

**Official Minutes of the Monday, May 13, 2019
Regular 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, 1001 Leicester Rd., Elk Grove Village, Illinois on May 13, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll Call **Members Present:** President - Janice Krinsky; Vice President - Karen Osmanski (Secretary Pro Tem) - Members: Courtney Lang, Patti Petrielli, Randy Reid, and Mardell Schumacher

Members Absent: Sharon Roberts

Others Superintendent, Dr. Arthur Fessler; 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 Innovation and Design, Mr. Ben Grey; Executive Director for Human Resources, Ross Vittore; Executive Director of Student Growth and Equity, Dr. Katie Ahsell; Director of Math, Mary Beth Niles; Director of Multilingual Programs, Griselda Pirtle; Director of Communications & Design, Justin Sampson; Recording Secretary, Kathie Lange.

Also Present Mari Gonzalez, Coordinator of Transportation; John D’Anza, DEA Officer and Grove Jr. High, Michele Lara, DEA Officer and Salt Creek Elementary; Rose Kelly, DEA Officer and Clearmont Elementary; Andy Skic, Coordinator of Safety and Custodial Operations; Susan Savage, Robert Frost Elementary School Principal; Jodi Megerle, Friendship Jr. High Principal; Janet Russo, Director of Fiscal Services; Janet Fisher, Coordinator of Purchasing/Food Services; Sara Magnafichi - Byrd Elementary School; Randy Steinkamp, Principal Devonshire Elementary School; Martina Perez, Assistant Principal Devonshire Elementary School;

A scanned copy of the Guest Sign-In Sheet from May 13, 2019 is attached to minutes of this meeting. (Attachment #1).

4.0 STUDENT CELEBRATIONS

4.01 Robert Frost Elementary School Presentation

Mrs. Loverde, Mrs. Castro, Mrs. Diegel, and Mrs. Montalto, along with several 1st and 4th grade students from Robert Frost Elementary School, shared information about a self-assessment tool students used to help them achieve their goals. Click [HERE](#) to view the presentation.

5.0 PRESENTATIONS

5.01 Presentation: NSSEO FY20 Tentative Budget

Dr. Judy Hackett, NSSEO Superintendent, and Ms. Julie Jilek, NSSEO Assistant Superintendent, presented the NSSEO FY20 Tentative Budget. Along with the proposed budget, information about the NSSEO program, mission and vision, core values, and indicators of growth were highlighted. The presentation is linked [HERE](#).

6.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.01 NSSEO FY20 Tentative Budget

The NSSEO Governing Board has prepared a proposed budget for 2019/20. Click [HERE](#) to view the proposed budget. This budget is the culmination of broad and inclusive discussions over the past several months. A directed vote will be taken at the NSSEO Governing Board meeting on June 26, 2019. Therefore, the School District 59 Board of Education is asked to take action on this proposed budget at their regular meeting on June 10, 2019.

Comparing the 19/20 NSSEO proposed budget to the prior year's amended budget of like programs, the budget is set to decrease \$49,870 for a total of \$59,302,676. This represents a 0.1% decrease over the prior year's amended budget. This expenditure budget includes the flow-through of Federal IDEA funds passed along to the participating school districts as well as funds used directly by NSSEO to offset their operating expenditures. Excluding federal funds the 2019/20 budget reflects a 0.01% increase over the prior year's estimated actuals.

District 59's share of the proposed Education and Building Fund budgets is \$4,360,199 a 1.5% decrease (\$66,310) over the prior year's estimated actual. The FY18/19 actual expenditures are expected to be greater than the adopted budget by \$136,298.

This budget assumes \$1,247,756 in federal IDEA funds distributed directly to District 59 to be used to offset the cost of NSSEO tuition and \$58,402 to offset the cost of the special education Preschool program.

The board will vote on the proposed budget for NSSEO at the June 10, 2019, board meeting.

6.02 Action Planning Update 2019-2020

Members of the Superintendent's Leadership Team (SLT) provided the Board of Education with a review of current actions and proposed next steps and planning in the areas of:

- Curriculum Review & Development
- MTSS & Intervention
- Assessment

- Communication
- Finance & Facilities

These focus areas were established as part of the 2018-19 Superintendent Evaluation process, and the district will prioritize these focus areas for work to be accomplished over the summer and into the 2019-20 school year.

