

**Official Minutes of the Monday, March 12, 2018
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 the District 59 Administration Center, 2123 South Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois on Monday, March 12, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

Roll Call **Members Present:** President Barbara Somogyi, Vice-President Janice Krinsky, Sunil Bhavé Secretary - Members: Tim Burns, Karen Osmanski, Sharon Roberts, and Mardell Schumacher

Members Absent: None

Others Superintendent, Dr. Arthur Fessler; Associate Superintendent, Tom Luedloff; Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, CBSO, Vickie Nissen; Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Kelley Zeffahs; Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Maureen McAbee; Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, Karen Starr; Assistant Superintendent for Innovative Learning and Communication, Ben Grey; Executive Director of Facilities and Operations, Tony Rossi; Executive Director of Literacy, Dr. Kim Barrett; Executive Director for Innovative Learning, Dr. Katie Ahsell, Director of Social Emotional Learning; Ross Vittore, Executive Director of Innovative Learning; Director of Communications and Design, David Pohlmeier; and Recording Secretary, Kathie Lange.

Also Present Laura Sandoval, John Jay Elementary School Principal; Ann Wing, Friendship Jr. High and DEA President; Board; Michele Lara, Salt Creek and DEA Exec. Board; Director of Fiscal Service, Janet Russo; Jan Fisher, Coordinator of Purchasing and School Nutrition; Jodi Briggs, Devonshire; Dr. Mike Merritt, Brentwood Principal; Patti Czarnik, Byrd Elementary School;

A scanned copy of the Guest Sign-In Sheet from March 12, 2018 is attached to minutes of this meeting (Attachment #1).

Pledge of Allegiance

4.0 STUDENT CELEBRATIONS

4.01 Friendship Cluster - Robert Frost Presentation

Sofia Gonzalez, bilingual teacher at Robert Frost Elementary School, and student representatives from the Frost Global Committee shared highlights of the work the committee has accomplished through this school year. The purpose of the Global Committee is for students from all grades and cultural backgrounds to plan year-long activities that will develop a tradition of inclusion and that celebrates the diversity at Frost. Click [here](#) to view the presentation.

5.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.01 PTAB Authorization to Intervene On Assessment Appeals

The resolution authorizes Community Consolidated School District 59 to intervene on all 2018 assessment appeals, rather than each time a notice is received from the Cook County Board of Review on a newly-filed appeal. Notification of PTAB cases are forwarded to our law firm as received. District 59 intervenes on all cases, sometimes in partnership with District 214, depending on the location of the property and the requested amount of assessed value reduction. The law firm may have cases reviewed by appraisers to determine the validity of the case. In most cases, the case is settled prior to further actions. However, in some cases a full appraisal is recommended, or a case can progress to an actual hearing with PTAB. Given the 30-day time constraint under which any District must intervene and PTAB's requirement that interventions must be filed by an attorney on behalf of the school district, this resolution provides maximum flexibility in responding to newly-filed appeals.

5.02 2018/19 School Year Pay Bus Fee Fee Proposal

Each year the Board of Education approves the pay bus fee for the coming year. This is the amount a family will pay to have their child transported if it is determined that the student is non-eligible for free transportation. When the State Transportation Reimbursement Claim is computed, the State performs a weighted cost per pupil of non-eligible pupils. The Pay Bus Fee for 2018/19 is based on this weighted cost per pupil calculation and the estimated regular education transportation costs. The attached spreadsheet shows this calculation.

The "total weighted pupils" calculation involves a formula that adds the average number of regular transportation students in attendance residing more than 1-1/2 miles from school plus the students in attendance who receive transportation because they reside within a Serious Safety Hazard area. This sum is weighted two times. Then the calculation adds the average number of regular education students in attendance living less than 1-1/2 miles and non-special education Pre-K students (weighted at one). The total is divided into the estimated transportation costs for the year, yielding the cost of transportation for non-eligible students. The intent is to establish the cost of providing services for students who are not normally considered eligible for free transportation services.

This resolution proposes the pay bus fee for 2018/19 to be established at \$380.00. This reflects an approximate 13.4 % increase from the 2017/18 fee of \$335 and is reflective of the higher contracted transportation cost. Currently 17 students have chosen to pay for these services, for the 2017/18 school year.

