

**Official Minutes of the Monday, May 12, 2014
Board of Education Meeting**

- 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 Grove Jr. High School, 777 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove Village, Illinois on Monday, May 12, 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, Mardell Schumacher and Barbara Somogyi.
Member Absent: Seana McPherson.
- Others** Superintendent, Dr. Arthur Fessler; Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Tom Luedloff; Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Ruth Gloede; Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, Becki Streit; 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; Melissa Ward, Coordinator of Early Childhood and preschool staff; Rob Bohanek, Principal of Holmes Jr. High School; Kim Shaffer, Holmes Jr. High; Mary Beth Niles, Assistant Principal of John Jay School; Susan Ejma, Principal of Juliette Low School; Tom Seaton, Principal of John Jay School; David Pohlmeier and Travis Hodges, ISS; Randy Haack, Coordinator of Assessment; Ralph Kahly, Internal Services and Transportation; Jan Fisher, Purchasing and School Nutrition; Dan Allaway and Phil Stevens, Assistant Principals for Grove; Ross Vittore, Principal of Clearmont School; Mary Ellen Esser, Principal of Admiral Byrd School; Michele Ramsey, Principal of Ridge Family Center for Learning; Christy Prikkel, Director of Fiscal Services; many families from Ridge Family Center for Learning, Dennis Perillo, resident; 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.

Jackie Fries, Ridge parent, stated she was passionate about the changes for Ridge being discussed by the Board. She stated she had heard much about 21st century learning and would use 21st century thinking skills to show claim and evidence. She stated the district claimed the busing for Ridge was too expensive. She noted her evidence against this claim included the published wealth of the district, the AAA Bond Rating, the purchase of the Wellington property, and the talk of spending \$23M for a new early childhood center. She asked the Board not to confuse childcare with parents' desire for a high quality education for their kids.

Mrs. Fries stated the second district claim was the inequity of Ridge. Her evidence included the fact that all district families can enter the lottery or can transfer to Ridge, which is fair to all. She asked about the equity in the Dual Language program at Salt Creek.

Mrs. Fries asked why not be “one district” with many visions. She stated the cutting of hours did not reflect the district mission of preparing students to be successful for life. She asked the Board to reconsider the issue of shorting the school day at Ridge and to wait until next year to make any changes.

Natalie Fries, first grader at Ridge, asked the Board not to change her school by cutting hours. She said her teachers care about her, make her smart and give her self-esteem.

Arletta Ionite, Ridge parent, stated she had heard one contradiction after another. She stated Ridge is still not equal because it will have a different schedule from all other elementary schools. She stated these decisions are being made in haste and there should be more time for collaboration.

Scott Albers, Ridge parent, thanked the Board for having the best interest of students at heart. He stated his goal was to get the best possible education for his children. He asked the following questions: Why reduce hours at Ridge; how will reducing hours meet the continuous improvement vision; how will we measure success; what is preventing us from increasing the hours of all schools to the Ridge level; is it possible to meet the teacher scheduling objectives without impacting the total number of school hours; are there plans to eliminate Ridge as school of choice; if yes, why; is Ridge outperforming the other schools in District 59; what is preventing us from implementing what Ridge is doing in our other schools.

Mr. Albers stated he had read there were grants available for charter schools. He also referenced the discontinuation of school choice under NCLB.

Monique Valdepenas spoke in support of Ridge and its 4/5 classroom.

Kelly Snobel stated she thought the proposed new release time for Ridge was too early, especially on Wednesdays. She asked why Ridge is still different. She stated the parents had received no warning, but were presented changes as a done deal.

Kara Brodeur stated she had kids attending Ridge since 2002. She stated she served on the FTO for 7 years and attended many school board meetings to fight for Ridge. She stated she thought Ridge was a proven entity in District 59, but now she finds she was wrong. She stated she was surprised by the suggestion to shorten the day at Ridge. She stated administration was using Ridge as a sacrificial lamb to the new longer school days at the other schools.

She suggested the Board postpone changes for a year and form an advisory committee where parents can be engaged in educational decisions that affect their kids.

Elizabeth Dean stated she opposed the change in hours at Ridge, which would change the way teachers teach and students learn. She stated “One District” should not mean one size fits all. Equity should mean what is fair and appropriate. Ridge should be an example to other schools.

Megan York presented a history of her children and their experiences in District 59. She stated her children adjusted to a longer school day and challenging work and she opposed any changes.

Renata Salvaji stated she chose Ridge because it would challenge her kids. She asked about the matrix used on cutting hours. She stated she wanted to see the matrix.

