

**Official Minutes of the Monday, November 25, 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 Friendship Junior High School, 550 Elizabeth Lane, Des Plaines, IL on Monday, November 25, 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; Kelley Zerfahs, Principal of Robert Frost School; Christy Prikkel, Director of Fiscal Services; Martina Perez, Coordinator of ELL; Cindy Pullen, Coordinator of HR Services and Data Management; Learning Walk teachers: John D’Anza, Kathy Regan, Jeanine Vaughn, Cindy Placko, Liz Freiburger, Jenni Pacquer, Margo Pinns, Nicola Avena, Kyung Choi, Kelly Lisner, Andrea Cohn, Amanda Hager, Beth Soreng; Caryn Dowdson and Anne Hansen, staff; Lizeth Robinson, Antonia and Marciano Payan, Maria Sanchez, Elizabeth Loeza, Nancy and James Bayus, Jessica Martinsen, parents; Matt Cropper, Cropper GIS.
- Pledge of Allegiance** The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was completed.
- Dr. Fessler recognized Janice Krinsky as a Master Board Member through IASB. Ms. Krinsky received a pen from IASB to mark her accomplishment. Dr. Fessler also recognized Barbara Somogyi, Mardell Schumacher, and Sharon Roberts as IASB Master Board members.
- Dr. Fessler noted that Mrs. Somogyi was recognized at the IASB conference as the North Cook senior Board Member with 35 years of service.
- Dr. Fessler stated the Board was holding its Committee of the Whole meeting at Friendship Jr. High to enable the Board to attend the student Invention Convention being held at the school. He pointed out the creativity and innovation displayed by the student participants and noted the students were very professional in their presentations, speaking with confidence.
- Several Board members expressed admiration for the students’ inventions and presentations.
- AUDIENCE ADDRESS** Mr. Kiel welcomed everyone to the meeting, explaining the difference between a regular Board of Education Meeting and a Committee of the Whole Meeting.

He asked if anyone wished to address the Board. Three members of the Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee, Lizeth Robinson, Antonia Payan and Maria Sanchez, came forward to address the Board through the Translator. Each individual thanked the Board of Education for the ELL opportunities offered to their children. Mrs. Sanchez stated she was pleased to represent the Latino community.

DISCUSSION

ITEM

ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS – RECOMMENDATIONS

Mrs. Gloede reviewed the scope and process of the Facilities and Enrollment Committee, stating the Committee had met from September through November. They began by looking at space issues, specifically in the Friendship Cluster, where enrollment was forecasted to increase. She indicated the Committee came to the understanding that it needed to look at programming before any decisions could be made.

Cropper provided numbers relative to student residence and school of attendance. The Committee found that 18% of District 59 elementary students do not attend their boundary school. One proposal of the Committee would shrink this percentage to 4%.

Mrs. McAbee stated the District has outgrown the old ELL model of providing bilingual instruction at some schools and ESL instruction at others. She stated the District needs to offer more options, proceeding cluster by cluster, beginning with the Friendship cluster. She noted that currently Frost offers both ESL and Bilingual services and has the lowest rate of parent denied services. She suggested phasing in a Bilingual Program at Brentwood and an ESL Program at Devonshire. This would eliminate a shared attendance area.

Mrs. McAbee stated the shared attendance area in Elk Grove Village would be more difficult to eliminate, but suggested the process begin by phasing in an ESL program at Salt Creek and Rupley Schools.

Mrs. McAbee stated that with the help of the Illinois Resource Center she is looking at re-designing ELL programming, possibly using the Dual Language model.

Mrs. Streit stressed the need to expand the Early Childhood Program. As there is no available space on the north end of the District, she suggested adding another EC section after winter break somewhere on the south end of the District.

Mrs. Streit stated there was no space at Rupley School to expand the ELS program. She suggested opening two classrooms at another south side school.

The Committee presented three levels of recommendations to the Board that would bring greater equity and better meet the needs of students:

Level 1:

1. Begin the process of assigning students to home schools for English Language Learner (ELL) services, expanding program options available at home school sites;
2. *Expand* the Early Childhood (EC) and Educational Life Skills (ELS) programs to meet demand (on the south side); and
3. Modify Junior High scheduling to make better use of space and resources.

Level 2:

1. Establish a systematic approach to assigning students in Bilingual Spanish programs from the shared attendance area of Oasis (Rupley/Salt Creek);
2. Examine impact of growing Polish Bilingual program and the program location/model;
3. Phase out the Gujarati Bilingual program but continue to offer ESL; and
4. Open a CIP program (currently at Friendship) at other junior highs.

Level 3:

1. Reassign Colony Apartments to Salt Creek.

Mrs. Roberts inquired as to whether there was adequate space if students were returned to their boundary school. She asked if enrollment projections had been used.

Mr. Cropper stated enrollment forecasts were used in developing the recommendations.

Mrs. Somogyi asked about the impact on Ridge of moving Early Childhood programs.

Mrs. Streit stated Ridge would not be impacted.

Mrs. Roberts inquired about the impact on staff.

Mrs. McAbee stated she would sit down and talk to staff at each school.

Mrs. Roberts asked if Mrs. Gloede had looked at the impact on transportation costs.

Mrs. Gloede stated she had not yet looked at the impact on transportation.

Mrs. McPherson asked about siblings of students who would be phased in to their boundary school.

Mrs. McAbee stated the older siblings would not be sent back to the boundary school. She noted that expanded Dual Language programming would draw more families.

Mrs. Somogyi stated parents would have the option of open transfer.

