

**Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting  
of the Board of Education  
Flossmoor School District 161  
October 26, 2009**

President, Dr. David Dreyfuss called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board Clerk, Cathy Perino, took roll call. The following members were present for the meeting:

**Present**

Mr. Arnold Crater, arrived at 7:22 p.m.  
Mrs. Christine Marks  
Mr. Ronald A. Moore, arrived at 7:22 p.m.  
Mr. Thomas Sifner  
Mr. John Simmons, arrived at 7:20 p.m.  
Dr. David Dreyfuss

**Absent**

Mrs. Timijanel Odom

**Others Present**

Dr. Donna C. Joy, Superintendent  
Dr. Susan Pingitore, Associate Superintendent of Administrative Services  
Dr. Rebecca Elish, Director of Learning and instruction  
Mr. Joseph Martin, Director of Operations  
Ms. Nancy Wilson, Director of Special Education  
Dr. Vanessa Atkins, Principal, Parker Junior High School  
Bruce Brozynski, Assistant Principal, Parker Junior High School  
Lynn Westerlund, Principal, Serena Hills School  
Crystal Conley, FEA President  
Val Gardner, IEA Uni-Serve Director  
John Fester, Attorney with the law firm of Scariano, Himes and Petrarca  
Cathy Perino, Board Clerk

***See sign up sheet***

**Update of H1N1**

Dr. Donna C. Joy updated the Board members that the District has been in regular contact with the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) regarding the H1N1 vaccine for students in District 161. Schools will be assigned the date for the vaccination by the zip code of the school. Presently, the CCDPH has assigned Serena Hills School a tentative vaccination date of either November 5 or 6. The CCDPH will send supplies sometime next week. The District will use its phone blast system to alert Serena Hills' parents/guardians that information will be sent home via backpacks regarding the upcoming vaccination clinic. The rest of the District is scheduled for a tentative vaccination date of Wednesday, November 11, which is a non-attendance day. An informational meeting for the Flossmoor zip code is scheduled for Monday, November 2, and will be held at Normandy Villa. Dr.

Joy also shared that the CCDPH is offering the H1N1 vaccine to staff who are considered in a high-risk group such as pregnant women, individuals 25-64 years with chronic medical conditions, or those living with an infant to name a few.

Mrs. Marks clarified that parents do not need to be present with their child at the school during its vaccination clinic.

Mr. Sifner questioned who would administer the vaccine to District students. Dr. Joy stated in discussing this matter with Kathy Knawa, District nurse, the District's health coordinators would provide administrative assistance to the CCDPH personnel who are licensed medical providers i.e. Physicians (MD and DO), Physician assistants (PA), Advanced practice nurses (APN), Registered nurses (RN), or Licensed practical nurses (LPN). District health coordinators will not be administering vaccines.

Dr. Dreyfuss shared this morning students left for Outdoor Education and he mentioned the screening process at Western Avenue School went well this morning.

### **Special Education Procedural Changes**

Nancy Wilson, Director of Special Education, shared with the Board members special education procedural changes that were developed by a committee of the Illinois Council of School Attorneys and presented to SPEED member districts by SPEED's attorney. The revised IDEA regulations effective December 31, 2008 made several changes in its regulations. She noted because of these changes, revisions were made to the District's special education procedures. The Special Education Committee at SPEED revised sections 3, 4, 10 and 10.5. The discipline procedures are reviewed annually and this year's meeting is scheduled for May 17 at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Sifner asked if the administration could provide Board members with bulletin points of full changes.

Mr. Simmons arrived.

The Board thanked Nancy Wilson for her presentation and look forward to receiving the further information in their update.

### **Review of 2009 Levy**

Dr. Pingitore presented the tentative Levy 2009. Dr. Pingitore shared the steps used by the District to observe the Truth in Taxation Act. The levy was developed in consultation with Township Treasurer Rob Grossi. The levy maximizes the amount of dollars the District will receive in property tax revenues.

Mr. Moore and Mr. Crater arrived.

This year the consumer price index (CPI) for purposes of establishing the levy is .10 percent.

Dr. Pingitore stated because of the low CPI, if there were no new growth in property, the District's estimated additional revenue would be less than \$20,000. Three million dollars in new growth would be a revenue increase of \$124,000, \$4 million in new growth would be an increase of \$159,000 and \$6 million would result in \$229,000 of new growth. This is because the new growth is not subject to the property tax cap.