Eydie Cohen, DEA President, came forward stating she did not want to hear any more talk about teachers at other schools (than Ridge) not doing their jobs. She stated all District 59 teaches and staff do extraordinary work. She stated she travels across the district to all schools. She stated change is difficult for everyone, but we have a great school district. She stated she knows the Board appreciates ALL district teachers and staff.

Paul Heitmann asked the Board not to change the hours at Ridge.

Al Brodeur noted his wife had spoken earlier. He asked the Board to bring the other schools up to Ridge’s level instead of bringing Ridge down to theirs.

Mrs. McPherson arrived during audience recess.

**Consent
Agenda**

Mrs. Schumacher asked to pull Item 5.01a from the consent agenda. She made a light correction to the minutes.

MOTION

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 12th day of May, 2014, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented/amended:

5.01 Approval of Minutes-Prior Meetings

- a. April 14, 2014 Regular Meeting minutes
- b. April 14, 2014 Closed Meeting minutes
- c. April 17, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes
- d. April 17, 2014 Closed Meeting minutes
- e. April 28, 2014 Regular Meeting minutes
- f. April 28, 2014 Closed Meeting Minutes

5.02 Disbursements Resolution

Disbursements Listing

May 12, 2014–FY ’14 Disbursements

**SPECIAL
INTEREST**

21st CENTURY LEARNING PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Fessler stated he had visited schools and talked to staff about 21st century learning early in the school year and determined the learning landscape of the district. He stated brain research indicates it takes 4-6 weeks for the brain to transfer information from short term to long term memory.

Dr. Fessler stated the district's mission: Prepare Students to be Successful for Life. He stated research had shown the need for strategic professional development for teachers. To create thinking classrooms, adopt CCSS and provide 21st century learning requires a redesign of curriculum. He stated we are in the design phase right now. One hundred and twenty teachers are coming together to design new curriculum. He stated the soft skills taught at Ridge would be adopted across the district.

Mr. Luedloff discussed the importance of professional development (PD). He stated every job requires training and that teaching is a very complex job. He noted good PD must be aligned to research. The district will provide 30-100 hours of PD. The Wednesday early release provides for this time.

Mrs. McAbee discussed the transition to 21st century learning. She stated the district would create units of study that would make the best use of instructional time. In the past each subject area had an allotted time of the day and textbooks guided learning and assessment. Each subject matter was treated differently. We are shifting away from these specific blocks of time, as this method no longer serves our students well. Students will have a more seamless day, with overlapping of subject matter. The 4 Cs (critical thinking, collaboration, communication, creativity) will be integrated into everything. We will start with the end in mind, having key outcomes for students. Teachers will assess students throughout instruction period, not just at end of textbook chapter. She stated she was eager to continue the journey.

Ms. Krinsky asked about how knowledge gaps would be addressed.

Mrs. McAbee stated the students would be afforded real life experiences. We will give the kids tools to research and investigate. Students will take ownership of their learning.

Dr. Fessler stated we need to stimulate higher level questions for higher level thinking. Good communication skills are very important for kids.

Mr. Grey stated he would be sharing the work of the Technology Committee later during the meeting. He stated the staff had engaged in powerful conversations about 21st century learning and how that looks.

Ms. Cohen stated the DEA had partnered with administration in PD design as well as curriculum design. The district's new initiative had come about through collaboration and communication. She stated the district was stronger as everyone moved out of their comfort zone to provide what is best for kids.

Dr. Fessler stated the building of trust was an important part of the work. Clear goals were formulated collaboratively that will provide a 1st class education for all students. He stated the curriculum design would be implemented over a three-year period.

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING

Preschool teachers presented information on the current EC learning landscape in District 59. We have 280 students in 28 sections located at 5 sites. Students are either Special Ed, At-Risk or Typically Developing. The preschool has become more 21st century focused this year. Assessments have been fine-tuned. Student learning has been expanded and students have a role in choosing activities. The teachers are using web-based portfolios. The 4 Cs are used during centers. A short video was presented.

Ms. Krinsky stated preschool education is critical to education. She thanked the teachers for doing a fabulous job, especially with our neediest students.

Dr. Fessler stated he was proud of the preschool's use of 21st century skills.

Mrs. Roberts stated they were farther ahead than was thought. She thanked the teachers.

Mrs. Osmanski thanked the teachers for their early intervention, which addresses gaps before they even exist.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS

Mr. Luedloff stated there had been two FOIA requests since the April 14, 2014 Board of Education Meeting. He indicated the requests related to food service and re-striping bids.

