. Additionally, over ½ of Illinois school districts provide full day programs for kindergarten.

Mr. Luedloff indicated 5 district schools could accommodate full day kindergarten with no changes; 3 additional schools could accommodate full day kindergarten with program shifts and 1 more with some internal reconfiguration.

Mr. Luedloff stated there would be a need for 12-16 additional teachers for full day kindergarten and if a new EC site were built the district would need to hire a nurse and a building leader.

The Board was asked if these plans aligned with the Board's beliefs. Did the Board see the plans as plausible and what was their level of comfort.

Mrs. McPherson asked about the number of second language students who had early childhood interventions. She asked about the efficiencies of having two EC sites: one north and one south to avoid lengthy bus rides.

Mrs. Ward stated that back in 2001 the district established one EC site at Ridge. When the EC numbers outgrew Ridge's space, the students were placed back in their own communities. She stated that as the program expanded we lost the ability to keep children in their own communities. Now some students travel long distances to EC sites.

Mrs. Schumacher stated the Board voted to make Ridge the district EC center and the superintendent moved the program to multiple sites. We stated she did not want to try things that had not worked in the past.

Mrs. Somogyi stated she supported using resources for EC development.

Mrs. Osmanski stated she appreciated the work of the committee and she gave her support for taking the programming to the next level.

Ms. Krinsky stated she was all for EC education.

Mrs. Roberts stated she wished to dig deeper to see what was the best solution.

Mr. Luedloff asked her what she meant by digging deeper.

Mrs. McPherson asked about creating a kindergarten center.

Mr. Luedloff stated it would not work because there would be 700 students in one building.



Ms. Krinsky stated she would like to see what is best in class that the district can afford.

Mrs. Schumacher stated an EC center had not worked before and she was not in favor of it now.

Ms. Krinsky stated she had concerns for the students who live in unincorporated Elk Grove Township. She stated she would like to see the district push into these communities.

Mrs. Ward stated an EC center would allow the district to help in many ways: we could establish a lending closet for toys and books; we could provide social service assistance from one site; we could hold our Ready for Kindergarten classes there. Having all EC staff at one site would be extremely beneficial in servicing these families.

Mrs. Schumacher stated the district contributes to the Mt. Prospect neighborhood center and suggested speaking to Des Plaines officials about building a similar center in their city that the district could help support.

Mr. Rossi stated that timelines are tight and he would need to schedule preliminary drawings by June. He asked for the Board's approval for beginning studies such as obtaining soil samples and studying traffic patterns. He would also like to visit other EC centers and put together some soft numbers. The Board gave him their approval.

Dr. Fessler stated Mr. Rossi would bring his results to the May 12<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting.

### **ELL PROGRAM REDESIGN UPDATE**

Mrs. McAbee stated she and the Perfect Match Planning Team had worked with the Illinois Resource Center (IRC), attending workshops that use data to help design ELL programs. She stated that during a workshop the committee was asked to create a visual representation of the district's current ELL program.

The committee came up with the Wellington Restaurant for its visual metaphor: structure needs work but still sound; roof leaks some but can be patched; cultural and historic value to the community; state of the art at the time; cost effective meals; served the needs of the community; great service and staff; collaborative (shared parking); future is uncertain; different rooms with divided walls; service to community; some useful items and some junk; outdated; ELL in its name.

The committee surveyed students regarding how they felt about their school supporting them in learning English and their home language. They were also asked if they were encouraged to speak English as well as their home language and if they felt it was important to be bilingual. The survey results showed students felt supported in English, but did not feel supported in their home language. Students felt it was very beneficial to be bilingual.

Mrs. McAbee stated the committee recommended: a focus on strategic use of two languages; emphasize benefits of both languages; promote continued development of both languages; increase rigor and opportunities for rich literacy experiences.

Mrs. McAbee stated research showed the greater number of years a student receives instruction in the home language the better their English skills. She noted language programs require time to be effective.

Mrs. McAbee stated the district would be shifting to a one-way dual language model with the hope of increasing opportunities for two-way dual language offerings.

Mrs. Osmani asked about exit criteria for dual language.

Mrs. McAbee indicated students would remain in dual language after exiting the ELL program.

Ms. Krinsky thanked the committee for its work.

#### **DISTRICT EXPENDITURE GUIDELINES**

Mrs. Roberts stated the request for documentation of expenditure guidelines came from the Audit Committee.

Mrs. Gloede stated that when the guidelines are approved they would become a regulation under Board Policy. The guidelines provide guidance to district staff that travel.

Ms. Krinsky asked if the guidelines addressed the issue of paying for a meal for another person.

Mrs. Gloede stated the guidelines did not address that topic.

Mr. Kiel asked if the meal allowance would be an average for the total days of travel.

Mrs. Gloede indicated it could be an average.

#### **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE GUIDELINES**

Dr. Fessler stated that part of his entry plan included the creation of a community advisory committee to serve as a sounding board and supply new perspectives. He stated he would like the meetings to align with Board of Education meeting nights, convening at 5 p.m.

Mrs. Schumacher suggested monthly meetings might be too much and suggested every other month.

Ms. Krinsky suggested the committee decide how often it would meet.

Mrs. McPherson asked the purpose of the application process.

Dr. Fessler stated the process would allow the district to create a diverse group.

Mrs. Somogyi stated the district had a similar committee several ago and stated she liked the idea of reaching out to the community. She noted the committee should be adaptable and flexible.

Mrs. Roberts and Mr. Kiel stated they thought the formation of this type of committee was a great idea.

**NEW/OLD BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Roberts asked if all Board members were in favor of convening a Board retreat in June. Members agreed.

Mrs. Roberts asked members to send agenda topic ideas to Dr. Fessler.

Mrs. Roberts stated Dr. Fessler had announced an opportunity to attend a Consortium of School Networks where Dr. Fessler would be presenting his views on the role of the CTO. She asked if any Board members wished to attend or if they had ideas concerning an effective presentation.

Mrs. Schumacher announced a Safety & Discipline Committee Meeting would be held at 4 pm the following day.

Mrs. Roberts announced a Finance Committee Meeting was scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm.

**REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT’S TEAM**

None.

**MOTION** at 11:00 p.m. by Mr. Kiel, seconded by Ms. Krinsky, to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 28th day of April, 2014, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education recess in a closed meeting to discuss “the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body”, and “Business Matters”, in accordance with 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (1 & 6) of the Open Meetings Act.

Roll Call Ayes: 7 Kiel, Krinsky, McPherson, Osmanski, Roberts, Schumacher and Somogyi.  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 0  
Abstain: 0 Motion Carried: 7-0-0-0

**MOTION** at 12:39 a.m. by Mrs. McPherson, seconded by Ms. Krinsky, to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 29th day of April, 2014, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education meeting is reconvened.

Roll Call Ayes: 7 Kiel, Krinsky, McPherson, Osmanski, Roberts, Schumacher and Somogyi.  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 0  
Abstain: 0 Motion Carried: 7-0-0-0

