

**Official Minutes of the Tuesday, May 27, 2014
Special 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 special 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 Tuesday, May 27, 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 and Barbara Somogyi.
- 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; 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; Melissa Ward, Coordinator of Early Childhood and preschool staff; Lore Levene, Coordinator of LA and Literacy; Christy Prikkel, Director of Fiscal Services; Cindy Pullen, Human Resources; Matt Legg, Rupley School; Anne Larsen, Forest View, Patrick Brosnan and Paul Pesseti, Legat Architects.
- 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. No one came forward.
- Consent Agenda**
- MOTION** by Mrs. Somogyi, seconded by Mrs. Osmanski, to adopt the following resolution:
- BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 27th day of May, 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 Retirements
 - b. Administrative Contract
 - c. Certified Contracts
 - d. Certified Retirement
 - e. Certified Resignations
 - f. ESP Retirement Changes
 - g. Non-Negotiated Compensation
 - h. Administrative Performance Contracts

Mrs. Gloede noted there were two steps to the contract: 1) How the salary was developed; and 2) How the superintendent’s insurance is paid. There should be no confusion.

Mr. Kiel suggested the Board make comments on the contract.

Mrs. Roberts noted it would be added to the agenda for the Board retreat.

MOTION by Ms. Krinsky, seconded by Mr. Kiel, to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 27th day of May, 2014, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education approves the administrative contract for the superintendent attached to this resolution.

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

2014/15 BUILDING RENTAL/USE PROGRAM

Mrs. Gloede stated she was presenting a clearer version of a new Administrative Regulation on building use, which would avoid annual renewals for custodial fees.

Mrs. Roberts stated the new regulation meets everyone’s needs.

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 27th day of May, 2014, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education approve Administrative Regulation: Community Use of School Facilities 8.20 R as revised and attached to this resolution.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2014/15 TENTATIVE BUDGET/LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

Mrs. Gloede stated Board members had received two documents: the Long Term Financial Plan and the Tentative Budget. She gave credit to the Finance committee, which included Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Somogyi, and also thanked Jennifer Kobus and Christy Prikkel for their assistance in the preparation of these documents.

Mrs. Gloede noted the budget funds everything the district does and lots of thinking goes into the building of the budget. It fulfills part of the strategic plan: financial stability for the district. The budget must align with the district's mission.

Mrs. Gloede also noted each conversation on Early Childhood, FDK, Property usage, and technology must be supported by the budget. She indicated the district uses three indicators to be sure we are headed in the right direction: 1) Compliance with the Board Policy on fund balances; 2) Maintaining Recognition Status; and 3) Meeting the state definition of a balanced budget.

Mrs. Gloede presented the budget timeline:

January: budget parameters set forth

February-May: Budget development

June: Board authorized public display and sets date for public hearing

July: Budget posted on website and made available for public inspection

August: Changes made based on known developments and budget adopted

Mrs. Gloede stated this was a year of shifting resources as things became more centralized. She stated she hoped for a better understanding of the budget by segregating one-time expenditures from recurring expenses. She stated the budget had a \$6.3M deficit, but included one-time expenditures of \$6.8M.

Mrs. Gloede noted state funding was uncertain and the budget assumed a 79% proration. She indicated the district did not yet have the results of the levy extension, but that we should know within the next month.

Mrs. Gloede indicated the budget included salaries for additional assistant principals, extra hours for ESPs and professional development opportunities for the development of a distinguished staff. The budget also includes new tech devices for students, new skyward modules and a new minibus.

Mrs. Gloede stated the Long Tern Plan's purpose is to consider financial implications. She stated that best practice was to keep looking forward and not stick our heads in the sand. She listed some key assumptions: Certified staff turnover that would result in higher paid teachers being replaced by lower paid teachers; an early childhood center funded by bonds; construction of an administration center with existing funds and sale of property; full day kindergarten for all.

Mrs. Gloede stated there was value in maintaining a strong fund balance: stability during tough financial times; time to adjust course; the opportunity to introduce new initiatives or fund major projects.

Mrs. Gloede discussed the benefits of issuing debt for capital projects. She stated the District's strong fund balances gave the District a AAA rating which means lower interest rates. She also noted the District's current EAV has bottomed out so the issuance of debt would have a minimal impact on the taxpayer. Also, the District's 2009 bonds will retire in 2016 so there would be room for debt issuance under the current DSEB. She stated the District could issue bonds quickly if it needed to.

Mrs. Gloede stated there were some black clouds on the horizon as far as state funding. She offered one-to-one conversations to the Board.

Mrs. Osmanski thanked Mrs. Gloede for making everything so clear.

Mrs. Roberts also thanked Mrs. Gloede for the Long Term Plan that showed District history and projections for the future.

