

**Official Minutes of the Monday, June 27, 2018  
Special Board of Education Meeting - Superintendent's Evaluation**

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**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 Wednesday, June 27, 2018. President Krinsky called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:**

A copy of the sign-in sheet from June 27, 2018 is attached to the minutes of the 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**

The following community members addressed the Board of Education on the topic of the superintendent's evaluation:

Mrs. Judy Cox - A copy of her address is attached to the minutes of this meeting (Attachment #2).

Mrs. Caryn Davidson - A copy of her address is attached to the minutes of this meeting (Attachment #3).

Mrs. Patricia Krause

Mr. Dan Makowski

Ms. Elizabeth Galliano

Mr. Steven Krause

**MOTION**

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 27th day of June 2018 the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education recess in a closed meeting for discussion of "The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District..." 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).



**Attachment #1** Sign In Sheet from June 27, 2018

June 27, 2018	
PATRICIA KRAUSE	1623 S. RIDGE DR, AH
STEVE KRAUSE	" " " " "
Dan Makowski	A.A.
Judy Cox	EGV
Caryn Davidson	MP
Liz Galliano	MP
Nediakka Radoushev	MP

## Attachment #2 Judy Cox

Address to the Board of Education District 59

June 27, 2018

Tonight the Board will be evaluating the performance of the Administration which is led by Dr. Art Fessler. On behalf of the community you serve, the students, teachers, and citizens, I am asking you to reflect on what you have heard from the community this last year.

You have listened, in most cases respectfully, but you have not HEARD. At the end of Monday's meeting, the administration presented a report on the status of the various curricular programs, with recommendations for the future. I heard about school policies, plans and programs. As I sat and listened I heard a cacophony of acronyms, MIDAS, FAST, MAP, TPR, ESSP and phrases such as 'learning experiences', 'modern learning' and 'applied outcomes'. To the average parent and community member, this terminology can be overwhelming, but when closely examined the Administration said nothing about what the children are actually learning. In addition what these reports by the Ad. staff didn't include were the success and/or failure status of said programs.

The children are not data points, clients, teams, or theoretical beings. They are flesh and blood individuals who should receive the best education possible. The Superintendent's answer to the lack of curricula and poor test scores, buy another computer program.

I speak for those who have no voice in the District. Despite the assurances by the Board that any teacher and/or parent can have their concerns addressed, I have seen little respect and acknowledgement that the community's view is taken seriously. So why would a teacher or parent come to the District when it is their job or child who is the pawn. Yes, teachers and parents are hesitant to come to the District with concerns. I have worked in 7 of our District's schools and from what I have heard from teachers and parents is confusion about the curricula, isolation and lack of information, and concern for the future.

We citizens who have been speaking up are not isolated individuals who have nothing better to do than to come to the Board meetings. We are but the tip of the iceberg of discontent, concern, worries about the future of District 59 and, yes, concern about the lavish spending on non-educational items. The district has wonderful buildings, but not books; computers, but few teacher aides; individual lessons and projects, but no scope and sequence of lessons.

District 59 Board, as the Superintendent has often reminded us, the buck stops with you.

Judith Cox

**Attachment #3 Caryn Davidson**

As the Board prepares to review and consider a raise for Dr. Fessler, I'd just like to comment on the current environment in District 59. I've heard from many teachers that it is an unhappy place. Teachers are afraid to ask questions, much less speak up about issues.

And I've seen this with my own eyes. In April, several parents sat down with Dr. Fessler and some of his staff (and no Board members, thanks to some technicality that precluded them from the meeting). The hostility in the room was palpable. It took almost 20 minutes for him to calm down and even have a discussion with us in a civilized manner. It was extremely uncomfortable and he is not my boss. It was extremely disrespectful to me as a parent and taxpayer. In that meeting, he stated that he is very open to hearing from teachers and will always listen. When I spoke with teachers following that meeting, their response was "and the way he reacted to you is how he reacts to any question, let alone a negative response." They are afraid.

Although we cannot prove it beyond what we hear from teachers, we have heard that recently, there have been consequences to staff for voicing the problems with district initiatives. Staff who bring up legitimate concerns are being chastised and "punished" through various means. Teachers are being targeted for their vocal responses to poor or lack of curricula. Classroom and content changes were made without teacher input. Changes were made without teachers receiving warning or without notice that they were "perceived" as doing something "wrong." Those who do speak up are not supported by staff who complain behind admin's backs because of fear of retribution from the administration or they are singled out with strategic moves that have caused other staff to fall victim to the tyranny. One teacher described the end of the school year as "a month of hell."

This does not sound like a place I would like to work. I fear we will begin losing our best teachers.

Janice has stated several times that implementing a new curriculum model will take time and training. And buy-in from the teachers. That buy-in is key. This has to happen with open dialogue from the teachers or it is going to be a failure. This hostility needs to end.

Board members, I implore you, please consider this information as you undertake your review.