

**Official Minutes of the Monday, June 18, 2018
Special Board of Education Meeting - Self Evaluation**

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 Monday, June 18, 2018. President Krinsky called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call **Members Present:** President - Janice Krinsky, Vice-President - Karen Osmanski, Secretary - Dr. Tim Burns Members: Sunil Bhawe, Sharon Roberts, and Barbara Somogyi

Members Absent: Mardell Schumacher

Others Present:

Superintendent, Dr. Arthur Fessler; Reatha Owen - Director Field Services, Illinois Association of School Boards;

A scanned copy of the Guest Sign-In Sheet from June 18, 2018 is attached to minutes of this meeting (Attachment #1).

**Pledge of
Allegiance**

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

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Joan Burke addressed the Board of Education on a number of topics. A copy of her address is attached to the minutes of this meeting. Attachment #2

Leo Cox addressed the Board of Education on the topics of student achievement and the District's finances. A copy of his address is attached to the minutes of this meeting. Attachment #3

Judith Cox addressed the Board of Education on the topics of the role of the School Board and community engagement. A copy of her address is attached to the minutes of this meeting. Attachment #4

Mary Vicars addressed the Board of Education on the topics of student achievement and the District's finances. A copy of her address is attached to the minutes of this meeting. Attachment #5

MOTION

at 7:16 p.m. by Mrs. Osmanski. seconded by Mrs. Roberts to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 18th day of June 2018 the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education recess in a closed meeting

Attachment #1 Sign In Sheet from June 18, 2018

| GUESTS | |
|---------------------|---|
| NAME | ADDRESS |
| <i>Sue Dambrosi</i> | <i>June 18, 2018</i> <i>1403 S. KASPAK AVE</i> |
| <i>Joan Michele</i> | <i>1530 S. Kaspa Ave</i> |
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Attachment #2 Joan Burke

BOE SELF-EVALUATION MEETING – JUNE 10, 2018

JOAN BURKE, ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL

The IASB website states that the “single most important job a school board has is to employ a superintendent and hold him responsible for managing the schools...”. I am speaking tonight for the silent majority. For the group that has the highest voter turnout. For the citizens who don’t have children in schools but are still paying taxes to D59 and want the best possible public schools.

District 59’s PARCC scores are below the State’s average and have been on the decline for the past three years. The superintendent has a total disregard for using the PARCC metric to assess school performance (the mantra “test scores don’t matter”); the design and implementation of a comprehensive curriculum, delegated to the teachers, has been in the works since 2014; a strategic plan still not completed four years later although Des Plaines D62 did it in 6 months; using the FAST assessment system which is not used by surrounding schools thereby making it difficult to compare academic progress with other districts; teaching native-Spanish speakers 80% of the time in Spanish and 20% in English; requesting a \$20 million bond issue to finance a new administration center after the community was told reserves would be utilized; four board members who attempted to circumvent the bond referendum process; building a \$20 million Early Learning Center in 2016 and a \$17 million administration center in 2018 thereby putting the district in “debt by design”; the board has negotiated a performance-based superintendent’s contract with a salary of \$291,620.00 plus his entire contributions to the retirement and health insurance funds; and, setting a precedent by giving an administrative retiree two, free years of health insurance benefits. All at taxpayers’ expense.

As a D59 taxpayer, I am demanding honesty, fairness and objectivity in your evaluations so that the outcomes of improving student academic achievement and fiscal responsibility can be achieved. Albert Einstein said: “Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.”

Attachment #3 Leo Cox

Leo J. Cox
660 F Versailles Circle
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

June 18, 2018

Board of Directors,

As you begin your deliberations you may want to pay particular attention to financial considerations. In the Board Update presented just last Monday, revenue projections remain “flat”. Yet, very Fund forecast contains increases, including nearly two million dollars for buying K-1 electronics and replacing four-year-old administrative staff computers. As more electronics are employed, the continuing cost of replacing or updating them grows exponentially.

You should also be taking a longer view than just the past year. In the most current Comprehensive Annual Financial Report on the web site, you can look at the chart showing the Change in Fund Balances for Combined Revenue & Expenditure, which represents a measure of what the Board’s overall financial position is on July 1st of each year. In the past five years the District has gone from a one hundred-thirty million dollar balance in 2013 to a projected seventy-five million dollar balance on July 1st this year, just 13 days away. At the same burn rate there would be just a twenty million dollar balance on July 1st of 2019.

