

**Official Minutes of the Monday, August 26, 2013
Committee of the Whole Meeting**

Call to Order The Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 59 in County of Cook, State of Illinois, met as Committee of the Whole at the District 59 Administration Center, 2123 South Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois on Monday, August 26, 2013. President Kiel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call **Members Present:** President Brian Kiel, Vice-President Sharon Roberts and Secretary Karen Osmani. Members Janice Krinsky, Seana McPherson, Mardell Schumacher and Barbara Somogyi.

Others Superintendent, Dr. Art Fessler; Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Ruth Gloede; Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Tom Luedloff; Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Nancy Wagner; Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, Becki Streit; Chief Innovation Officer, Ben Grey; Director of Buildings and Grounds, Tony Rossi; Executive Director of ELL, Maureen McAbee; Translator, Nancy Torres; and Recording Secretary, Betsy Boswell.

Also Present Eydie Cohen and Michele Lara, DEA; Liz Freiburger and Tina Merrill, Grove Jr. High; Kelley Zerfahs, Robert Frost School; Christy Prikkel, Business Services.

Pledge of Allegiance The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was completed.

**AUDIENCE
ADDRESS**

Mr. Kiel welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the Board was initiating a new meeting format. He asked if anyone wished to address the Board. No one came forward.

Dr. Fessler indicated the administration would be making presentations that included overarching questions for the Board of Education's consideration.

**DISCUSSION
ITEM**

NEWLY ACQUIRED PROPERTY

Mr. Rossi stated the newly acquired property presented several options for the District. He indicated he favored a long-term approach that included master planning across the District. He noted the District owned several pieces of property, including the property on Leicester Road in Elk Grove Village, the Holmes/Forest View campus in Mount Prospect and the two parcels along Arlington Heights Road in Arlington Heights.

Mr. Rossi stated he had a few items tonight for which he needed the pleasure of the Board: demolition of the old Wellington Restaurant building, creation of a master planning committee to study the District's property options, and the search for a new architecture firm with experience in master planning to serve and direct the planning committee.

Mr. Rossi noted renovations to the current structure on the newly acquired property would be cost prohibitive. He also noted that demolition would give the District more flexibility.

Mrs. Roberts suggested the need for a committee to make decisions on the property. She suggested the District partner with a local fire agency, which might want to use the building for training exercises before it is demolished.

Mr. Rossi stated it could not be used for a live burn, but perhaps a search and rescue drill could be staged there.

Ms. Krinsky stated she was not in favor of keeping the existing structure.

Mrs. Osmanski asked why the District would keep the building and let the building dictate our options.

Dr. Fessler asked if the Board would set a timeline for the demolition or if they preferred to leave that to the committee.

Ms. Krinsky stated she saw no sense in waiting.

A straw vote was taken with all Board members voting to proceed with obtaining bids for the building demolition.

Mr. Rossi stated the need for a planning committee to look at master planning. He suggested the SLT, some department representatives and two Board members should comprise the committee.

Ms. Krinsky, Mrs. Somogyi and Mrs. McPherson all indicated they would like to serve on the planning committee.

Dr. Fessler stated he wished to review standing committees with the Board to determine Board member interest in serving on all these committees.

Mrs. McPherson offered to serve as an alternate, making Ms. Krinsky and Mrs. Somogyi the Board representatives. The initial meeting will be posted so all three members can attend.

Mrs. Roberts asked about staff representation on the committee.

Mr. Rossi stated that initially he wished to keep the committee small, but that staff would be invited at a later time.

Mrs. Schumacher stated the District should explore the possibility of putting an addition on to the Administration Center.

Mr. Rossi noted the committee would need an architect to help direct long term planning. He stated that during his District tenure, Legat had only been used for remodeling and enlarging. He suggested the Board might want to invite other firms.

Ms. Krinsky stated she would like to consider other firms; firms with master planning experience to help plan the entire process. She stated she wished to make sure we served our under-served population, specifically those who reside in trailer parks.

Mr. Rossi reported he would be signing the contract this week for the auction of the building's contents.

Dr. Fessler stated the next steps included forming the committee and asked if the Board had a timeline in mind.

The Board concurred that the project should be completed within 2 years.

Mr. Rossi stated he would like to issue an RFQ to architecture firms for master planning. The Board agreed to this proposal.

Dr. Fessler suggested the planning committee invite one representative from the DEA leadership team. He stated there should be a balance of perspectives on this committee.

Mr. Rossi stated he would prepare specs for the building demolition and issue an RFQ to architecture firms.