Mrs. Schumacher asked if the District could consider reducing the amount suggested for the increase and stated that a \$50 increase may be difficult for some of the 17 families that use the paid bus.

Ms. Nissen shared that the increase is based on the 13.4% increase in the District's contracted transportation costs.

Dr. Burns would like to see staff physically walk routes that do not qualify for bussing to be certain that students have safe routes to walk to school.

5.03 Ridge Family Center For Learning Inter-Session Programming Fee Proposal

As the Ridge Family Center for Learning operates on a unique school calendar, an Inter-Session Program is offered to elementary students as an option and on a fee basis only. The fees are intended to cover the direct operating costs of the programming provided. The 2018/19 Ridge balanced calendar provides for two inter-sessions: 1) September 24 - October 3, 2018 (8 days); and 2) April 1 - 5, 2019 (5 days).

This resolution authorizes the continuation of the inter-session and the fees to be charged families who choose to participate. The Board of Education will be asked to approve the following fee arrangements for 2018/19:

	<u>Proposed 2018/19</u>	<u>2017/18</u>
Sep/Oct Inter-session (8 days)	\$160	(8 days) \$160
Apr Inter-session (5 days)	\$100	(5 days) \$100

In response to a question from Mr. Bhavé, Ms. Nissen indicated that there is currently no fee waiver option for intersession classes at Ridge. Ms. Nissen will provide the Board with information on the percentage of low income students at Ridge.

6.0 COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mrs. Mary Cosenza Vicars, Arlington Heights resident, addressed the Board of Education on the topic of PARCC scores. A copy her address is attached to the minutes of this meeting (Attachment #2).

Mrs. Joan Burke, Arlington Heights resident, address the Board of Education on the topic of PARCC scores, Zillow's rating for schools, and property values for District 59 homes in Arlington Heights. A copy her address is attached to the minutes of this meeting (Attachment #3).

Mrs. Cheryl O'Malley, Elk Grove Village resident, address the Board of Education on the topic of videotaping board meetings and to request a district-wide Town Hall meeting.

Mrs. Jamie Esler, a District 59 parent, addressed the Board of Education to share her experience as a parent of a District 59 student and to request the Board take a stand on the rift that has formed in her community. A copy her address is attached to the minutes of this meeting (Attachment #4).

Mr. Dan Makowski, a District 59 parent, addressed the Board of Education on the topic of the District 59 curriculum.

Mrs. Lynn Oberg, Elk Grove Village resident, addressed the board of Education on Board members' use of social media and community members' involvement in Board of Education meetings. A copy her address is attached to the minutes of this meeting (Attachment #5).

Jenny Pacquer, Elk Grove Village resident and parent of two District 59 alumni, addressed the Board of Education to thank the board members for all they do and to share her experience as a District 59 parent.

7.0 CONSENT

Mrs. Schumacher requested to pull 7.04 d. Human Resource Report.

Dr. Burns requested to pull item 7.04 a through 7.04 d., Human Resource Report.

Mr. Bhave requested to pull all of 7.01 Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings.

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 12th day of March 2018, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented/amended:

7.01 ~~Approval of Minutes Prior Meetings~~

- ~~a. Regular Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2018~~
- ~~b. Closed Meeting Minutes – Session I of February 12, 2018~~
- ~~c. Closed Meeting Minutes – Session II of February 12, 2018~~
- ~~d. Regular Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2018~~
- ~~e. Closed Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2018~~

7.02 Disbursements Resolution

- a. Disbursement Listing for March 12, 2018

7.03 Acceptance of Financial Reports

- a. Detail Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2018
- b. Combined Revenue and Expense Report as of January 31, 2018
- c. Investment Report as of January 31, 2018
- d. Activity Fund Statements as of January 31, 2018

7.01 (a.) - The minutes from Regular Meeting Minutes from February 12, 2018 were tabled until April 2, 2018 when the modified minutes will come before the Board for approval.

