

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 24, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at Lake Forest High School West Campus in the Board Room and called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Mark Mitter.

Board members present at roll call were:

Sally McDonald	Laurie Rose
Mark Mitter	Chris Rossman
Jeff Pinderski	Julia Wold
	Rick Salzer

Administration Present:

Dr. Harry Griffith, Superintendent
Allen Albus, Deputy Superintendent
Kyle Schumacher, Asst. Superintendent
Anne Whipple, Director of Communication
Andy Henrikson, Executive Director of Student Learning

Staff Present: Pam Burke, Board Clerk

Guests Who Signed in: APT representatives Megan Morris, Beth Clemmensen, Allison Waggoner, Tami Schneider; Chris Munoz, Lake Forest Caucus, Sue Sarmiento, DPM teacher. Gina DeGregorio, DPM Band Director, and the DPM Woodwind Ensemble.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Mitter welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting. He announced that tonight is his final Board meeting. Mr. Mitter noted he has been a member of the Board of Education for nine years and has enjoyed and appreciated his colleagues and his time serving on the Board of Education. He congratulated the incumbent Board members who are running unopposed. He also congratulated soon to be new member John Julian on his election. He is running unopposed.

Mr. Mitter introduced Ms. DeGregorio, DPM Band Director, who presented the DPM Woodwind Ensemble. Members of the ensemble introduced themselves and performed two musical numbers for the Board. Ms. DeGregorio reported that the ensemble meets at 7:35 am to practice and is made up of 5th, 6th, and 7th grade students.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Griffith thanked everyone for being present this evening. He recognized the Board Liaisons and DPM teacher Mrs. Sue Sarmiento, who is working on her Type 75 certification.

Dr. Griffith announced that working with Mr. Mitter throughout his tenure on the Board has been a wonderful experience and a tremendous value to the Board of Education. He thanked Mr. Mitter for his many years of service and his dedication.

Dr. Griffith reported that due to seating of Board members and the reorganization of the Board, and in order to have election results returned to the District in time, the April 28 Board of Education Meeting will need to be rescheduled to Monday, May 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. if possible.

Dr. Griffith advised that a bomb threat was reported at Deer Path Middle School on Monday. A man walked into the vestibule of the building to advise that he thought he had a bomb in his car. A District custodian walked him over to the Lake Forest Police Department where he reported his concern. Police evacuated DPM-West and closed Deerpath as a precautionary measure. Inspection of the car by the Lake Forest Police Department revealed that the object was a radar detector located on the dashboard of the car. It was determined within fifteen minutes that no bomb existed.

Illinois Speech & Hearing Association Presentation

Dr. Griffith introduced Dr. Julie Cooley and Mr. Kyle Schumacher who announced that District speech pathologists presented at the Illinois Speech and Hearing Association (ISHA) in February. The session at ISHA focused on RtI readers at risk and vocabulary intervention. It detailed how the speech and language pathologists use their knowledge and expertise in the area of vocabulary to create universal screening probes for students in grades 4-8. Their presentation was researched based and data driven. A short video was presented.

Dr. Griffith continued with his Superintendent's Report. He reported that LEAD, Lake Forest High School, Lake Forest Library and District 67 are sponsoring a book discussion, *Life's Greatest Lessons: 20 Things That Matter*, by Hal Urban, on April 13 at the Lake Forest Library. Mr. Urban will be speaking to the community on April 23 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the DPM auditorium and to District 67 teachers on April 24. The discussion will focus on his new book, *Positive Words, Powerful Results*. Mr. Mitter and Mrs. Wold attended a similar presentation in early fall and noted that Mr. Urban is a dynamic speaker with an extremely engaging presentation.

Dr. Griffith spoke briefly about the financial position of the District. He noted the District is currently in good financial standing due to prudent long-range planning by the Board of Education, Finance Committee and Administration. He reported that school funding relies primarily on local taxes, new construction, interest income, impact fees and State reimbursements and that more than 80% of the District's expenses are related to contractual salaries and benefits. Given that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is at a historical low – 0.10%, the District will be challenged to bring expenditures in line with

revenue for the next few years. He also reported that he is still waiting to hear more detail on the Federal Stimulus Package, but it appears that the money will be earmarked to support the special education program. Dr. Griffith advised that District administration and staff is looking at a variety of ways to streamline operations without affecting the District educational programs. A new communication was sent to parents in the District regarding the financial status of the District.