Members of the Board provided feedback. The SLT will respond to questions and suggestions presented. Discussion will resume at the June 10, 2019. At a future meeting, Dr. Fessler will be seeking Board approval for the Focus Areas for 2019-20.

Click [HERE](#) to view the presentation.

Due to the hour, Ms. Kinsky requested the Board of Education modify the agenda to allow Comments and Suggestions From the Public to be heard before continuing with Discussion Items 6.03 - 6.13. The Board agreed to modify the agenda.

7.0 COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ms. Shannon Andersen, former District 59 teacher, addressed the Board of Education on the topic of class size and dual language. A copy of her address and a handout she provided is attached to the minutes of this meeting (Attachment #2).

Mr. Leo Cox addressed the Board of Education on the topic of the District's budget and Strategic Planning. A copy of his address is attached to the minutes of this meeting (Attachment #3).

6.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS CONTINUED

6.03 Approval of Taxi Cab Services

District 59 issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to nine taxicab service companies for the purposes of establishing their contracted rates for the 2019/20 school year. Taxi services are used in cases where the district is mandated to provide transportation for a homeless or special education student, and the student's location cannot be routed in conjunction with other standard school bus services.

The federal McKinney-Vento Act establishes requirements related to homeless students and specifically requires school districts to provide transportation to a student's school of origin, even if the school of origin is located in another district. Students are allowed to remain in their school of origin for the duration of their homelessness. There is no specific time limit on homelessness. During

the 2018/19 school year, District 59 transported approximately 15 homeless students on a daily basis.

In cases where single special education students need to be transported to an outside placement, the District will use taxicab services. In addition to taxicab services, the District also employs Grand Prairie's Division One vehicles (vans) or works to share services with other local districts when possible. During the 2018/19 school year, the District transported approximately 20 students on a regular basis to outplacement programs by taxi.

Over the past few years, one single carrier has been unable to provide reliable services for all students, so the RFP expressly stated that cab services will not be limited to one company. Rather, the purpose of the RFP was to establish rates that District 59 will be charged when using taxi services. The intent is to assign a route to the cab company best suited to meet the needs of the District and the student, both from a cost and quality of service perspective.

The taxicab contractor must provide, at its sole cost and expense, the appropriate number of vehicles with equipment in strict compliance with State and Federal standards and must employ qualified and properly licensed drivers. The term of the contract is for one year beginning August 15, 2019 through August 15, 2020.

This resolution approves the rates as quoted by these taxicab companies.

6.04 To Adopt Fiscal Year, Place 2019/20 Tentative Budget On Public Display, And Set Date For Public Hearing

Discussion of the Tentative 2019/20 Budget, the Board of Education will need to approve a resolution to accomplish the following:

1. Establish the dates for fiscal year 2019/20 commencing July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020
2. Establish the date and time for the public hearing concerning the 2019/20 Budget as 7:00 p.m., Monday, August 5, 2019, at the Administration Center, 1001 Leicester Road, Elk Grove Village, Illinois.
3. Direct the administration to display the Tentative Budget for a period of at least 30 days prior to the public hearing on August 5, 2019, and publish a notice of the hearing date and the availability of the tentative 2019-20 budget for review in the Journal and Topics newspaper.
4. Direct the administration to publish a notice of the hearing date and the availability of the Tentative 2019/20 Budget for review by interested individuals.

The board will vote on the proposed tentative budget schedule at the June 10, 2019, board meeting and any suggestions or changes to the tentative budget will be reflected in the final 2019-20 budget to be presented for approval at the August 12, 2019, board meeting.

6.05 Determination of Serious Safety Hazards Related to Student Transportation

According to Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/29-3), a school board may provide free transportation for any pupil residing within one and one-half miles from school where conditions are such that walking constitutes a serious hazard to pupils due to vehicular traffic. Students who live within these Serious Safety Hazard areas are claimable on the State Transportation Reimbursement Claim. The determination as to what constitutes a serious safety hazard must be made by the School Board on an annual basis, in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) in consultation with the Illinois State Board of Education.