MOTION by Ms. Krinsky, seconded by Mrs. Schumacher to table 7.01 a. - Regular Meeting Minutes from February 12, 2018 so they can be amended and to approve the meeting minutes from:

- 7.01 b. Closed Meeting Minutes - Session I of February 12, 2018
- 7.01 c. Closed Meeting Minutes - Session II of February 12, 2018
- 7.01 d. Regular Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2018
- 7.01 e. Closed Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2018

Roll Call Ayes: 6 Burns, Krinsky, Osmanski, Roberts, Schumacher, and Somogyi

 Nays: 0

 Absent: 0

 Abstain: 1 Bhave Motion Carried: 6-0-0-1

7.04 Human Resource Report

Dr. Burns inquired about the process that will be used to fill the administrator position at Clearmont Elementary School.

Dr. Fessler indicated that the process would be initiated very soon and would include feedback from staff and parents.

7.04 (a.) Administrator Appointments

Dr. Burns expressed concerns about 7.01 a. - the appointment of the Executive Director for Human Resources. He indicated he will be voting no for this appointment due to the individual being related to a member of the Superintendent's Leadership Team.

Dr. Fessler reminded the Board that this individual is already an Executive Director with a successful 16 career in District 59 and that the current position the Executive Director holds is being eliminated for fiscal year 2018-19.

In response to Dr. Burns' concern about increases for the other two administrators listed in Item 7.04 a., Dr. Fessler shared that Dr. Katie Ahsell has assumed the leadership responsibilities of MTSS in the wake of the resignation of the Executive Director of Student Growth and Accountability. The Executive Director of Student Growth and Accountability position has been eliminated. Dr. Fessler also shared that Ms. Crystal Jimenez's appointment as Assistant Principal will allow her to take on the full range of administrative responsibilities, including evaluations. The Assistant Principal position at John Jay was not filled at the start of the year due cost.

MOTION by Mrs. Roberts, seconded by Ms. Krinsky to approve the Item 7.04 (a.) Administrator Appointments:

Roll Call Ayes: 6 Bhave, Krinsky, Osmanski, Roberts, Schumacher,
and Somogyi
Nays: 1 Burns
Absent: 0
Abstain: 0 Motion Carried: 6-1-0-0

7.04 (b.) Administrative Resignation

Mrs. Schumacher indicated she will be abstaining from the vote on 7.04 (b.) Administrator Resignation as she volunteers at Clearmont Elementary School.

Dr. Burns felt Mrs. Solomon did a wonderful job as principal and he has concerns about the future for Clearmont Elementary School in the wake of the principal's resignation.

Roll Call Ayes: 6 Bhave, Krinsky, Osmanski, Roberts, Schumacher,
and Somogyi
Nays: 1 Burns
Absent: 0
Abstain: 0 Motion Carried: 6-1-0-0

7.04 c. Non-Negotiated Resignation and d. Certified Retirement

MOTION by Mrs. Roberts, seconded by Ms. Krinsky to approve the Item 7.04 c. Non-Negotiated Resignation and d. Certified Retirement

Roll Call Ayes: 7 Bhave, Krinsky, Osmanski, Roberts, Schumacher,
and Somogyi
Nays: 0 Burns
Absent: 0
Abstain: 0 Motion Carried: 7-0-0-0

Ms. Krinsky congratulated Ms. Jimenez on her appointment as Assistant Principal for John Jay Elementary School and thanked Mr. Vittore and Dr. Ahsell for assuming new roles and/or responsibilities.

Dr. Burns thanked Rachel Solomon for her outstanding leadership at Clearmont Elementary School.

Mrs. Schumacher agreed with Dr. Burns and wished Mrs. Solomon the best in her new endeavors.

Board members thanked Mr. David Pohlmeier and wished him well in the future.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

8.01 ADOPTION OF MODIFICATIONS TO BOARD POLICY 6:50 SCHOOL WELLNESS

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

WHEREAS on the 12th day of February 2018, the Board of Education reviewed the recommended policy changes for **Board Policy 6:50 School Wellness**.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 12th day of March 2018, the Board of Education accepts the recommended policy changes for **6:50 School Wellness** and the update shall be added to the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education Policy Manual.

