

**Official Minutes of the Monday, July 9, 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, July 9, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.
- Roll Call** **Members Present:** President Janice Krinsky, Vice-President Karen Osmanski, Secretary Tim Burns - **Members:** Sunil Bhawe, Sharon Roberts, Mardell Schumacher, and Barbara Somogyi
Members Absent: None
- Others** Associate Superintendent, Tom Luedloff; Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, CBSO, Vickie Nissen; Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Maureen McAbee; Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, Karen Starr; Assistant Superintendent for Innovative Learning and Communication, Ben Grey; Executive Director for Human Resources, Ross Vittore; Executive Director of Literacy, Dr. Kim Barrett; Executive Director of Innovative Learning; Director of Multilingual Programs, and Recording; Executive Director of Student Growth and Equity, Dr. Katie Ahsell; Secretary, Kathie Lange.
- Also Present** Janet Russo, Director of Fiscal Services; Rose Kelly, John Jay Elementary and DEA Executive Board; Sara Magnafichi, Byrd Elementary;
- A scanned copy of the Guest Sign-In Sheet from July 9, 2018 is attached to minutes of this meeting (Attachment #1).

Pledge of Allegiance

4.0 STUDENT CELEBRATION

Mrs. Schumacher introduced Carissa Lehning, a former District 59 student who was recently recognized as member of the Daily Herald 2017-18 Academic Team. Ms. Lehning thanked the District 59 Board of Education and the Administration for the strong foundation she received at Clearmont Elementary School and Grove Junior High School. She recognized her 6th grade science teacher, Mr. Bill Timmins, for helping her develop of love of science. She also credited her 8th grade Gateway to Technology (GPT) teacher, Mr. Prickett, for helping to develop her love of technology. Board members congratulated Ms. Lehning on her many remarkable achievements.

5.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.01 Board Policy 7:50 School Admissions - [Draft Policy](#)

Mrs. McAbee presented a draft document with suggested changes for Board Policy 7:50 - *School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools*. The proposed changes were recommended by the board attorney to provide clarity on age requirements for a child to start school for both a traditional school calendar and a balanced calendar. The final language is scheduled to be discussed and voted on at the August 6, 2018 meeting.

6.0 COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mrs. Judy Cox addressed the Board of Education on the topic of the science curriculum. (Attachment #2)

Two District 59 parents addressed the Board of Education to thank the Board and Administration for the opportunity to meet with Dr. Fessler and Ms. Starr. They are pleased about the partnership the district is forming with the Des Plaines YMCA to provide an afterschool program for students in Jr. High. The parents requested the Board address transportation restrictions impacting special education students who require bussing to out of district after school programs.

Mrs. Mary Vicars addressed the Board of Education on several topics. A copy of her address is attached to the meeting minutes. (Attachment #3)

Mrs. Seana McPherson addressed the Board of Education to share several positive things she witnessed at the District 59 Family Night she attended earlier in the evening.

Mrs. Mardell Schumacher, speaking as a community member, addressed the Board of Education on the topic of English Language Learners. A copy of her address is attached to the meeting minutes. (Attachment #4)

Dr. Burns, speaking as a community member, addressed the Board of Education to request information about most recent ISBE Dell Compliance Audit and to express concern about the support English Language Learners' receive when they move to the junior high school.

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Burns requested to pull Items 7.01 (a.) and 7.01 (b.)

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

Dr. Burns requested a point of inquiry to ask Mrs. Somogyi to clarify what she heard stated during the NSBA Conference with regard to board members abstaining from a vote. Mrs. Somogyi complied.

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

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

None

9.0 SPECIAL INTEREST TOPICS

9.01 FOIA Requests

Mr. Vittore shared that there was one FOIA request since the last report and that it had been responded to in the allotted time frame.

Mr. Vittore and Ms. Nissen responded to Dr. Burns' question about the process when a FOIA request is received and explained the follow up process.

10.0 NEW/CONTINUING BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Burns requested information on the District's follow up procedures from the 2015 ISBE Dell Compliance Audit. Mrs. McAbee stated she will provide the information to the Board.

Mrs. Robert suggested the information could be shared in the Board Weekly Update, but Dr. Burns stated that he preferred a full public discussion.

Mrs. Osmanski would like to learn more about the current integration process for one-way dual language students.

11.0 REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Somogyi will attend a meeting in Springfield on August 9, 2018 where the Alliance Partners will revisit Vision 20/20. Board members are encouraged to send her any information/comments they would like shared with the group.

Mrs. Somogyi requested that board members be provided with outcomes of the closed session Board Self Evaluation from June 18, 2018. Ms. Krinsky and Mrs. Somogyi agreed to collaborate on writing the outcomes and provide a copy to the Board members.

Dr. Burns asked if the District had received the ESSA designations from the state. Mr. Luedloff stated that 8 schools were designated as underperforming.

Mrs. Osmanski shared information on a Backpack Drive that is the result of a collaborative effort between the Character Counts Coalition and District 59.

