

Official Minutes of the Monday, August 13, 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, August 13, 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 Bhave, 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, Griselda Pirtle; Executive Director of Student Growth and Equity, Dr. Katie Ahsell; and Recording Secretary, Kathie Lange.

Also Present Janet Russo, Director of Fiscal Services; Janet Fisher, Coordinator of Purchasing/School Nutrition; Nicole Hansen, Administrative Assistant (Purchasing); Linda Johnson, Grove Jr. High School and DEA Executive Board; Sara Magnafichi, Byrd Elementary;

A scanned copy of the Guest Sign-In Sheet from August 13, 2018 is attached to minutes of this meeting (Attachment #1).

Pledge of Allegiance

4.0 DISCUSSION

President Krinsky stated that it was brought to the Board's attention that Board Policy 2:220 School Board Meeting Procedure is not aligned with Board Policy 2:230 - Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board. A change to Board Policy 2:230 was made on March 12, 2018 indicating that individuals addressing the Board of Education during the Public Comment section of the agenda at a public meeting shall be limited to (3) minutes to allow more individuals the opportunity to speak. The Board attorney suggested that language referring to exceptions to that rule be removed. An additional formatting change was also

recommended. The Board will take action on the recommended changes to Board Policy 2:220 at the September 10, 2018 meeting.

5.0 COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

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

Mr. Leo Cox addressed the Board of Education on a District finances. A copy of his address is attached to the meeting minutes. (Attachment #4)

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 #5)

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 13th day of August, 2018, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented/amended:

- 6.01 Approval of Minutes-Prior Meetings
 - a. July 9, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - b. July 9, 2018 Closed Meeting Minutes
 - c. July 25, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes
 - d. July 25, 2018 Special Closed Meeting Minutes
- 6.02 Disbursements Resolution
 - a. Disbursement Listing for FY 2017-18
 - B. Disbursement Listing for FY 2018-19
- 6.03 Acceptance of Financial Reports Reports
 - a. Detail Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2018
 - b. Combined Revenue and Expense Report as of June 30, 2018
 - c. Investment Report as of June 30, 2018
 - d. Activity Fund Statements as of June 30, 2018
- 6.04 Acceptance of Recommendations: Human Resources Report
 - a. Certified Contracts
 - b. Certified Resignations
 - c. ESP Resignations
 - d. ESP Contracts
 - e. Certified Lane Changes

- 6.05 Approval to Destroy 18 Month Old or Older Closed Session Recordings
- 6.06 Approval of Release of Certain Closed Session Minutes

Mrs. Roberts requested to pull Item 6.01 (a.) July 9, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Dr. Burns requested to pull Item 6.01 (b.) July 9, 2018 Closed Meeting Minutes.

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

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 - g. Certified Resignations
 - h. ESP Resignations
 - i. ESP Contracts
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Roll Call

Ayes:	7	Bhavé, Burns, Krinsky, Osmanski, Roberts, Schumacher and Somogyi
Nays:	0	
Absent:	0	
Abstain:	0	

6.01 Approval of Minutes-Prior Meetings

- a. July 9, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. July 9, 2018 Closed Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Roberts requested to pull Item 6.01 (a.) July 9, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes because there was conversation that occurred after the Closed Session and she felt that the conversation should be reflected in the minutes. She asked Dr. Fessler get a legal review for that portion of the minutes. The minutes were tabled until Dr. Fessler can get a legal review.

Dr. Burns asked if the minutes attached to 6.01 (b.) July 9, 2018 Closed Meeting Minutes were the version that the Board would be approving. After some discussion, it was decided that those minutes would be tabled until Dr. Fessler can get a legal review.

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.01 Adoption of Budget: Fiscal Year 2018/19

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 59, Cook County, Illinois, has caused to be prepared in tentative form a budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2018 and the Secretary of this Board has made the same conveniently available for public inspection for at least thirty (30) days prior to final action thereon; and,

WHEREAS, due notice that said tentative budget was available for public inspection, has been given in full compliance with the law; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held as to such budget on the 6th day of August, 2018, notice of said hearing having been given at least thirty (30) days prior thereto as required by law, and all other legal requirements complied with; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 13th day of August, 2018 the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education does authorize:

Section I. That the fiscal year of this district be and the same is hereby fixed and declared to begin on the 1st day of July, 2018, and end on the 30th day of June, 2019.