In an effort to reduce District operational costs, Dr. Griffith advised that one week after the close of the school year, Cherokee and Sheridan schools will completely shut down for the summer. All operations will be moved to other district schools. Deer Path Middle School and the LFHS West Campus Administration Center will be open throughout the summer, Monday through Thursday (10 hour days). Everett School will be open Monday through Friday due to the summer sports program and the day care center housed there. Dr. Griffith anticipates that this plan could result in a \$10,000 - \$20,000 savings in utility bills over the summer.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public comment.

REPORTS

NEO2 Pilot Program

Mr. Schumacher and Dr. Henrikson provided an overview of the NEO2 pilot program, which will begin in April at Sheridan School. All third grade students will have the personal use of a NEO2 for keyboarding instruction and writing applications. The keyboard will be used primarily for word processing but it also has a built in keyboarding program and a classroom response system.

BOARD COMMITTEE

Board Education Committee - Chris Rossman, Laurie Rose

The Education Committee met on March 18. Mr. Schumacher and Dr. Henrikson provided an overview and a hands-on demonstration of the NEO2 pilot at Sheridan School. Dr. Griffith presented an overview of the potential budget impact based on the 0.10% CPI. Dr. Cooley and Dr. Henrikson, and Mr. Schumacher provided an update on the 2008-09 goals.

Board Operations Committee – Julia Wold, Sally McDonald

The Operations Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for April 29 at 7:30 a.m.

Board Finance Committee – Mark Mitter, Rick Salzer

The Finance Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for May 5 at 7:30 a.m.

Board Shared Services Committee – Mark Mitter, Rick Salzer

The Board Shared Services Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for May 14 at 4:00 p.m.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES

North Suburban Special Education District – Chris Rossman

Mrs. Rossman reported that the NSSSED Board met on March 11. Guidelines for the 2009-10 Budget were discussed. A mid-year budget update was presented and currently, NSSSED is projecting a small deficit. NSSSED reviewed the non-renewal of 41 staff members which is a slightly higher number than normal. A presentation, and discussion were held and a decision was made concerning the Early Childhood Center for Innovative Learning. The Center currently houses about 65 community children and 16 NSSSED children. NSSSED has agreed to pay \$40,000 toward the operation and management of the Center, while the parents using the Center have completed fundraising of \$30,000 to offset costs, which will allow the Center to remain open next year. Various options to manage the NSSSED program are under consideration.

Mrs. Rossman also reported that the building project to date is on time and on budget. Mrs. Wold volunteered to attend the July NSSSED meeting in Mrs. Rossman's absence. The next NSSSED meeting will be held on April 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Griffith announced that major contributions to school districts to offset budget deficits are expected from two funding sources, Title I for districts with a high percentage of poverty and the Special Education Stimulus Fund. The CPI is not affecting NSSSED but is highly relevant to school districts. In normal distribution, NSSSED receives 40% of Special Education Funding. However, Dr. Griffith explained that stimulus funds are very different and are fairly favorable to District 67. He announced that he will meet with Mrs. Rossman, Mrs. Harlow, Dr. Cooley and Mr. Albus to formulate thoughts to present to NSSSED regarding the available funding.

Illinois Association of School Boards/ED-RED – Julia Wold

Mrs. Wold reported that Governor Patrick Quinn has presented his 2010 state budget. Some legislators think that this is not the time, in the middle of a recession, to raise the state income tax rate. Employee unions oppose the proposed budget cuts and pension changes. Business groups oppose the elimination of corporate income tax deductions, and still others have voiced concerns about not making the full payments to the state pension systems. The governor's budget address is the first step in the state budget process, which will continue until the legislature votes to approve a budget bill, probably in May.

Mrs. Wold discussed key bills up for floor votes including SB 123, which would reduce the probationary period before awarding tenure to two years instead of four years if the teacher has previously received tenure in another school district. The Alliance opposes this bill. She also reviewed SB 261, which restricts the collective bargaining process by increasing the number of sick days non-certified staff is allowed to accumulate from 180 days to 240 days. The Alliance also opposes this bill. SB 1276 is an Alliance initiative, which establishes a superintendent mentoring program.