Dr. Burns asked Mr. Luedloff how the District would be communicating information about the ESSA designations to parents. Mr. Luedloff indicated that his understanding is that the District has started to draft communication that will be shared with parents.

Mrs. Roberts made a motion to go back to the formal agenda. Mrs. Osmanski seconded the motion. There was no roll call.

At 8:01 p.m. Mrs. Robert moved for a 10 minute break. Ms. Krinsky seconded. The Board recessed.

At 8:09 p.m. the Board reconvened.

12.0 REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S TEAM

12.01 [Spring Staff Needs Assessment and Focus Group Process](#)

Mrs. McAbee shared details of how the District Focus Areas were incorporated in the multi-step focus group process. Each school looked at their data and decided on questions and worked with their SLT supervisor. The process incorporated some of the elements of the PDSA cycle.

12.02 [Summer Curriculum Work](#)

Mrs. McAbee provided details of the curriculum work that was completed this summer.

12.03 [Birth To Three Collaboration](#)

Dr. Katie Ahsell provided information related to the the collaboration with the YMCA on a referral program for parents of children under 3 yrs of age.

12.04 Summer Professional Learning

Mr. Luedloff provided information on the professional learning for staff this summer. Originally there were 42 sessions offered and additional SEL sessions were just added.

13.0 CLOSED SESSION

MOTION at 9:25 p.m. by Mrs. Osmanski, seconded by Mrs. Schumacher to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 9th day of July 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)

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

14.0 RECONVENE

MOTION at 9:36 p.m. by Ms. Krinsky, seconded by Mr. Bhave to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 9th day of July 2018, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education meeting is reconvened.

Roll Call	Ayes:	6	Krinsky, Osmanski, Bhave, Roberts, Schumacher, Somogyi
	Nays:	0	
	Absent:	0	
	Abstain:	0	
	No Vote:	1	Burns

15.0 ADJOURN

MOTION at 9:37 p.m. by Ms. Osmanski, seconded by Ms. Krinsky to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 9th day of July 2018, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education meeting is adjourned.

There was no roll call. Upon voice vote, the meeting adjourned.

DISCUSSION FOLLOWING ADJOURNMENT


After the meeting had adjourned at 9:37 p.m., Members Roberts and Burns continued to have a conversation about an incident that occurred between them during open session earlier in the meeting.

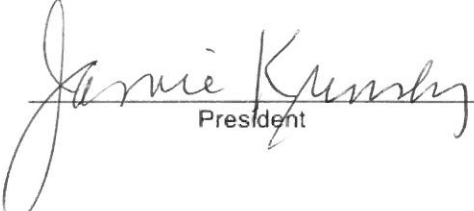
Member Burns then said that he would send numerous emails to say everything he could about closed session "...just to get us screwed up in the lawsuit." When asked why, he said, "Because you guys are acting like tyrants. So, I am going to see you guys go down."

Several Board Members expressed concern with Member Burns' statement and his motive. At that time, it was discovered and noted that the recorder had not been turned off and that the conversation was still being recorded. Member Burns accused President Krinsky of "illegal eavesdropping" and threatened to sue her personally.

Member Burns briefly seized the recorder, but relinquished it when another Board Member requested that the police be called.

The discussion ended abruptly at 9:39 p.m.

ATTEST:

Secretary


President

ATTACHMENT #1 SIGN IN SHEET FROM 7/9/2018

July 9, 2018

Sara Magnafichi	Byrd
Scott Fowler	EGU
Richard Francis Lehman	GGU
Rose Kelly	DEA - John Jay/Clearmont
Maiona Neunardez	MP

ATTACHMENT #2 Mrs. Judy Cox

Presentation Judith Cox July 7, 2018

Questions of the day...Are the children of District 59 receiving a 21st century education in the field of science and why is a knowledge of science important. Science can support development of a knowledgeable citizenry, meaningful learning of language and mathematics, wonderment about the natural world, and preparation for STEM related careers. Science is needed so that our future citizens will be able to participate in human culture and democracy- especially as our world becomes more technological.

How does our District program measure up to the expectations?

I think we can all agree, as do the experts, that we can apply the Scientific Method (one of those things I had to memorize in my school days) to see if our children are learning.

The Hypothesis or question: Is the present District 59 science curriculum preparing the children for the future. Are the learning experiences working? What vocabulary, materials and sources are being used?

The Prediction: Students will learn and have the tools needed for their future.

The Test: How does the District check what the students have learned? Surveys are not tests. Surveys give data on the perception of the participants, not facts. Surveys tell us how students feel, not what they know. All the community has to go on are the state administered science test shared with the public.

Results: (the results should align with the hypothesis). Do they? What data has been collected from the learning experiences. Is what the District teaches working ?

Replication: ?

Without a viable science curriculum, the District, as far as the community has been able to observe, has no tangible goals, no concrete knowledge that they can put forward as to what is being taught and expected from the students. The District has not articulated what the students are learning, the vocabularies used, the skills taught to manipulate numbers, words, ideas, and information in their heads.