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING

Dr. Fessler stated the Board had posed questions to administration regarding the building of an Early Childhood Center (ECC), which would be addressed tonight.

Mrs. Streit addressed the issue of one site rather than multiple sites. She stated one site would bring coordinated and optimized usage of staff. She also stated an ECC would increase family involvement and parent networking could more easily occur.

Mrs. Streit stated an efficiency of the ECC center would be one screening site for both early childhood and ELL. Also, the opportunity for staff collaboration would be more equitable and would not require commuting time. There would be the opportunity for junior high students to explore their interest in working with younger children.

Mr. Rossi stated representative of Legat Architects were in attendance to answer any questions from the Board. He stated he was looking for 55,000 square feet under one roof and recommended an addition to Holmes Jr. High School. He stated the selected site was assessable to buses. If built as an addition to Holmes, the ECC could share technology infrastructure, gas service and other services. Also, there could be shared custodial staff.

Mrs. Somogyi commented that when Ridge was selected to be the District's preschool center there was no possibility for program growth because of space limitations. She stated the Lively property was available and should be considered as a site for an ECC, as there was plenty of room for expansion. She stated the Lively site offered the opportunity to share equipment with the Elk Grove Park District. She noted the site was close to Alexian Brothers Medical Center and perhaps the ECC could have rooms for doctors and nurses. She stated she preferred the Lively site.

Mr. Rossi stated that even with the ECC addition to Holmes, there was still plenty of land to expand Holmes if required in the future.

Ms. Krinsky asked if there was a certain area where most preschool children lived.

Mrs. Ward indicated the preschool children come from all over the district.

Mrs. Schumacher stated that when Ridge was the centralized preschool site there were complaints of long bus rides for very young children. She stated there are no complaints from current preschools. She stated building an ECC was not worth the money.

Mrs. Ward stated there were long bus rides with either scenario.

Mrs. Osmanski stated that when she thought back on the ELS program at Rupley she realized now much more efficient it was to have a centralized program. There was more opportunity for staff collaboration. This would also be the case with an ECC.

Mrs. Roberts stated there were many pros to the Lively site, but questioned what would happen if a referendum failed.

Mrs. Somogyi stated the Board would put off construction.

Mrs. McPherson stated she liked the idea of the preschool staff at one site; that it would be better for kids.

Mr. Kiel asked about the Busse/Lonnquist intersection and how traffic patterns would work at the Holmes site.

Mr. Rossi stated they would most likely add a left turn lane and eliminate the median.

Mr. Kiel asked if there would be reconfiguration of Holmes itself.

Mr. Rossi indicated there would most likely not be any reconfiguration to Holmes.

Mrs. Ward stated there are currently 16 preschool classrooms across 5 sites. She noted the recommendation would be to build 18-20 classrooms to accommodate future expansion. She stated class sizes range from 6-15 students.

Ms. Krinsky stated she had concerns about space; she didn't want to see the building immediately in need of extra space. She stated the Board should remember the adage: "If we build it they will come".

Mrs. Streit noted it would depend on who is invited in. Also, there would be some flexible spaces.

Ms. Krinsky stated she still had concerns about limited space.

Mr. Brosnan from Legat Architects stated pods could be easily added to the building later.

Mrs. Ward stated the 4 extra classrooms with two sessions per day would accommodate 80 additional preschoolers.

Mrs. Osmanski asked about additional therapy rooms.

Mrs. Ward indicated there would be additional therapy rooms.

Mrs. Streit stated 25-30 staff met to discuss early childhood learning. They discussed the “ideal” space for 3-year-olds, a welcome center for families, a diagnostic center and spaces for team collaboration. They also discussed a courtyard play area that would be protected from outside distractions.

Mr. Rossi stated the first thing to be decided moving forward is the site selection.

Mrs. Somogyi commented if the Holmes site is selected the Board might want to consider a new gym for Holmes Jr. High.

Mr. Rossi stated he had discussed some similar options.

Mrs. Somogyi stated the need to do things right and not rush into this. She stated there were many considerations. She wondered if the Holmes site was too small.

Mr. Rossi stated the site was not too small.

Mr. Brosnan noted the need to consider future options.

Mrs. Somogyi stated there were many advantages to the Holmes site but she did not want the Board to be restricted to one option.

Mr. Rossi stated that if the Board wanted the ECC to be opened by August 2015 we would need to break ground by October or November at the latest. He asked that Legat be allowed to bring conceptual drawings to the June 9th Board meeting. He stated another staff meeting was scheduled for this week and also site visits to see what is currently out there.

Mrs. Schumacher suggested the Board consider the Lively property.

Mr. Rossi stated the district would have to jump through hoops to develop the Lively property. A referendum would put us at least a year behind.

Ms. Krinsky stated she did not want to run another referendum. She stated she would rather be in a position to break ground in October.