Roll Call	Ayes:	7	Bhave, Krinsky, Osmanski, Roberts, Schumacher, and Somogyi
	Nays:	0	Burns
	Absent:	0	
	Abstain:	0	Motion Carried: 7-0-0-0

8.02 ADOPTION OF BOARD POLICY 2:230 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS AND PETITIONS TO THE BOARD

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

WHEREAS on the 12th day of February 2018, the Board of Education reviewed the recommended policy changes for Board Policy 2:230 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 12th day of March 2018, the Board of Education accepts the recommended policy changes for Board Policy 2:230 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board and the updated policy shall be added to the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education Policy Manual.

8.03 AWARD OF BID FOR REFUSE/RECYCLING SERVICE

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on the 12th day of March, 2018, the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 59 approve the award for refuse/recycling service to Republic Services for the approximate monthly rate of \$4,114.70.

8.04 APPROVAL OF DONATION FROM THE FIRST TEE NATIONAL SCHOOL PROGRAM TO CLEARMONT SCHOOL

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 12th day of March, 2018, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education accepts the donation from The First Tee National School Program in the amount of \$3,250.00 to support physical education classes at Clearmont School.

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 12th day of March, 2018, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education accepts the donation from Buchanan Energy LLC in the amount of \$500.00 to support Rupley's classrooms with science and math materials and supplies.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 12th day of March, 2018, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education accepts the donation of \$500.00 from Buchanan Energy LLC, 2500 Brickvale Dr., Ste. 100, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Superintendent shall communicate to the donors, in writing, expressing the appreciation of the members of the Board of Education, and that this donation shall be listed in the "official" minutes of this meeting.

Roll Call	Ayes:	7	Bhave, Krinsky, Osmanski, Roberts, Schumacher, and Somogyi
	Nays:	0	Burns
	Absent:	0	
	Abstain:	0	Motion Carried: 7-0-0-0

9.0 SPECIAL INTEREST TOPICS

9.01 FOIA Requests

Ms. Zerbahn shared that 21 FOIA requests had been received since the last report and that all have been responded to.

Dr. Burns stated that six of FOIA requests were requests for learning experiences. He asked for an explanation on how learning experiences are created and when they are ready to be shared.

Mrs. McAbee responded with an explanation of the system used for learning experiences including the learning map, the team approach that is used to create them, an overview of the phases, learning experiences, and the checkpoints in the review process.

10.0 NEW/CONTINUING BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

10.01 Board Calendar

Mrs. Somogyi reminded board members and the community that the next Board meeting will be held on April 2, 2018 rather than the second Monday of month as it normally scheduled. The change is due to a conflict in dates with the 2018 National School Board Association Conference.

10.02 2018 Graduation Ceremonies - Speakers and Guests

Board members determined speakers for the Jr. High School

Graduations:

- Mrs. Roberts - Friendship Jr. High School
- Mr. Bhavé - Grove Jr. High School
- Mrs. Schumacher - Holmes Jr. High School

10.03 Select Time for 2018-06-18 Board Self-Evaluation Meeting

The Board Self Evaluation will be held at 6:30 p.m. on June 18, 2018.

11.0 REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ms. Krinsky shared a handout from a presentation given to the NSSEO Governing Board on 21st Century Learning Environment to Support Innovative Teaching and Learning.

Mrs. Roberts attended the Kirk School Arts and Crafts Show fundraiser hosted by the NSSEO Foundation.

Mrs. Schumacher and Mrs. Osmanski are looking forward to attending the Elk Grove Youth Service Celebration on Tuesday, March 13, 2018. Students from Elk Grove will be honored for their service projects and for giving back to the community. The event will be held at the Elk Grove Village Hall.

Mrs. Schumacher shared that she is planning to have a ceremony for her 4th grade Cursive Writing students at Clearmont. She will share more information once the date is selected.

Dr. Burns attended the 5th grade play at Byrd Elementary School. He praised the students and staff, but he had concerns about the sound system being inadequate. He understands that the PTO is working to raise money for a new sound system, but he would like the district to investigate supplying a new sound system for Byrd Elementary school.

Dr. Burns expressed concern about the lack of electronic communication about the rescheduled date for Grove's Welcome Event for incoming students. He stated that electronic mass communications were not used to announce the reschedule date as they had been for the cancellation of the event.