The following is a list of the Serious Safety Hazards that have been approved by IDOT. As part of preparations for 2019/20 student transportation services, the administration has reviewed the conditions and certifies to the State Board of Education that the hazardous conditions remain unchanged.

6.06 Setting Student Meal Fees For The 2019/2020 School Year

The per meal fees charged to students who do not qualify for free or reduced-price meals are set annually by the Board of Education. The fees charged for a reduced-price meal are established by the National School Lunch Program (currently \$.40 for lunch and \$.30 for breakfast). The current lunch fee for a full-priced meal is \$2.85 for both elementary and junior high students.

Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) is a requirement under Section 205 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 for all School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program. The purpose of PLE is to increase PAID meal prices to be more equitable with funds brought in from free and reduced-priced meal reimbursements.

SFAs must annually review their paid lunch revenue to ensure compliance with the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) requirement. When the average paid lunch price is less than the difference between the free (\$3.39) and paid (\$0.39) Federal reimbursement rates, the SFA must determine how they will meet the requirement (\$3.00), either by increasing their average paid lunch price or providing funds from non-Federal sources.

The Illinois State Board of Education has developed a PLE Tool to assist school districts in calculating paid lunch fees. Districts must increase meal fees as indicated by the PLE tool, or they may elect a higher increase so that prices do not have to be raised every year. Minimally, Districts are only required to increase meal fees \$0.10 each year.

The District Administration is recommending to minimally increase lunch fees from \$2.85 to \$2.95 as indicated by the PLE tool.

Since the established calorie ranges, for both elementary and junior high fall into the same range, the Administration is recommending that we continue to charge the same rate for one full-priced lunch at both the elementary and the junior high level.

The Administration also recommends maintaining the breakfast fee at \$1.30 per full priced meal at both the elementary and junior high levels.

Last year the Board of Education approved an increase in the price of milk from \$0.40 to \$0.50. For the 2019-2020 school year, the recommendation is for the price of a carton of milk to remain the same at \$0.50.

Meal fees, along with state and federal reimbursements for both the lunch and breakfast programs, help to offset the costs of paying the contractor and other costs associated with operating the program. The 2019-20 federal and state reimbursement rates will be released in July.

6.07 Appointment of School Treasurer

In accordance with section 5/8-1(c) of the Illinois School Code, the Board is required to appoint a School Treasurer for each fiscal year.

6.08 Approval of School Treasurer Bond

In accordance with Section 8-2 of the Illinois School Code, the School Treasurer is required to execute a bond, and the bond must be approved by at least a majority of the members of the Board. The Board of Education has appointed Vickie Nissen, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, CSBO as School Treasurer, and the School Treasurer's bond has been presented to the Board for its review.

6.09 Direct School Treasurer To Transfer Interest Earned From The Debt Service Fund To The Educational Fund For Fiscal Year 2018/19

As part of the District's Long-Term Financial Plan, 100% of interest earned in the Debt Service Fund is to be transferred for use in the Educational Fund. The adopted 2018/19 budget includes a transfer of interest allocation of \$36,000 from the Debt Service Fund to the Educational Fund, reflecting an estimate of the total interest earnings within the Debt Service Fund accrued during the

2018/19 fiscal year. At fiscal year end, the District records interest earnings in accordance with Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 31. This resolution recognizes that the Debt Service Fund will have the interest earnings available, that it is in the best interest of the District to proceed with transferring 100% of these interest earnings, and authorizes the School Treasurer to proceed effective with the 2018/19 year-end closing process.

6.10 Direct School Treasurer To Transfer of Interest Earnings From Working Cash Fund to Operations and Maintenance Fund For Fiscal Year 2018/19

As part of the District's Long-Term Financial Plan, 100% of interest earned in the Working Cash Fund is to be transferred for use in the Operations and Maintenance Fund. The adopted 2018/19 budget includes a transfer of interest allocation of \$134,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund, reflecting an estimate of the total interest earnings within the Working Cash Fund accrued during the 2018/19 fiscal year. At fiscal year end, the District records interest earnings in accordance with Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 31. This resolution recognizes that the Working Cash Fund will have the interest earnings available, that it is in the best interest of the District to proceed with transferring 100% of these interest earnings, and authorizes the School Treasurer to proceed effective with the 2018/19 year-end closing process.