So what did we get for this five year, fifty-five million dollar fund balance spending spree? We got a new Early Learning Center, without a Library, a new Administration Building, which never belonged in a residential neighborhood in the first place, several remodeled Class A school buildings, more than six thousand computers; an Innovative Learning and Communications division with an annual salary drain of more than a million dollars per year.

We also got four years of curriculum planning – with no viable results; multi-age classes, increased class sizes, reduction of pre-school and summer school programs; decreased test scores which led to a State-wide descent from the fifty-fifth percentile of performing schools to the current thirtieth percentile.

I really think that you, as a Board, have a lot of self-evaluating to do.

Attachment #4 - Judith Cox

District 59 Board presentation by Judith Cox

June 18, 2018

This will be short and sweet. After hearing about the Board's Self Evaluation meeting tonight, I decided to access the IASB internet site to see what they had to say about the expectations for school boards in Illinois.

Instead of rewriting their goals, expectations, and codes of conduct, I will quote directly from the IASBs Foundational Principles:

The school board engages in an ongoing two-way conversation with the entire community. This conversation enables the board to hear and understand the community's educational aspirations and desires, to serve effectively as an advocate for district improvement, and to inform the community of the district's performance.

- Community engagement, also called public engagement or civic engagement, is the process by which school boards actively involve diverse citizens in dialogue, deliberation, and collaborative thinking around common interests for their public schools.
- Effective community engagement is essential to create trust and support among community, board, superintendent, and staff.
- A board in touch with community-wide concerns and values will serve the broad public good rather than being overly influenced by special interests.
- The school board must be aggressive in reaching out to the community — the district's owners — to engage people in conversations about education and the public good. In contrast, people who bring customer concerns to board members should be appropriately directed to the superintendent and staff.

Need I say more.

As you move into your closed session, remember your community- the District's owners.

Attachment #5 - May Consenz Vicars

Mary Cosenza Vicars—June 18, 2018 Board Evaluation

Mary Cosenza Vicars, a 31-year District 59 resident, a public-school teacher who has taught all ability levels, including ESL for over 40 years. Two of my three children attended District 59 schools; our third switched to private school. I have met with two 59 principals, taken two school tours, had a private meeting with the superintendent, and attended most board meetings since April 2017.

While I appreciate that our board members are volunteering their time, I am compelled to speak when their actions are adversely affecting our children. When evaluating this board, I would ask you look at academics and finances.

7, 7; 6, 6; 5, 5; 4, 4; 3, 3; and 2. These are the low ratings of the 59 schools, with Byrd being a 2. While some of the neighborhood kids in our schools are doing well, if a school has a low score, it means that many kids are not. After talking to the State of Illinois Assessment Office, it is not just the low scores that are troubling, but more concerning is the fact that for the past years, the scores have declined. It is one test, given over multiple days, to nearly every public-school student in the state. This board has done nothing.

Look at the PSAT8 that students take to enter high school. What matters is what classes our students **can take**. At board meetings, I reported that our PSAT8 scores are low and many of our kids end up in remedial math and reading in high school. Again, the board did nothing.

I have been advocating changing the way that we teach our ESL kids. Look at what other neighboring districts are doing. Look at schools with similar demographics that are doing better. Shouldn't the board be asking, "Why not us?"

In terms of finances, this administration and board does not know how to manage our taxpayer money. Should we have used deficit spending to run our school system? And how about the approval of a 17.1-million-dollar administration building? Afterwards the board wanted to issue bonds. When we secured 4,000+ votes to get the bond to referendum, 4 board members used Esther Carrera to challenge the petitions. For months the AG was investigating these board members. Although the AG found what they did to not be illegal, it was not open and transparent. Then Janice Krinsky announced at a meeting at 10:15 pm, after most residents had gone home, that she didn't want to go to referendum. With all this drama, is it no wonder that we never get to the job of educating our kids?

59 teachers have contacted me. Read our speeches in the minutes of the meetings. Look on the Internet for newspaper articles on our district. According to a reporter, when 50 people show up for a meeting, they are not coming to compliment the board.

I am a history teacher. When things are not right, we have an obligation to speak up. Our board is failing miserably at the expense of our most valuable resource—our kids.