Dr. Burns indicated that he has received many questions from parents about the 'opt out' process for PARCC tests.

Mrs. Osmanski attended the Devonshire Literacy Night. She also shared information on the District 59's Got Talent event at Harper Community College hosted by the District 59 Education Foundation. The event will be held on April 21, 2018.

Ms. Krinsky shared that on one of the social media sites, parents asked how they can support struggling students. She stated that these individuals are asking for a forum in the district to find out how they can reach out and do things for the community. She feels this would be a great way to have community involvement.

12.0 REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S TEAM

Dr. Fessler attended the Devonshire Literacy Night and the Forest View Math Night.

Mrs. McAbee shared that the District is making plans for the implementation of the new requirement for cursive writing that goes into effect on July 1, 2018. Board members suggested adding resources for parents and had questions on how the instruction will be incorporated for dual language students. Mrs. McAbee indicated that she will continue to provide information to the Board through the weekly update.

Mr. Luedloff updated the Board of Education on the Tier 4 designation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). He will keep the Board updated, as additional details unfold on the subgroups and how that will impact the designation given to a school district.

Mr. Luedloff also shared that there is no longer an 'opt out' process for students who do not want to take the PARCC test. If a student refuses to take the test, the district must document it, contact the parents, and the test is then submitted as 'invalid'. The District has had one student refusal. He will do more research on this topic and share with in the Board Weekly Update.

Ms. Nissen shared that she will provide an overview of the Evidence Based Model (EBM) funding formula at the April 2, 2018 Board of Education meeting.


13.0 ADJOURN

MOTION

at 8:56 p.m by Mrs. Osmanski, seconded by Ms. Krinsky to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 12th day of February, 2018, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education meeting is adjourned.

Barbara Somogyi
Barbara Somogyi, President


Surjit Bhawe, Secretary

ATTACHMENT #1 SIGN IN SHEET FROM 3/12/2018

GUESTS march 12, 2018	
NAME	ADDRESS
Scott Fowle	EGV
Sara Magnafichi	Byrd
Phil	PV
Mr. [unclear]	Ridge
Colleen Carlberg	EG 344
Tammy Lam	
Matthew	
MEHAEL MERRITT	Brentwood
Monse de la Cruz	Robert Frost
Marianne Otrowski	FV
Sym Oberg	EGV
Susan Ryan	Brentwood
Mario Renteria	Robert Frost
Betsy Martin	Downshire / DEA

ATTACHMENT #2

Mary Cosenza Vicars
March 12, 2018 BOE Meeting

In June, 2017, my friend's daughter looked at a home in my neighborhood; she loved the house; she liked the way the neighborhood looked; she grew up in Arlington Heights; and would have loved to have raised her family there, BUT....she was concerned with the low PARCC scores... She wanted diversity, but wanted good scores. Scores matter...

I was upset that she would not move here because of the school. Most of us in this room know others that moved because of the school. Scores matter.

In November 2017, I met with Art Fessler. Instead of being reassured that all was well in 59, I became more concerned that we are not doing what we can to educate all children. Again, if your children are doing well, I am pleased. However, the majority of our children are not doing well. Scores matter.

And I have been speaking at board meetings since April 15, for almost a year. My main concern continues to be academics and the low PARCC scores. I am a teacher who has taught for over 40 years, who has my ESL endorsement, and who continues to volunteer with the poorest families in the area. I believe that education is the only way out for these folks.

We don't teach a lot of content because our administration doesn't think that it's important. Everything can be looked up on the Internet. I disagree. As a Social Studies teacher, you have to have tell the story, so students can analyze, develop their own logical arguments based on solid evidence. Never in history has it been so important to know the difference between fact and fiction. I have observed classes in other districts; this is what they do. To them, scores matter.

And what makes me angry is that this Administration is not trying. Josh Carpenter sent out a memo to teachers to tell them to prepare the students for PARCC. You haven't given the students the background knowledge to do well and then you expect teachers to explain the format of the test at the last minute. One particularly bright class finished an hour and half section in 20 minutes. When the teacher debriefed afterwards, the students said that they only wrote one paragraph; they were supposed to write a multi-paragraph essay. Don't blame the teachers. I don't. What was given to teachers was too little, too late. I have read on FB that our kids are so stressed out. I believe that they are—I would be stressed if I wasn't prepared properly either. As for the teachers, I feel sorry for them. I am already prepared for the fact that our scores will go down again when we get the results later this year.