DISCUSSION

ITEM

START-END SCHOOL DAY HOURS FOR 2014/15

Mrs. Roberts stated the topic of length of school days came up during contract negotiations and had to remain confidential until the contract was ratified by the union and approved by the Board of Education. Immediately after this, parents were notified of the possible changes. She stated the Board had its first discussion on this topic 2 weeks ago. At the end of that discussion the Board asked Dr. Fessler to undertake some research and provide further options.

Dr. Fessler stated the proposed options presented for start-end times did not totally succeed with alignment. We did succeed with adding 30 minutes to the school day at 12 schools.

All junior highs will have the same start and stop times. Elementary schools will have the same number of in-school hours. We have taken into account after school activities and the need for older siblings to be home before their younger siblings for supervision. We moved back the original suggested start time.

(Option 1) to heed research that shows a later start time is better for kids.

(Option 2) as presented tonight was being recommended to the Board by administration.

(Option 3) has a later start time for junior highs but activity buses would get kids home very late and older siblings would not be available for supervision of younger sibs.

(Option 4) would have Ridge remain at 8 hours. This would require 7 additional buses. Also, the longer day at Ridge conflicts with the newly approved teacher contract. He added managing two different educational programs was not efficient. He asked for Board guidance.

Mrs. Osmanski stated she liked option 2 – keeping start times similar for all schools.

Mrs. Schumacher stated she felt 1:50 was too early to dismiss, even once a week.

Mrs. Somogyi asked Dr. Fessler to address a parent's questions.

Dr. Fessler said he wished to dispel some inaccurate information. He stated 4 schools had performed well on ISATs. He stated the idea of having an 8-hour day at all schools would be very expensive. He also stated that although the district currently has a large fund balance, there are two bills before the state senate, SB16 and SB585 that have the potential of costing the district millions of dollars. He stated the district will be able to survive deficit spending for 3 years.

Mrs. Gloede stated there could be a transformation of how our state funds education. We stand to lose \$7M. Although we are fortunate that most of our funding comes from local sources, the fact remains that the state and federal governments are broke.

Mrs. McPherson arrived and apologized for being late. She stated she attended a 6th grade concert at Friendship. She stated she was on the negotiations committee so she had known for some time about the suggested changes. She stated the changes are being made late in the school year, and that parents are shocked by these changes.

Ms. Cohen stated she reached out to teachers before negotiations began. She stated she felt the district should go ahead with the changes and try to do better next time. She stated there was no suggestion that teachers work longer and not get paid for that time.

Mrs. Schumacher stated that when Mrs. Somogyi first came on the Board the district was broke. Now the state and federal governments are broke and the district is not. She stated it took many years to establish the current fund balances, because we were smart in how we used the money. Over the past 11-12 years people from across the district complained that Ridge was getting more than the rest of the district. She stated the families should take heart in that they are not losing their balanced calendar, or inter-sessions, or their staff. The school will be the same except for the hours.

Mr. Kiel stated the Board was still discussing the various options. He reminded the audience that the Board cannot discuss these issues outside of a open board meeting.

Mrs. Roberts stated the Board will give direction to administration, that this was not a actual vote.

Ms. Krinsky stated it requires consensus.

Mrs. Roberts stated one theme she heard was the district's financial status. She stated we are in a fortunate situation and she would love to give another 1.5 hours to all schools, but if this was done all the saving would be depleted very quickly and the district would be in trouble. She asked if there were further questions on the options presented.

Mrs. Somogyi stated these types of decisions are difficult. The Board needs to consider all stakeholders. She stated that when Ridge was opened the Board knew it would cost more to run the school and was happy to supplement the extra cost for a number of years, and then sustain the things that worked. We never talked about closing Ridge at Board meetings. Ridge was our pilot school. She thanked parents for their input. She stated the district has a strong focus, a strong Board and a strong superintendent. She stated everyone will pull together for a smooth transition.

Mrs. Schumacher stated that she and Mrs. Somogyi were on the committee that decided about what to do with Ridge-half of the building was for a new early childhood center and the other half turned into RFCL, which consisted of full day kindergarten and grades 1-3. It later expanded to grades 4 & 5. She stated the original Ridge parents made it the school it is today. She stated it is difficult for Board members to make these kinds of decisions. We are responsible to all taxpayers.

Mrs. Osmanski thanked the parents who shared their passion for their school. She stated the Board has passion for education as well. She stated she appreciated the district leadership that is guiding the way.

Ms. Krinsky stated that as a former Ridge parent it broke her heart to make this decision and she wished she could give extended hours to all schools.

Mrs. Roberts stated she had heard parents reference the closing of Ridge. She stated she had been on the Board for 9 years and had never had that conversation.