6.11 Approval of \$1,000,000 Abatement From Working Cash Fund To Operations and Maintenance Fund For Fiscal Year 2018/19

As part of the 2018/19 Budget, it was planned to partially abate \$1,000,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. This reflects the second installment of the proceeds from the sale of the Wellington and Administrative Building properties.

This Resolution authorizes this abatement effective with the close of the 2018/19 fiscal year.

6.12 Award of Bid For Sealcoating and Striping at Various District 59 Facilities

Community Consolidated School District 59 operates a blacktop maintenance program requiring the sealcoating of approximately one-third of the parking lots and playground areas be done each year. This ensures each area receives an application every three years. The Call to Bid for this work also includes the restriping of all district parking lots. This program is designed to prolong the life of the blacktop areas.

This year, asphalt is scheduled to be sealcoated and restriped at Forest View, Frost, John Jay, Juliette Low, and the Administration Building. All other school

parking lots and play areas will be freshly repainted. In addition, the Mount Prospect Park District area adjacent to Robert Frost will have sealcoating applied to the pathway and hard play surface areas accessed and used by our students. The park district will restripe these areas for the start of next school year.

The Call to Bid states that the bidder is required to submit a quote on each project for budgetary purposes. However, the bid also states that it is the intent of the school district to award all projects to one bidder. The total low bid for completing the work specified was submitted by Patriot Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$31,128.

The bid submitted has been reviewed and a discussion with Patriot Maintenance confirmed their commitment to completing the project according to the required specifications and schedule. This company has done previous work for School District 59 and it is recommended that Patriot Maintenance be awarded the bid in the amount of \$31,128.

Ms. Nissen shared that the Administration Center's parking lot had not been seal coated since it was first installed in 2018.

6.13 Classroom Projector Refresh

CCSD59 has projectors in each classroom and the majority of non-classroom instructional spaces (gym, LRC, etc.). The current projectors are from eight to twelve years old, and the devices are in need of replacement due to age, quality, and the unavailability of replacement bulbs.

As part of the long term technology plan, CCSD59 will engage in a two-year project to refresh all school projectors starting in the summer of 2019. The plan will include costs for the projectors, updated screens to accommodate the wide-screen 16:9 aspect ratio of the new projectors, as well as the cabling and installation components required. The installation will be performed by CCSD59 staff members to reduce the project costs.

The chart below details the estimated total for the project, but final costs will be based on the final number of classrooms and non-instructional spaces to receive updated projectors.

Item	Per Unit Cost
Projector	\$645
Projector Screen	\$315.30
Installation Cable and	\$131.97

Components	
	Total Projected Project Cost: \$487,839.35
	Projected Fiscal Year 20 Cost: \$243,919.68

8.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Osmanski, seconded by Mrs. Petrielli to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 13th day of May 2019, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

- 8.01 Approval of Minutes-Prior Meetings
 - a. Regular Meeting Minutes of 2019-04-29
 - b. Special Meeting Minutes of 2019-04-29
 - c. Special Closed Session Meeting Minutes of 2019-04-29
- 8.02 Disbursements Resolution
 - a. Disbursement Listing for 2018-19
- 8.03 Acceptance of Financial Reports
 - a. Detail Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2019
 - b. Combined Revenue and Expense Report as of March 31, 2019
 - c. Investment Report as of March 31, 2019
 - d. Activity Fund Statements as of March 31, 2019
- 8.04 Acceptance of Recommendations: Human Resources Report
 - a. Administrator Contracts
 - b. Non-negotiated Contract
 - c. Certified Leave of Absence
 - d. Certified Contracts
 - e. Certified Resignations
 - f. ESP Contract
 - g. ESP Resignation
 - h. CAMEO Contract
 - i. CAMEO Resignation
- 8.05 Approval to Destroy 18 Month Old or Older Closed Session Recordings

Roll Call Ayes: 6 Krinsky, Lang, Osmanski, Petrielli, Reid, and Schumacher
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1 Roberts
 Abstain: 0