Today some folks in my neighborhood think I should keep quiet. People told me that years ago when my children attended 59 schools. I have kept quiet and where has that gotten us? Three years in a row our PARCC scores have declined...lower than the State average... That's a red flag that all is not well.

Tell me what is wrong with a school doing well on the PARCC exam? Would it be harmful to our kids, our schools, our community if we did well? Some have said that I misrepresent the fact, that I am misguided, that I don't tell the whole story, that I am the cause for the negative reputation that the school has. I have talked to many people in this district; I have heard their stories with District 59. Folks, I am not the cause for the district's poor reputation—the administration is. If as board members, you continue to follow the administration's path, you are failing all our students, esp. the ones that need it the most.

ATTACHMENT #3

Joan Burke, Arlington Heights, IL BOE 3/12/18

I have attended every board meeting since last April and observed in two schools. I have learned a lot. When I started this journey a year ago, I looked at the online Zillow real estate database. What I found was very disturbing. To this day their website states: "Mount Prospect School District 57 is also nearby and is rated higher than School District 59." I have been told by young parents that our houses and neighborhood are great but our elementary school sucks. D59's subpar scores are affecting our property values.

During the March 2017 election, Board member Roberts in the Daily Herald stated: "Spending tax dollars wisely to maintain strong public schools is a critical factor to maintaining home values." She further stated: "If we have schools under performing than we (the board) are responsible for identifying the cause for such underperformance and must do whatever is necessary to turn things around. That often means changing the administrative leadership." I took her at her word.

In the same Daily Herald article Board member Osmanski was asked about the process for measuring student success in the district. Her reply: "Our assessment structure needs to include national and local benchmarking – asking the questions, How well are our students performing when compared to students in another school? Another district? another state? Another country? Another level of importance is to ensure that our students are growing and skills are improving." I took her at her word.

The PARCC has been on the decline for the past three years and the district is below the State's average. Are Dr. Fessler and the board identifying the cause for such underperformance and turning things around? No, instead the district postulates that PARCC scores are unimportant. Would they be claiming them unimportant if they were excellent scores showing our students growing and skills improving?

Board member Krinsky told us in her candidate's profile that the district has adequate fund balances for current needs. She said: "Our large fund balances allow us to pay for things like a new administration building without needing new taxes." I took her at her word. A few months after the election the district is asking for a \$20 million bond issue. The taxpayers challenged it and when the board knew they were not going to win, they withdrew the bond issue. Our efforts saved you money.

Finally, the above examples are campaign pronouncements which have become broken promises. A promise invites trust but a broken promise invites mistrust.

ATTACHMENT #4

Hello, my name is Jaime Esler. I have a son who is in 3rd grade at Juliette Low, and a 3-year-old daughter who will be attending the Early Learning Center in the fall.

I have attended several board meetings over the past year – as many as I can with two young children to parent – and I have followed countless discussions and threads on social media. I don't claim to be an expert in school board dynamics, but I can tell you there is a strong rift in our community. On the one hand, you have residents concerned about their home values, and they believe the reason their home values are lower is because of the school ratings for the D59 schools. On the other hand, you have residents who currently have children in these schools, and they are advocates for the schools and the education their children are receiving. As far as I am concerned, this rift is large and will not be mended. As a board, I implore you to take a stance on this position. The longer you do nothing, the larger the rift grows. And our children are starting to pay the price. We must move on.

I, obviously, fall into the latter category. I am an involved parent at Juliette Low. I am very impressed with the education my son has received so far. That's not to say that improvements can't be made – they always can – and I support that. What I do not support is changing the curriculum to teach to a substandard and flawed test, with the sole purpose being to increase property values. I firmly believe that my son is more than a test score. I will never let a test score equate his worth, his future, or his ability to be a productive member of society.