Mr. Kiel stated he was a parent of in family that graduated from Ridge. He stated the Board is moving forward with ideas from Ridge, taking them across the district. He stated he was unsure whether this change was thought through. He stated there were still many questions that had not been answered.

Mrs. Roberts stated the Board needed to give direction to Dr. Fessler.

Dr. Fessler stated he needed direction to move forward with planning. He stated a lot of time had been spent on the implications of each option. He stated the SLT had also investigated options for before and after school care.

Mr. Kiel asked about these solutions.

Dr. Fessler stated organizations would provide after school care that parents pay for, but the district would negotiate with them.

Mrs. Roberts called for a straw poll.

Ms. Krinsky, Mrs. Osmanski, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Schumacher and Mrs. Somogyi stated they were in favor of option 2. Mr. Kiel and Mrs. McPherson stated they did not support option 2.

ACTION ITEMS

DETERMINATION OF SERIOUS SAFETY HAZARDS RELATED TO STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Mrs. Gloede stated there no changes from the prior year.

MOTION

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 12th day of May, 2014 the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education in accordance with school code (105ILCS 5/29-3) determines the following areas as Serious Safety Hazards in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) in consultation with the Illinois State Board of Education.

<u>Number</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Location</u>
59-00-1	Salt Creek	Arlington Heights Road at Biesterfield Road
59-00-2	Friendship	Oakton Street at Pennsylvania Avenue
59-00-3	Friendship	Elmhurst Road at Oakton Street
59-00-4	Friendship	Dempster Street at Marshall Drive
59-00-5	Forest View	Golf Road at Meier Road
59-00-6	Forest View	Busse Road at Lonquist Blvd.
59-00-7	John Jay	Algonquin Road at Briarwood Drive
59-00-8	Grove	Landmeier Road at Ridge Avenue
59-00-9	Admiral Byrd	Biesterfield Road from Martha Street to Leicester Road
59-00-10	Brentwood	Mt. Prospect Road from Golf Road to 350' south of Golf Road
59-00-11	Friendship	Elmhurst Road from Holiday Lane to Algonquin Road
59-00-12	Grove	Devon Avenue from Ridge Avenue to 350' west of Ridge Ave.
59-00-13	Admiral Byrd	Devon Avenue from Park Blvd. to Berkshire Lane
59-00-14	Devonshire	Mt. Prospect Road from Roxbury to 350' north of Roxbury
59-01-1	Holmes	Golf Road at Meier Road
59-01-2	Holmes	Busse Road at Lonquist Blvd.

When paired with a tablet, students can do amazing things. Mr. Grey shared a short video.

Mr. Grey noted the tablet takes the place of pencil, paper and books. Kids can be creative and collaborate with tablets. The committee looked at the Google Nexus 7 and the Apple iPad Mini. They discovered that Google and Apple student accounts are very different. With Apple, the parent must create and own the account. With Google the district can own the account. Also, Google apps can be under control of the teacher, who can both install and uninstall apps on student devices.

Next the committee looked at cost and the long-term budget plan for technology. The committee recommended the CromeBook for Internet access and its full keyboard, and the Nexus tablet for its camera, video & still, as well as calendars and planners. They found these two devices combined are less than ½ the cost of an Apple laptop, and we would be able to provide a device to all students. PreK-2nd grade would have tablets, Grades 3-8 would have both devices. The new Innovative Learning Director and the tech coaches will assist staff.

Mr. Grey noted that Google would be including free PD with the purchase of the devices, a free bag to carry the devices and would also provide access to their many resources. He also noted these devices will work with the Apple computers. Both devices have good battery life.

Mrs. McPherson asked about typing papers.

Mr. Grey stated the students would type on the CromeBook using GoogleDocs.

Mr. Grey stated he had been visiting with staff at each school and found the teachers to be very excited about these devices.

Mrs. Schumacher stated she understood Mr. Grey's excitement, as he is very knowledgeable in the area of technology. She stated for others it is very difficult. She stated she felt the district was moving too fast in this area and noted that teachers agreed per teacher surveys. She stated there was no way she wanted preschoolers to have a device.

Mr. Grey stated it is often hard to think past what we can do, but we have to remember that kids can and already do use these devices. Its not about the adults, its about the kids and what is best for them.

Mrs. McPherson suggested the device bags be color coded by school or grade level.

Ms. Krinsky stated she liked technology; liked having a world of information at her fingertips. She stated she thought the tech committee had come up with a fabulous solution for kids and commended the committee on its work.

Mrs. Somogyi asked about the junior high laptops.

Mr. Grey indicated it was time to refresh these devices anyway. They will be collected in late May or early June and not be redeployed.