DEMOGRAPHICS STUDY IMPLICATIONS

Mrs. Gloede stated she had presented a tight timeline to the Board for determining future facility use. The timeline begins with ISS providing current enrollment data to Cropper GIS, closely followed by a presentation by Cropper on their findings. The timeline ends with the Board of Education taking action, if action is required, at the December 9th Board meeting.

Mrs. Gloede noted the Board has this opportunity to look at and question how we use our spaces to support our core purpose. This will be done with the assistance of data and interpretation of the data presented by Cropper GIS.

Mrs. Gloede stated that in the past the District had used birth rates to project future enrollment. This data did not provide the types of future students, only their numbers. She indicated that Cropper used data from several sources, including the IRS, US Census and Cook County, to build population pyramids. Cropper looked at where children live and where they attend school.

Mrs. Gloede discussed Board Policy and Administrative Regulations regarding boundary changes and facility usage.

Mrs. Gloede stated the Board had the opportunity to take a fresh look at how we deliver programming and whether it corresponds to Board philosophy on educational grouping goals and objectives. The entire process could end in “no change”.

Mrs. Gloede asked the Board if there were some assumptions Administration needed to know.

Dr. Fessler stated he was looking for guiding principles of the Board toward a comprehensive approach to enrollment issues.

Mrs. McPherson stated she preferred small class size for grades K-2 and would hope to have balance across the District.

Dr. Fessler stated the Board might want to consider Grade Level Centers while keeping in mind the length of time a student might be on a bus.

Ms. Krinsky stated she supported programmatic changes for 21st century learning, with equality for all students.

Mrs. Schumacher stated the District should work with the available space and not always assume we must build or add on.

Mrs. Somogyi stressed the need for caution; that having hard and fast rules on class size can cause many difficulties. She stated there is not one easy answer, but all decisions should be based on what is best for students.

Mr. Kiel noted that many decisions are interconnected.

Dr. Fessler stated the first step would be to obtain the data from Cropper, form a working group and create a list of assumptions.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Dr. Fessler stated he had met with representatives from ECRA to talk about next steps for strategic planning. ECRA has been paid for two phases of the plan. Dr. Fessler stated the Board needs to revisit phase II and suggested they do this on their own. He reminded the Board that the Strategic Plan is not an action plan. He asked the Board how it wanted to proceed.

Mrs. Roberts stated the Board should revisit phase II without ECRA, keeping in mind our core purpose. She stated the Board needs to keep things simple.

Dr. Fessler suggested the work would take from 4-8 hours and suggested special sessions to complete the work.

Mr. Kiel stated he would create a Doodle calendar and send it to all Board members to schedule special sessions for strategic planning.

ELECTION DAY POLLING LOCATIONS AND STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Dr. Fessler stated he had received a letter from the Cook County Clerk's office asking district's that have polling places in schools to consider scheduling institute days on election days.

Mrs. Osmanski stated election days are disruptive to student learning.

Ms. Cohen stated staff has a huge concern over safety of students when the schools are open to voters.

Mrs. Schumacher stated the teachers should not be afraid, that our buildings are safe. She stated students should be able to see democracy in action. She Schumacher's statements are attached to these minutes.

Mrs. Roberts inquired as to whether we could suggest alternate sites to the County Clerk.

Ms. Krinsky stated she would like to get polling places removed from schools.

Mr. Luedloff stated we are required to accept polling places in our buildings.

Dr. Fessler stated it was common practice for school districts to hold institute days on election days.

Mrs. Roberts suggested moving the Robert Frost polling place to the nearby Lutheran Church.

Dr. Fessler suggested the discussion be turned over to the institute planning committee for recommendations. He stated the committee could make recommendations to the Board on this specific issue.

The Board agreed to have the institute planning committee come back with recommendations.

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Roberts stated she appreciated the new meeting format. She reminded members that they had agreed to raise their hands to be recognized by the president before they spoke.

Mrs. McPherson stated she appreciated the time to talk through issues but was unhappy with the set-up.

Ms. Krinsky stated the need to dig deeper in the future.

Mrs. Somogyi reminded the Board that it needed to settle the issue of the superintendent’s evaluation. She asked when and where the Board would be working on it. She noted the evaluation needed to be on the Board’s priority list.

Dr. Fessler suggested the topic be added to the next closed session agenda.

Mrs. Osmanski invited all present to attend the Community Character Coalition’s Celebration of Character on September 27th at the Elk Grove Pavilion. She stated the Coalition’s Education Team had been working with District 59 students after school in Kid’s Club, teaching them the Character Counts program while relating it to PBIS.