One way to look at low PARCC scores is to see the glass as perpetually half empty. Here's an alternative – let's look at that glass as half full. How about this – **despite** the low-test scores in our community, our children are thriving. My son is in the gifted program at Juliette Low, and this past semester, he wrote a story. He took a fairy tale, and told that story from the point of view of a lesser known character. There were requirements given to my son – for example, there had to be dialogue, strong verb choices, alliteration, allusions, and onomatopoeias. His final work product was a 20-page power point presentation. His class then bound up copies of these stories, and delivered them to children at Northwest Community Hospital, so they would have stories to read while undergoing treatment. The students then recorded the stories so they could work on verbally telling stories – captivating the audience and making the stories come to life. There's your glass half full – an example of great things being done in classrooms. That assignment was challenging, innovative and made my son excited to go to school. It also taught the children kindness and empathy, and made them think about helping others when they are undergoing difficult times. That assignment won't be reflected in a PARCC test score. But when I tell you that I am impressed with my son's education, that is just one of the many reasons why. Instead of berating me when I defend our schools, maybe ask me why. You could learn something.

Hearing the constant criticism and demeaning of our children is unacceptable. These children should be protected by all community members – not just the parents. These children have young, impressionable minds, and they know what is being said about them. These children are learning so much more than what is being tested on an inefficient standardized test. Instead of building up these children and their confidence, members of this community are tearing them down. Instead of showing them all they can do, members of this community focus on all they can't. To be honest, those community members could learn from the very children they claim they are fighting for. They can learn kindness, empathy, problem solving and working together as a community. But they would have to go into the schools for that to happen.

Thank you.

ATTACHMENT #5

Lynn Oberg

Social Media Statement given by Barbara at the meeting of 1-22-18

“It has come to my attention that board members are regularly posting on Social Media sites such as Facebook. As board members it is important to remember that when posting about issues that impact the district you are speaking for yourself without authority or endorsement from the board of education. Board members should act in a *dignified manner* consistent with their roles as elected officials and representatives of the district. They should not act in a manner that may expose the district to the risk of legal action, or even a serious threat of legal action. The board’s anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies provide meaningful guidance with which board members should abide when posting. Board members should also keep their oath of office in mind always as board members we act only as a group and have no legal authority as an individual. However, the public may view our individual actions or postings as a reflection of the board. So it is important that we make it

clear that we are speaking only as an individual and not on behalf of the board. Please be mindful of this when engaging in social media.”

This was a statement that was prepared for several issues that have come up in the last couple of weeks by the 59 attorneys.

Is Janice following this? I do not think that she has acted in a dignified manner on social media. She is attacking/bullying/harassing people that have different opinions than hers. I do not find this conducive to the statement above that Barbara made.

There is a group of concerned citizens that are trying to help with making improvements within the district regarding the curriculum, or lack thereof. These people are now being subject to her demeaning statements and her bias that everything is just hunky dory. They are trying to help, however are being berated for their efforts. They are being told they have no children in the district and they have no clue as to what is going on in the district. I am a resident of the district 59 area, therefore a taxpayer, and of course have a stake in my property value. Teachers are

afraid to speak up. They are very fearful of losing their jobs if they buck the administration. How do I know this? I have had several teachers approach me and tell me that they are very thankful that we are speaking up on these issues and to please continue with our effort to effect change. I also have several friends that are teachers, so this is information that has been given to me personally.

Instead of trying to stop these people from bringing their issues to the board, the board should listen with good intent. Why is this group the bad guy? What is the board afraid of? Are they afraid to say to Dr. Fessler that his ideas are not working? Where is this great change that he was supposed to bring about? Why is he still here when things are not going better? Do you live in a bubble that you are not aware of what is happening in the schools? Please board members, remember that Dr. Fessler and the administration work for you, the board, and not the other way around. The board works for the taxpayers and it is time that you wake up and listen to the community and not just have your own agenda.

I am hopeful that Barbara will continue to be the president. I do not think that we need a person that demeans others as the board president. I look forward to the 2019 election and the future with enthusiasm as I am hopeful to see the new slate of candidates emerge. It really is time for a change.

Let me leave you with a quote from Janice on social media:

“But since we don't have nearly enough resources for all our struggling learners, the district has placed some of our strongest teachers into the earliest grades (k - 2).”