Motion carried: 6-0-1-0

ACTION ITEMS

9.01 Approval of \$500 Donation from Exxon Mobil Corporation to Rupley Elementary School

Motion by Mrs. Osmanski, seconded by Mrs. Petrielli to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 13th day of May, 2019, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education approves the donation of \$500.00 from the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance, P.O. Box 7288, Princeton, NJ 08543-7288. This donation will be used to further science and math studies for students at Rupley Elementary School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT with the approval of this donation of \$500.00, the Superintendent shall communicate to the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance, 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: 6 Krinsky, Lang, Osmanski, Petrielli, Reid, and Schumacher
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1 Roberts
 Abstain: 0

Motion carried: 6-0-1-0

10.0 SPECIAL INTEREST TOPICS

10.01 FOIA Requests

Mr. Vittore shared that there have been two commercial and three individual FOIA requests since the last report and that the requests have been completed. There is one individual request that is pending.

11.0 NEW/CONTINUING BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

11.01 2018-19 Board Calendar Agenda

No changes or additions to the Board Calendar Agenda.

11.02 Update on Strategic Planning

Dr. Fessler shared that there will be a meeting for the Strategic Planning Sub Committee, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Osmanski and Dr. Fessler, to meet with Mr. Perry Soldwedel from the Consortium for Educational Change (CEC).

Mrs. Osmanski shared that the sub committee will make a recommendation on what the scope of work will be for strategic planning and bring a recommendation back to the full board.

Mrs. Schumacher asked if there would be a vote with the new Board of Education regarding a vendor for facilitation with Strategic Planning. After a short discussion it was clarified that the vote took place on April 15, 2019 and the newly elected Board of Education members expressed support for that decision at the April 29, 2019 meeting.

11.03 Board Self Evaluation

The Board Self Evaluation will be held on June 19, 2019 from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

11.04 Translations for Commencement Speeches for 8th Grade Graduations

The Communication Department will need a minimum of one week to translate Board members' commencement speeches.

11.05 NSSEO Alternate and ED RED Representative

Mrs. Petrielli will serve as the NSSEO Alternate. Mrs. Roberts will serve as the ED RED Representative for District 59.

12.0 REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Lang visited Ridge Family Center for Learning on May 8, 2019 and she also attended *Make A Difference Day* at Juliette Low Elementary School.

Mr. Reid visited Devonshire and Byrd Elementary Schools since the last report.

Mrs. Schumacher visited Devonshire and Byrd Elementary Schools. She distributed a handout on teaching history. The handout is included in the minutes of this meeting (Attachment #4).

Mrs. Petrielli attended the Lion King Jr. performance at Friendship Jr. High School, the Rupley Fun Fair, and she visited Byrd Elementary School.

Mrs. Osmanski shared that the District 59 Education Foundation and the Elk Grove Character Counts Coalition made monetary donations to the Oasis Community Outreach Back to School Event that will be held on Saturday, August 3, 2019 from 12:00-2:00 p.m.

13.0 REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S TEAM

No reports.

14.0 CLOSED SESSION

Motion at 10:51 p.m. by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mrs. Schumacher to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 13th day of May, 2019 "The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity." "Collective negotiating matters between

the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.” 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (1, 2,)

Roll Call Ayes: 6 Krinsky, Lang, Osmanski, Petrielli, Reid, and Schumacher
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1 Roberts
 Abstain: 0

Motion carried: 6-0-1-0

15.0 RECONVENE

Motion at 11:48 p.m. by Mrs. Schumacher, seconded by Mr. Reid to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 13th day of May, 2019, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education meeting is reconvened.

Roll Call Ayes: 6 Krinsky, Lang, Osmanski, Petrielli, Reid, and Schumacher
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1 Roberts
 Abstain: 0

Motion carried: 6-0-1-0

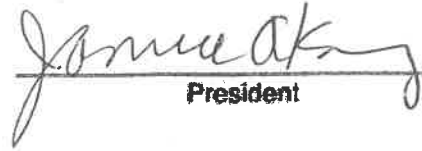
16.0 ADJOURN

MOTION at 11:48 p.m. by Mrs. Schumacher, seconded by Ms. Krinsky to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 13th day of May, 2019, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education meeting is adjourned.