MOTION at 9:01 p.m. by Ms. Krinsky, seconded by Mrs. Roberts, to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 26th day of August, 2013, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education meeting is adjourned.

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

Motion Carried: 7-0-0-0

Brian Kiel, President

ATTEST:

Karen Osmanski, Secretary

Mrs. Schumacher's comments regarding election polling placement in schools.

The schools belong to the public who supports them with their tax dollars.

The people who vote in the schools are the neighbors who live nearby.

'Specific areas' in the schools are provided for the elections.

Every effort is made to keep people out of the rest of the school.

At Clearmont signs are put on the inside of the gym doors forbidding people to leave the gym. Election judges watch carefully to be sure nobody breaks the rule.

During the school day, all classrooms will now have special locks that teachers can use to keep intruders out of their rooms. What a great safeguard! Their safety is in their own hands.

However, on any given school day children are out on the playground or adjacent park areas for gym classes and lunch/recess. Our staff and students are at risk while outside. We cannot and do not protect students and staff 100% of the time.

Our schools are open to the public for events such as fun fairs, Explore More, and special occasions like the recent 50th birthday celebration at Forest View which was a memorable occasion for all the community. Doors from the parking lot were open to everyone. Adults and students alike roamed the building freely and had a wonderful time not worrying that someone in the crowd was going to foment violence. Nobody was checked at the door. There was trust in the community.

Our democracy is at the forefront of our freedom. Having our children see democracy in action as an election is underway in our schools is an important lesson for them. Many of our schools use this as an educational opportunity.

In this country we are at liberty to choose the leaders of our various forms of government. We can't allow fear to take away this sacred right of citizenry.

It was suggested that people vote at other locations such as churches, libraries, etc. Some churches have offered their buildings. Others do not. Cook County has tried very hard to find alternative locations, but they are very difficult to find.

There were originally two precincts at Clearmont School and two at the church next door. One of the precincts at Clearmont was moved to the church making it three at the church location. The church then complained and moved everyone out because there were too many people for a small building, and it was very congested.

Elections are generally every two years in the fall or the spring. The inconvenience of having students go outside for gym once every two years seems small considering that they go outside for gym and lunch recess year round on a regular basis, weather permitting.

Public schools are used by various groups of people on a regular basis for after school activities and evening sports programs which are not part of our curriculum, and guards are not provided for our buildings during these activities. An intruder/terrorist can enter our buildings through any mode no matter how large or small the gathering of people.

If we keep all of these people out of our public schools, our buildings will become fortresses and will lose the friendly atmosphere that our students need.

Furthermore, even if we have an armed policeman at the front door of each school on a daily basis, we would still not be any safer. If someone is determined to do us harm, he can shoot through the glass and kill the policeman, or he can shoot through any window in any classroom and gain entry.

As a matter of fact, he could drive a truck through the wall right into a classroom full of children and wreak havoc and death. This is reality.

Recent events have proven that none of us is safe anywhere we are. Schools are not the only targets. 911 didn't happen in a school. The 'Oklahoma City bombing' was not in a school. The Boston Marathon massacre wasn't even in a building.

In some other countries people have forfeited their lives just for their right to vote. This cherished right to choose is guaranteed to Americans by our Constitution.

The election process being held in our buildings where students can see democracy in action is a living lesson.

The bottom line is that we must preserve our democracy. This can be done as safely as we are able without losing our freedoms and scaring our children with our paranoia.

There is NO way we can assure complete and positive safety for anyone.

May 4, 2013

Mardell and Frank Schumacher

****Moving elections to Saturdays when schools are closed would necessitate us having to open our buildings and spend money for electricity, heat, and staff with money which is better used for the education of our students.**

****If teachers do not feel safe in our schools after all the safety precautions which we have provided in our buildings in the last decade or so, then they should choose to work elsewhere. I doubt that they would be any safer in most other jobs. Think 9//11**

****Although some of our schools have teachers at the doors where children enter, I know for a fact that the teacher is not at the door 100% of the time, and an outsider could easily slip in with the students. I have.**

****Are teachers limiting where they go outside of work hours? For example, do they no longer attend sporting events, cultural events, plays, musicals, movies, etc. where crowds of people congregate? What about shopping malls, outside concerts or holiday celebrations like the 4th of July? These are all probably bigger targets than our schools.**

****Uncalled for deaths have been caused by the increasing choice of people of all ages to use drugs and alcohol unwisely. Suicides in all age groups have increased. What are we doing to stop these needless deaths?**

****We should concentrate on stopping violence and the things that can cause people to become violent. Violence is the problem! Being afraid doesn't help our students.**