Dr. Fessler stated administration of the open transfer process was being transferred to the Superintendent's office. He stated there would be more dialogue with the Board on enrollment issues moving forward. He indicated administration would be gathering feedback from staff and parents, refining options and bringing recommendations back to the Board for approval in January.

LEARNING WALK PROCESS AND RESULTS

Mr. Luedloff stated Learning Walks were initiated to discover the learning landscape in District 59. He stated the DEA identified staff to participate in the Learning Walks, and he found the staff to be very professional in their work. He stated the goal was to discover where the District is today and repeatedly reminded staff to focus on “just the facts”.

Ms. Cohen stated she recruited staff members from every group, grade level and school and that all but two invitees accepted her invitation. Training sessions were facilitated by staff that worked as a team to gather some great information. She stated Mr. Luedloff had typed up the notes from each visit.

Mr. Luedloff stated the Learning Walkers saw many instructional models, but mostly saw teacher directed instruction. They observed the use of Claims and Evidence, the 4 Cs and Daily 5. They also observed Write Tools, books in every classroom and laptops in use in junior high classrooms. They observed engaged, respectful students in a student-centered environment with student work displayed throughout the building. They noted different technology all across the District. They reported seeing safe and inviting physical spaces that were mostly clean and bright, with a variety of seating arrangements. All elementary classrooms were reported as having comfortable reading spaces. They also noted a consistent shortage of storage space.

The Learning Walks also revealed a wide range of class sizes, with ELL and Special Education classes typically being the smallest. Primary classes are generally smaller than intermediate classes.

Ms. Cohen stated she and staff hoped the Learning Walks would lead to positive action. She noted the Learning Walkers hoped to have another opportunity to check the learning landscape. She stated she hoped to involve more staff in the process.

Dr. Fessler stated his team was excited about the discoveries and would focus on building a shared understanding. He stated the design phase would occur next year as the foundation is built this year.

Mrs. Roberts stated the Learning Walks provided a great opportunity for collaboration between staff and administration.

Dr. Fessler suggested Learning Walks in other school districts could help to design effective programming.

The results of the Learning Walks will be shared with all staff during the December IOI sessions.

FUTURE OF SCHOOL FEES IN DISTRICT 59

Mrs. Gloede stated the issue of school fees came up under the “One District” list. Mrs. Gloede stated she met with each junior high principal and discovered each had a different process. They discussed student consequences for non-payment of various fees: student fee, extra-curricular fees, fees for damage of District property, etc. She stated she was looking for Board input on student consequences.

Ms. Krinsky asked about student’s “working off” unpaid fees.

Mrs. Roberts asked about exceptions for non-payment. She stated that when a student damages equipment, they are responsible, but when a student’s parent(s) do not pay the student fee, then the student is not responsible.

Mrs. Schumacher stated the District needs to be strict with students who damage property, but not to the extent that they would be held out of graduation ceremonies.

Dr. Fessler asks about consequences of eliminating fees.

Mrs. Gloede stated the District would stand to lose about \$240,000.

Mrs. Somogyi stated some fees are reasonable: activity fees, for example.

Mrs. Roberts stated nothing is ever black and white, that each situation is different. Reasonable judgments must be made.

Mr. Kiel stated the schools should not be responsible for collecting fees. He stated this could ruin parent-school relationships. He asked which fees were not being paid.

Mrs. Prikkel stated the student fee was most often unpaid.

The Board came to consensus that students should not be kept from graduation for non-payment of student fees.

CLASS SIZE

Mr. Luedloff stated the staffing process in District 59 was very historical and set within a framework of:

Elementary school: 24:1

ELL classroom: 90% of gen. ed.

2.0 Instructional Resource

3.0 Specialists

2.5 Special Ed

Jr. High School: 21:1 (core classes)

3-5 ELL teachers

2-5 Teaming

1-2 Instructional Resource

3-4 Fine and Practical Arts

2-3 Performing Arts

5-6 Special Ed

Mr. Luedloff stated the District currently has Special Education sections of: 27 Early Childhood, 5 LOP, 3 CIP and 10 sections of ELS. He noted the principals decide how to divide out the staff they are given. He stated the factors that impact class size were: enrollment, demographics, programming, space and boundaries.

Dr. Fessler asked the Board if it wanted to establish max class sizes for elementary and junior highs. He suggested drawing up clear structures and practices and bringing these back for Board approval.

Other Reports

Mr. Grey recapped the Board’s presentation on 21st century learning spaces by The Third Teacher. He stated the goal was to discover what the best learning spaces look like. He apologized for the poor presentation from The Third Teacher, explaining two key players were not in attendance. He notes The Third Teacher had classroom teachers on staff to help design effective classrooms. He asked the Board if it was willing to have Third Teacher and/or other experts in the field present their products/services to the Board.

Mrs. Roberts stated she would like to have a conversation with an expert in this field and encouraged Mr. Grey to arrange for that opportunity.

Ms. Krinsky suggested researching the subject, stating she had found many resources through Goggle.

Mrs. Schumacher suggested visiting other school districts that have implemented 21st century classroom designs.

Mr. Rossi stated there was a school in Schiller Park that might provide a good site visit for the Board.

Board Comments

Ms. Krinsky stated she was very excited about the social justice session she attended at the IASB Conference.

Mrs. Schumacher requested multiple forms of communication be used when there is a site change for a Board of Education meeting.

Mrs. Somogyi stated there was a report from the AMA stating children should not be in front of a screen for more than 2 hours a day.

MOTION

at 10:34 p.m. by Mrs. McPherson, seconded by Mrs. Roberts, to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 25th day of November, 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