Section 2. That the budget, copy of which is inserted in the official minutes of this meeting immediately following the last page hereof, containing an estimate of amounts available in the Educational, Operations and Maintenance, and other funds, each separately, and of expenditures for each of the aforementioned funds, be and the same is hereby adopted as the budget of this district for said fiscal year.

REVENUE AND EXPEDUTIRE

	2018/19 Budget on Public Display	2018/19 Budget for Adoption
<u>Revenue/Other Financing Sources (excluding transfers)</u>		
Educational Fund	\$87,469,020	\$87,430,087
Operations & Maintenance Fund	8,514,696	8,596,763
Debt Service Fund (including levy)	3,591,040	3,591,055
Transportation Fund	6,225,338	6,222,931
IMR/FICA Fund	2,540,598	2,771,074
Capital Projects Fund	0	0
Working Cash Fund	<u>1,125,329</u>	<u>1,134,707</u>
Total	\$109,466,021	\$109,746,617
<u>Expenditures (excluding transfers)</u>		
Educational Fund	\$92,553,736	\$92,363,877
Operations & Maintenance Fund	8,324,371	8,452,513
Debt Service Fund (including debt payment)	3,500,950	3,500,950
Transportation Fund	6,415,822	6,649,448
IMR/FICA Fund	3,307,163	3,427,604
Capital Projects Fund	0	3,765,000
Working Cash Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	\$114,102,042	\$118,159,392

Mrs. Schumacher inquired as to the cost of the furniture for the new administration building. Ms. Nissen indicated that it was approximately \$400,000. Mrs. Schumacher indicated that in the past, she had stated that she did not feel that furniture from the current administration building should be used in the new building if it was in good condition. She stated that it bothers her that the Board did not have more say on this decision.

Mrs. Osmanski shared that the Board approved the budget including the cost of the furniture and she does not feel that the decision on what

Schumacher questioned if assistants in the buildings could do some of the translations.

10.0 REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Somogyi attended the Illinois Vision 20/20 meeting in Springfield where representatives from the six founding organizations of Illinois Vision 20/20 met to review legislative accomplishments and determine areas of focus going forward. She will provide a full written report to the Board. Board members thanked Mrs. Somogyi for serving at the state level.

Mrs. Schumacher read the following statement regarding an ESL Program in New Jersey:

“I'd like to make you aware of an ESL Program offered in Piscataway Township in New Jersey. This program goes from preschool through high school...with success in mainstreaming classrooms and developing academic strengths.

Students are immersed in both conversational and academic language. The elementary program embeds ESL endorsed teachers allowing more students to remain in MAINSTREAM classrooms. They offer family English classes, job application help, and after school and Saturday classes, and summer immersion camps.

This district conveniently reaches its goal of having preschool ESL students EXIT the program for mainstream classes BY THE END OF FIRST GRADE, in just two years. A remarkable goal, and they reach it. Speaking English in America as one common language is achievable. “

Mrs. Roberts apologized for not finishing the edits to the Board Working Agreements and will get those back to the Board for review.

Dr. Burns attended the Grove Jr. High Orientation. He complimented Principal, Mr. John Harrington on having such a welcoming and positive attitude. He was very impressed with the SOS (System of Support) students and would like to have the students come to present information about their role to the Board. Dr. Fessler agreed to follow up on that suggestion.

Ms. Krinsky shared that NSSEO had their opening day on Monday, August 13th. They have 38 new staff and look forward to a successful school year.

Dr. Burns attended the Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education (IAASE) Conference. He shared that there were concerns regarding proposed changes in Fiscal Year 20 shared by Heather Calomese, ISBE Executive Director of Special Education Services.

11.0 REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT’S TEAM

Dr. Fessler shared that staff reported back to work on Monday, August 13th. He visited Holmes Jr. High for their open locker night. He invited Board members to come to the schools for opening day on August 15th.

Mrs. McAbee mentioned that in the Board Weekly Update she had shared details about a future opportunity to highlight our Polish Dual Language program.

12.0 CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Krinsky shared that there would not be a closed session.

13.0 ADJOURN

MOTION at 8:37 p.m. by Mr. Bhave, seconded by Ms. Osmanski to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 13th day of August 2018, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education meeting is adjourned.