Roll Call Ayes: 6 Krinsky, Lang, Osmanski, Petrielli, Reid, and Schumacher
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1 Roberts
 Abstain: 0

Motion carried: 6-0-1-0



President

ATTEST:



Secretary

ATTACHMENT #2 Shannon Anderson[Link to supporting document](#)

Shannon Andersen
shannont6@gmail.com

Hi, my name is Shannon Andersen. Thank you for allowing me to speak tonight and for all you do. I'm a former District 59 teacher who chose to resign at the end of last school year due to my concern about equity for all students. I would like to share these concerns and my recommendations this evening.

My first concern is class size. I know some here believe that if a teacher is excellent, class size does not matter, however, during my 10 years teaching I have seen that class size DOES have an impact on student learning. We know individualized instruction is something that is needed for students to succeed and that can be extremely difficult to do with a large class. [Research](#) shows that smaller class sizes enhance students' learning, especially for students from low-income and/or minority backgrounds. Last year we were told that the district would be implementing a 24 students to 1 teacher ratio. I'm worried this ratio will not allow us to meet all students needs. Perhaps 24 is a fine number if 20 of those students are on or near grade level and only 1 or 2 have significant social emotional needs, but is that same number setting students up for success when only 4 out of 24 students are on or near grade level and 6 or 7 have significant social emotional needs? If teachers are expected to differentiate their instruction, the district needs to do the same with class size. I realize this change will take significant time and financial resources, but I believe it is possible if it is made a priority. I propose that the board and administrators review student data and class sizes for each grade level at each school to determine where the learning needs are the highest. The district can then work to reallocate funds to hire one new teacher where it is needed most and continue to do so each year until all students are in a class that is conducive to their learning.

The other topic I would like to address is one way dual language. Some people have said it is ineffective and has led to segregation. In some cases this is true, but it does not have to be this way. Our one way dual language students are in classes with some of the largest numbers, as well as multi-age classes. Research shows class size matters even more for our students who are part of minority groups, so this must be addressed, even if these students' parents are not complaining. Large class sizes and multi-age classes also make it challenging for one way dual language and non-dual language classes to integrate and learn together. By addressing these issues the dual language program can help our students who are learning in two languages succeed. On a related note, I have heard that some people are displeased to have dual language students in our schools. I personally think they are a beautiful addition to our community. Even if you don't agree with me though, I think we can agree that the success of our community depends on the success of ALL students. If we provide these capable students with equitable opportunities to learn, they will grow up to be productive members of this community. Unfortunately, the opposite is also true: if we give our students a lower quality of education, this community will need to deal with all of the accompanying problems. I urge the board and administrators to cap the number of students in one way dual language classes in the same way two way dual language classes are given a maximum number of students.

Each of you has the capacity to make these positive changes to help ALL students in this district become successful for life. I hope and pray you will review what I have shared, along with a copy of the research I mentioned, and act on it. If you would like to discuss any of these matters further, I would be happy to do so. Thank you.

ATTACHMENT #3

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

May 13, 2019

Board of Directors:

I find it interesting that the Comments item of the agenda comes after a discussion of budget items. We have been led to believe that serious efforts are underway to produce a balanced budget. While I personally am not suggesting a “sackcloth and ashes” budget, it would appear that two of tonight’s recently mentioned budget items can illustrate how a budget could be trimmed with a little effort, without affecting overall student achievement.

For instance: Item 6.12 Sealcoating. Is a three-year cycle for sealcoating necessary? How about every four years? Should the new administration building really be included in the current year’s recoating project? I know that sealcoating will somewhat extend the life of the asphalt, but will it help children learn better. It’s just a few dollars on an overall budget, but we’re cutting back – remember?

Item 6.13 Projector Refresh Plan. Since the current projectors are admittedly eight to twelve years old, and some number of them are still operating, it appears that the life expectancy of projectors is close to ten years. Since the more than four hundred eighty thousand dollars requested would buy more than two hundred twenty projectors; and since many of the existing ones are still serviceable; maybe it would be prudent to just replace perhaps forty projectors per year for the next few years. It seems that this would be more in keeping with a “long term technology plan.” I am sure that the new wide-screen 16:9 aspect ratio will do little to improve a student’s learning.