The public and parents of District 59 have been shown little more than a small number of 'learning experiences' and promises that the District is still developing their curricula. If the Board and administration can show that in the last few years the children are better off and more prepared for life, please SHOW us. The time has come for more than promises, changes planned for the future, and reassuring words.

Attachment #3 Mrs. Mary Cosenza Vicars

Mary Cosenza Vicars BOE Speech July 9, 2018

In my past two speeches I referenced a letter from a 59 teacher. This teacher was critical of Art and the board. I believe this teacher because I have spoken to several other teachers from other 59 schools, as Sunil said he also did. In fact, a week ago a 59 teacher came up to Joan and me and this teacher told us that this teacher saw the letter and agreed with it. The teachers with whom Sunil has spoken have said positive things about the district; mine have not. Sounds like division among the teachers...I'd investigate it, but I don't think this board will.

I want to thank all the board members for responding to my email. Mardell and Tim, I do know how you feel about most issues. You are not hesitant to tell us at board meetings. For example, at the last meeting Mardell asked why the ACCESS scores and FAST scores are not posted as the PARCC scores are. The administration's answer was that we don't have to legally. Mardell, continue to ask good questions.

Tim, I do appreciate the fact that you are not afraid to question the administration. For example, when you asked why the Administration gave Kelly Zerfas two years of health insurance paid for by the district, you were told she was a good employee. I can tell you several good retired 59 teachers who never got this extra bonus.

Janice, you almost always support Art, whom you were involved in hiring. While not always accurate, you give your opinion on FB.

Sunil, you won't tell me in an open meeting or in your email why you vote with Janice and the administration on most issues. The most we heard from you on an issue is when you talked about not charging any students fees. I think anyone who can pay, should and you want our district to pay for everyone. While I disagree with you, at least I understood your position on that issue.

Barbara, Karen and Sharon, you rarely give your opinion on what we say at meetings and you all wanted to meet with me privately. I won't meet with any of you privately to discuss any issue we have raised. That is why we have open meetings.

To Janice, Sunil, Karen, and Barbara, you are not always open and transparent. When you when used Esther Carrera to challenge the petitions, instead of yourselves, that told us a lot about who you are. It's ok to challenge the petitions, but don't hide behind a third party. And Janice, when you told us at the 11th hour that you did not want to go to referendum because you had a change of heart, again you were not open and transparent.

And when the administration told us at a 2017 board meeting that the district had the 2017 PARCC scores, but had not looked at them, we did not believe you.

Many of us want to talk about academics—the curriculum, learning experiences, and objective assessments that are used by other schools and us to measure our students' learning. In 2017 Art talked about setting a goal about how much improvement we would want to see on PARCC from last year to 2017, and when the board and administration could not come up with a percentage, that was the last we heard. Why have our scores declined for the past three years? Is anyone doing anything about it?

Your job is to vote, explain why you vote as you do, and respond to your constituents on important academic and financial decisions.

When I learned that the District 59 administration told Elk Grove months ago, long before the board voted, that 59 was not interested in videotaping meetings, I wasn't surprised. If you are planning on running in 2019, or in the next election, we will remember.

Attachment #4 Board Member Mardell Schumacher

July 9, 2018 Statement by Mardell Schumacher

I would like to speak to you as a community member this evening since I have spoken to you as a board member many times on this subject and have been unable to make my expertise on this particular issue show its merit.

My issue is that we have failed for years to truly teach our Spanish speaking students in the best way possible. Part of this was complicated by the government mandate to teach in bilingual mode. We no longer have to provide bilingual classes, and the district has adopted a dual language program which began under the direction of our previous superintendent, Dr. Schweers. However it is quite clear that Dr. Fessler and the administration believe in the dual language model.

Although I'm not convinced that it is our duty to teach English speaking students in a foreign language starting in preschool. My main concern is that the 80% Spanish and 20% English method has been adopted by the district for our Spanish speaking students. To my way of thinking this is the most ineffective way of getting our Spanish speaking students to learn English. If anything, they should be in an 80% English and 20% Spanish method. It is not immersion, which is the best, but it would certainly be better than what we have now.

Furthermore, our Polish dual language program is 50% & 50%, and if nothing else, both programs should be the same. Why not?! If it works for one language, it should work for the other.

My motivation for speaking to you is so you know my passion for the best way to help our students, all of our students. To know and use the English language is I believe the best way to make America a better home for all of us. Assimilation has worked well over the years as new people have chosen to live here. We all must communicate in the language of our country. Even though it is NOT our official language, it has always been the language of America. If we really want to help our students to assimilate and reap the benefits which are open to all Americans, they must be helped in a more efficient way.

There are many other background pieces related to this subject, but my time is short and I will continue with my thoughts at a future meeting. This is just my official opportunity to make myself perfectly clear to everyone that I support our Spanish speaking children and want what's best for them AND for District 59. They will be better able to compete on tests which are given in English as has been pointed out by several community members.

Thank you!