Upon voice vote, the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:



Secretary



President

ATTACHMENT #2 Mrs. Judy Cox

Presentation to 59 School Board by Judith Cox- August 13, 2018

I was pleasantly surprised, and encouraged, to hear Dr. Fessler comment at the last meeting about how we have many great teachers in our District. From many conversations and comments made by parents through social media and in person, our parents seem to think the teachers in our District are doing a wonderful job. The board has spoken positively of our staff and the community has, as a whole, always supported our teachers. So why is it that the Administration is investing more than three and one-half million dollars in coaching (almost doubling the 2017 amount) when cuts in the budget need to be made? Coaching was created as a means of encouraging change in the ways teachers teach and helping those new to teaching cope with the many responsibilities of teaching. Maybe more coaching is not what our students and teachers need? Maybe teachers need a strong curriculum, encouragement, stability, and additional sources and input into their occupation.

We are now expecting our teachers to teach for and in the 21st Century without providing them the tools. The Science curriculum has limited content, no scope and sequence, no scaffolding between grades, no units of study, and little attention to developmentally appropriate material. A Second Grade Learning Experience I studied on blizzards had no activation of prior knowledge, no lessons on precipitation, the water cycle, evaporation, temperature, the nature of gases, liquids and solids, etc. All things needed before the second graders could even begin to study blizzards. And these are second graders who need more than just looking at photographs and videos to understand a topic. Where is the hands on, 'learning through the senses', participation learning and vocabulary building? Has the District looked into any professionally developed programs? District 25 has a program called Science Companion that appears to promote many of the 21st C. learning goals.

In the age of STEM education, now, more than ever, the District needs strong science and math programs. Other districts are also emphasizing learning through small group learning experiences and using technology, but the difference is that other districts are using these 'lessons' as additions to a basic, core curriculum.

Two Science Learning Experiences per grade level are poor substitutes for a strong, researched based, developmentally appropriate, interesting, thought provoking, and fun science program. The process of learning through reading/writing/math/and science workshops is what the District is using. But the process is only as effective and good as the materials embedded in the 'curriculum'. It is process without content.

ATTACHMENT #3 Mrs. Mary Cosenza Vicars

Mary Cosenza Vicars—BOE Speech, August 13, 2018

Janice referred us as alarmists. An alarmist is someone who exaggerates the dangers and blows things out of proportion. Am I an alarmist?

At the July 9 Board meeting, Tom Luedloff stated that eight 59 schools were rated as Underperforming by the State. No board member asked which schools they were. Again, it is not the questions you ask, but those that you do not ask that matters.

On August 6, a 59-resident had to tell the entire Board and the community the specific names of the eight schools that were given a low preliminary rating of 3 out of 4, Underperforming. These schools are Low, Jay, Byrd, Rupley, Salt Creek, Holmes, Grove, and Friendship. To be an Underperforming school, one or more student groups is performing at or below the level of “all students” groups in the lowest 5% of schools. And Art has already started making excuses when he wrote to a citizen, “However, with the large number of sub groups that we have in this District 59 (and I believe that is one of our strengths is diversity), I do anticipate that we will have schools fall into the tier 3 designation.” Yes, one of our strengths is our diversity, but we don’t have to expect poor performance by these children on a standardized test—one is taken by nearly public-school children in the entire State.

A question for Janice—who specifically in the State is lauding our rigorous curriculum? Then why aren’t our children doing well on PARCC? Oh, wait a minute, I got your answer—it is only a snapshot in time; we don’t teach to the test; and our kids did it on the computer instead of paper and pencil. I have your excuses...

I am alarmed that a 59 resident found a 35 million error in last year’s audit report—an error that Vicky and our auditors should have found; that specific details were not given to residents who met with Vicky to go over the budget; and that we have and will still be running a deficit for several years. Does this new budget consider the lane changes that the board will vote on tonight or that might occur after school starts? Should we reconsider using MIDAS since very few school districts use it? (214 and 54 use Infinite Campus.)

To the Board, please oversee what the Administration does. When two former 59 teachers spoke on the curriculum and administration, that should have been yet another red flag all is not well in 59. Sunil said at a meeting that the board should listen to the administration since they are the experts. Well, they have the degrees, but as our representatives, you can ask good questions. I appreciate the good questions that Tim and Mardell ask of the administration. For the time being, you are the only hope we have.