Professional Development – Rick Salzer

Mr. Salzer deferred to Mr. Schumacher who presented the Professional Development Report. Mr. Schumacher discussed Tier II activities and noted that Mrs. Laura Paull is

working with grade 5-8 teachers, particularly in math and language arts to develop plans for science and social studies. He also announced that technology coaches and several District 67 teachers attended the ICE (Illinois Computing Educators) Conference in St. Charles. This is the premier conference for educators to share pragmatic ways to utilize technology in the curriculum.

Mr. Schumacher introduced My Learning Plan, a new on line service, which will allow teachers continuous access to their professional development activities as well as help to keep track of their graduate and academy hours.

Curriculum Coordinating Committee – Laurie Rose

Mrs. Rose reported that CCC met on March 19 at 4:00 p.m. Committee members viewed a presentation of NEO2. Mrs. Rose reported that the committee is composed of classroom teachers and community representatives. The committee saw that the probability of using the NEO2 for daily writing combined with touch-typing, would most likely result in increased writing quality and quantity. A lot of enthusiasm was generated from the NEO . The next meeting of the CCC will be held on April 16 @ 4:00 p.m.

Spirit of 67 Foundation

Mrs. McDonald reported that the Spirit met on March 3. Dr. Griffith was the guest speaker this month. He discussed the economy and the District's financial position. The Board discussed plans to hold a membership drive next year, called Spirit Week. New ideas will be implemented to encourage families to join the Spirit of 67 Foundation.

Mrs. McDonald announced the seventh Annual Home Tour will be held on Thursday, May 7, and the White Sox outing will be held on Tuesday, July 21 at 7:00 p.m.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Approval of NSSSED Intergovernmental Agreement

Dr. Griffith advised that the Board has discussed this agreement in the past and it has been negotiated among all parties. Mr. Albus presented a brief overview of the agreement and announced that the only change to the document since the Board last reviewed it is in Section II A., the dollar amount should have read \$924,954.00.

Board members raised questions regarding Section II.B. and amended the language in that section. After some discussion, the following motion was made.

MOTION: Mrs. Wold moved seconded by Mrs. Rose that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the NSSSED Intergovernmental Agreement as amended in Section II. B. 9: School District 67 shall annually reimburse School District 115 for its percentage share of NSSSED construction costs based on a 20-year repayment schedule established at the time the bonds are issued. The reimbursement schedule when prepared will be attached as Exhibit A to the Intergovernmental Agreement and become a part thereof.

The votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Mitter, Pinderski, Rossman, Salzer, Wold, Rose, McDonald.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

B. Approval of Amendment to the SEIU Contract

Dr. Griffith asked Jennifer Hermes and Mike Cyrus to discuss the amendment.

Mrs. Hermes summarized the retirement analysis recommendation noting that the intent is to honor an agreement with SEIU to model the retirement language that is in the certified teachers contract through 2011.

MOTION: Mrs. Wold moved seconded by Mrs. McDonald that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the amendment to the SEIU Contract as presented.

The votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Mitter, Pinderski, Rossman, Salzer, Wold, Rose, McDonald.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were listed as part of the Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of A Regular Meeting – February 24, 2009

Approval of Disbursements, Payrolls, and Financial Statements – February 24, 2009

Approval of Personnel Items

Approval of Destruction of Audio Recordings: June 19, 2007

MOTION: Mr. Pinderski moved seconded by Mr. Salzer that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

The votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Mitter, Pinderski, Rossman, Salzer, Wold, Rose, McDonald.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)

The Illinois Policy Institute, Mr. Zettler and Mr. Markoff received responses within the allotted time period.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board Policy

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday, March 27 Spring Break Begins at Close of School Day

Monday, April 6 School Reopens

Friday, April 10 Day of Non-Attendance

Tuesday, April 28 Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 pm, LFHS West Campus

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mrs. McDonald moved seconded by Mrs. Rose that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

On voice vote, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Chris Rossman, Secretary

Date