Mrs. Streit stated the preschool staff believes the ECC cannot come soon enough.

Mr. Kiel stated the need for keeping the community informed.

Mr. Rossi suggested open informational meetings for the community.

Mrs. Roberts stated there appeared to be consensus for moving forward with conceptual designs for the Holmes property.

Mr. Rossi stated the next steps would include conceptual designs to be reviewed at the June 9th meeting with action taken at either the June 23rd or July Board meeting.

Dr. Fessler asked about cost implications.

Mr. Nicholas of Nicholas Associates stated it was a good time for obtaining bids if the Board moves in June.

Mrs. Gloede stated there would be a timetable, which includes a public hearing, if the Board wishes to issue bonds.

Dr. Fessler asked the Board how it would decide between using fund balances and issuing bonds.

Mrs. Somogyi responded in favor of protecting the district's assets by issuing bonds.

Mrs. Gloede referred to page 20 of the Long Term plan, stating there were three options: use fund balances; issue bonds; use a combination of each.

Mr. Rossi stated he would like to present ideas for work to be done at Holmes if that site is selected.

Mrs. Roberts asked the Board to send questions to Dr. Fessler as they arise.

Ms. Krinsky stated she was willing to issue bonds.

Dr. Fessler asked Mrs. Gloede to bring back information on the three options.

TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Fessler stated the Board would be asked for its approval of the technology plan during the June 9th meeting.

Mr. Grey stated he would be brief. He stated the staff tablets had arrived and there was lots of staff excitement.

He thanked the Board and Dr. Fessler for the creation of the positions of Director of Innovative Learning and Innovative Learning coaches to support staff.

Mr. Grey stated he was fine-tuning figures and would present them during the June 9th meeting. He asked for questions.

Mrs. Schumacher stated she had looked through the DEA technology survey to find common themes. She stated some of the common themes were: moving too fast; no need for two devices; kids will break/lose them; will be used inappropriately at home; not enough staff support; things are already decided before we are asked for our input.

Mrs. Roberts stated another survey had been done following Mr. Grey's visits to schools. She stated the feedback is now much better.

Mrs. Schumacher stated she would like to see that survey. She stated she did not approve giving out two devices and did not approve of any device for preschool students. She stated she would approve a pilot program for technology devices.

Mr. Grey stated 750 staff received the first survey and only 30% responded. He stated the survey was disbursed prior to any staff meetings. He stated the follow-up survey had 272 responses that were very positive. He stated the district would be providing professional development to staff.

Mrs. Roberts asked if the Board wanted to continue the technology discussion or to move on to other topics.

Mrs. Osmanski stated the first survey uncovered staff perceptions. Mr. Grey responded to these perceptions and the second survey had a very positive response.

Ms. Cohen asked that the second survey be shared with all staff.

Dr. Fessler stated the coaches would assist staff.

Mr. Grey offered to bring the devices to the meeting to show the Board.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Grey stated the foundational work in communications was moving forward. The new website and other branding efforts are in process. He stated he would present a communication plan at the June 9th Board meeting.

Mr. Grey stated the teachers are very excited about their new web pages. They will be given access to the pages prior to summer break. He stated there were courses offered to help teachers; that two sessions had taken place today. He stated the new website would roll out in August.

BOARD RETREAT AGENDA TOPICS

Mrs. Roberts asked if the Board wanted to invite legal counsel to provide information on items a Board of Education is mandated to act on. Also, to explain the difference between a straw pole and an action item.

Mrs. Osmanski stated she wanted to discuss a standardized process for committee meeting minutes.

Mr. Kiel stated the minutes should first be reported to the BOE and then sent out to staff.

Mrs. Somogyi asked if the meeting would be an open meeting.

Mrs. Roberts indicated it would be open to the public.

Mrs. McPherson stated she wanted to discuss communications for all stakeholders. She noted current practice seemed to be different groups are informed at different times, or that was the perception. She suggested this be discussed.

Mrs. Schumacher stated she wanted a training session on technology devices.

Mrs. McPherson stated she wished to discuss having a two-year school calendar instead of a one-year calendar.

The Board agreed it would need more than one session to cover all agenda topics. Mrs. Boswell will send out another Doodle calendar to establish a date.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT’S TEAM

Dr. Fessler congratulated Dr. Wagner on beginning her new position as Superintendent for Beach Park School District 3 later this week. He noted there would be a good-bye celebration in the Boardroom on Thursday at 2 p.m. for Dr. Wagner

MOTION at 10:00 p.m. by Mrs. Osmanski, seconded by Mr. Kiel, to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 27th day of May, 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”, in accordance with 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) 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 10:55 p.m. by Mrs. McPherson, seconded by Ms. Krinsky, to adopt the following resolution:

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