I see the already low scores of our schools declining and now on the State Report Card will probably give 8 of them an Underperforming Rating. I don’t have to have children in the school anymore to be alarmed about the education that all our kids are receiving.

Am I an alarmist? Shouldn’t we all be alarmed and outraged at the Administration and lack of oversight by our board?

ATTACHMENT #4 Mr. Leo Cox

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

August 13, 2018

Board of Directors,

Since School District 59 is an educational enterprise, it seems fitting that we take a look at some vocabulary words that seem relative to tonight's proceedings.

"Ironic" is an adjective that seems appropriate because at the very same hour that a deficit budget is being approved; (7.01 on the Agenda), the Board is also approving a \$50,000 + annual budget item for today's "shiny object" which is, ironically named MIDAS; (Agenda Item 7.04). To simply mix metaphors, it looks like MIDAS has found the Goose That Lays The Golden Egg. It is also "ironic" that once the District pays the first \$50,000 to MIDAS, the District then goes to work for MIDAS in that it "...agrees to support Licensor's efforts to offer the Service to other public school districts in Illinois." Five bullet points then specify what the District is to do for the vendor, including hosting visits by other districts, preparing either a whitepaper or videos in support of the vendor, and generally serving as a reference.

This brings up another vocabulary word, "shill", which, to show the complexity of the English language and the importance for our students to have a strong vocabulary, is a word that is described in Dictionary.com as a noun, and in the Merriam-Webster dictionary as an intransitive verb. I am using it as a verb. In my short time here on earth the word "shill" was usually associated with either casinos or carnivals. "Reciprocity", another vocabulary word which describes this relationship, may be common in a "Business Model" but I think it's more important that the District operates on an "Education Model" when talking about the education of our children.

I don't believe that the District should put itself in the position of promoting any vendor, much less a start-up that primarily keeps track of students' growth, while doing nothing to generate growth in the students that it is supposed to serve. It merely adds to the four-hundred fifty thousand dollars that is annually spent on other software vendors.

On a final note; speaking of the Business model and deficit spending, I hope that the District's Apple sales rep gets to enjoy his bonus after that seven hundred thirty-five-thousand dollar check to Apple that the Board just approved, clears the bank.

ATTACHMENT #5

August 13, 2018 - Statement by Mardell Schumacher
CCSD59 Board Member

During the 2005-06 school year an ELL Task Force studied three components: Family and Community, Assessment, and Program. I attended ALL the meetings of the Task Force over several weeks. There was good feedback from staff. However, people were influenced by the Program chairman who imposed her own stringent views stressing the importance of literacy in Spanish before English could be Learned.

That theme was repeated throughout the task force so people were reluctant to suggest new ideas, which was the purpose of this ELL study. There were times when committee members were not allowed to express themselves because they didn't espouse the "party line".

When I sat at break-out tables in small group discussions, I heard comments from Hispanic parents who wanted their children to learn English but were afraid to speak up. They were unhappy with some of their Latino peers who wanted their children to speak only Spanish so that they would be able to converse with them. Most parents wanted their children to speak Spanish at home, BUT they also wanted them to speak English in school which they thought was necessary for them as they grew up in America. Even some of the ELL staff who wanted to "teach more in English" were discouraged from doing so by Administration.

It appears that nothing has changed, since we still spend several important years teaching our youngest learners 80% in Spanish. The purpose of our English Language Learner program is to prepare ELL students efficiently and expeditiously to be mainstreamed and incorporated into our general education classes. A common language helps to bring a sense of unity within the classroom by improving communication among all children.

Back in 2006 board members asked repeatedly for data comparing our ESL pre-school children who were taught in English and those who were taught exclusively in Spanish. We wanted to know how our preschoolers performed in kindergarten after having two years of instruction from certified teachers who used different teaching methods.

An excerpt from a culture and civilization text says, "Language is the single most defining characteristic of a culture!"

By choice, our ELL families have come to live in America. The American melting pot system works, but communication is vital when multiple cultures co-exist. The 80/20 % dual language program does not help our Spanish speaking students to learn English quickly enough.