A brief note about the biggest cost driver of all – salaries. For instance, in the administration’s ranks we have a Superintendent, an Associate Superintendent, four or five Assistant Superintendents. We have Executive Directors and Assistant Directors and Director Directors, and all of those people supervise more Operational Coordinators and Instructional Coordinators than I can sort out; but you get the idea. There will be more comments to come in future meetings.

Moving on; at the second board meeting on April 29th, Dr. Fessler asked for direction on “moving forward with the Strategic Plan. At the next Board meeting, (that’s today) the Board can discussion the scope, the process, and quantify that, with the proposed costs for different options.” This is when the

Board sets the parameters for this project. The Board has to tell a vendor what they want the plan to accomplish. The Board has to set out firm goals for the plan. You have to tell the vendor what you expect. You can't just go to buy a vehicle without knowing what you want that vehicle to do. Do you need a sedan, an SUV, a pickup truck? The Strategic Plan can't just be a multi-page consultant-speak of "let's do good things and avoid bad things," like the present, out of date, and ignored Strategic Plan.

Really, in your hearts, you know what must be done to rescue our children from this current downward spiral. This is the **Board's** prime responsibility – setting the standards for the children's educational future. Don't let a vendor or an administration get away with proposing anything less. Tell them what you want.

Attachment 4 - Handout from Mardell Schumacher

McCullough: Schools must do a better job of teaching history

A young woman thanked David McCullough after his lecture at a prestigious Midwestern university. She had never understood, she told him, that the original 13 colonies were on the East Coast.

McCullough, arguably the most famous historian in the United States today, was incredulous. "How could she get this far being so oblivious to what we are?" he wondered.

"We are raising a generation of children who are historically illiterate, and it's got to stop," McCullough told the audience at the Second General Session at the NSBA Conference. "It's serious and it's real!"

The Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and author of *1776*, *John Adams*, *Truman*, and *The Johnstown Flood* offered other examples of how Americans are ignorant about history.

At one Ivy League university, a group of senior history ma-



McCullough

jors attending one of McCullough's seminars did not know who George Marshall was. At another university, McCullough asked the same question to a group of history students. Five of the 58 students identified him correctly. The others guessed. Some thought George Marshall was a chief justice of the Supreme Court, and others thought he was a Civil War general.

Learning history fosters, among other things, a sense of humor, tolerance, and patience.

To love our country means learning about its past, McCullough says.

For example, if someone doesn't know that George Washington was the leader of the Continental Army, it means he knows nothing about the Revolutionary War. People would think of the Constitution as just words on paper if they don't know about the efforts of those soldiers who marched with Washington, he contends. Failing to educate children about the nation's history is "outrageous and dangerous," McCullough says.

One way to correct these failings is to change the way we educate our teachers. Classroom teachers without passion for history won't spark any passion among their students.

"They get their degrees in education and they don't know any subjects," he says, suggesting that teachers should have majors in the liberal arts.

It's not just a matter of teachers not being well educated, he says. "Teachers who are best at what they do are those who love what they are teaching." And teachers who don't know their subjects and struggle through the material become overly dependent on history textbooks, he says.

The quality of history textbooks, which McCullough says are filled with "politically correct mush," is another problem. "They are so bad, they seem designed to kill the interest of the student."

The problem has been compounded by the reading and math testing requirements of No Child Left Behind, which have "pushed history to the back burner," he says. "It's so stupid and so shortsighted."

Students can improve their reading scores by delving into literature from history, not textbooks, he says. He suggested they could read Abraham Lin-

coln's addresses, Martin Luther King Jr.'s letters, and "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere."

McCullough acknowledged that public schools can only do so much to halt the decline of history literacy. Families must step up, too. Parents need to talk about history with their children and take them to historic sites. "Show them that we love this story of our country," he says. If families think they don't have time, he urged them to turn off the TV.

McCullough urged school leaders to do more than just be appalled at the lack of historic knowledge in the United States. "Take heart and take action," he says. "Get worked up, go out and fix the problem, because it is fixable."

If you get discouraged, McCullough urged his audience to consider this fact: There are more public libraries in the United States than McDonald's fast food restaurants. ■