This levy protects the District in the unlikely event that there is a significant decline in the District's equalized assessed valuation. This levy has been tested to be sufficient even if assessed valuation were to decrease to \$450,000,000.

This year's proposed levy does not require a Truth in Taxation Hearing since the extension is an increase of less than 5% from last year's levy. The Board traditionally holds this hearing even though one has not been legally required in the past.

The levy is based on the current equalized assessed value of \$559,249,160, an increase of 8.2% from last year. This represents the reassessments, which were part of the triennial reassessment process.

The levy assumes new growth will be \$6 million dollars. This assumption helps to assure the District will realize all of its levy.

This year Dr. Pingitore proposed two levies. The recommended levy has \$2.6 million for the Building Fund and \$800,000 for the Social Security Fund. The alternate levy has \$2.6 million for the Building Fund and \$700,000 for the Social Security Fund. The levy with the greater amount of dollars suggested for the Social Security Fund is recommended. Dr. Pingitore distributed a power point document to the Board members.

The following levy is recommended:

Educational	\$15,310,000
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 2,600,000
Transportation	\$ 700,000
Municipal Retirement	\$ 0
Social Security	\$ 800,000

Liability Insurance (Tort)	\$ 800,000
Special Education	\$ 0
Working Cash	\$ 250,000
Life Safety	\$ _____ 0
Sub-Total	\$20,460,000
Bond & Interest (Est.)	<u>\$ 1,005,000</u>
Total	\$21,465,000

Mr. Crater questioned if there was an option that would reduce costs as opposed to focusing on new revenue. Dr. Pingitore stated the way schools are funded is that property tax dollars provide most of the monies the District uses for its programs. Approximately 80% of dollars fund salaries and benefits for the District so to reduce costs the District would have to reduce programs and personnel. The Board prioritizes their decisions regarding expenditures throughout the year i.e. paving, textbooks, etc.

The Board thanked Dr. Pingitore for her report and looks forward to her presentation at the Board of Education meeting.

- *The Board recommends moving this matter to the Board of Education meeting on November 9, to establish a public hearing on the proposed tax levy for Monday, December 14.*

**Phonics Adoption Information**

Dr. Rebecca Elish, Director of Learning and Instruction, updated the Board regarding the administration conducting an adoption for a K-3 phonics program. A phonics program will support student reading by providing instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, word analysis, and word recognition. This adoption is based on a recommendation from the spring 2009 Reading Summit. The District’s current phonics materials are dated 1999. Dr. Elish discussed the adoption timeline, which would begin in November and end with a recommendation to the Board members in early spring 2009 with implementation for next school year. Dr. Elish shared the K-3 Phonics Program adoption will follow the same procedures used for the District’s mathematics and social studies textbook adoptions. Dr. Elish reviewed the estimated K-3 adoption cost with Dr. Susan Pingitore and those funds have been included in the District’s FY 2010 budget.

The Board of Education thanked Dr. Elish for her report.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Sifner to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Voice Vote:

Aye: Simmons, Moore, Marks, Crater, Sifner, Dreyfuss

Nay: None

Absent: Odom

Motion Carried.

**Special Meeting of the Board of Education  
Flossmoor School District 161  
October 26, 2009**

President, Dr. David Dreyfuss at 7:40 p.m, called a special meeting to order.

Board Clerk, Cathy Perino, took roll call. The following members were present for the meeting:

**Present**

Mr. Arnold Crater  
Mrs. Christine Marks  
Mr. Ronald A. Moore  
Mr. Thomas Sifner  
Mr. John Simmons  
Dr. David Dreyfuss

**Absent**

Mrs. Timijanel Odom

Dr. Dreyfuss stated the purpose of this special meeting was to approve the teacher contract. The contract was ratified by the FEA by an overwhelming margin.

Dr. Dreyfuss stated the Board would go into executive session to discuss the teacher contract and a couple of language items prior to approval.

**Executive Session**

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Sifner to go into executive session to discuss matters relating to negotiations 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(2).

Voice Vote:

Aye: Moore, Marks, Crater, Sifner, Simmons, Dreyfuss

Nay: None

Absent: Odom

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education went into executive session at 7:35 p.m.

**Recessed From Executive Session/Return to Open Session**

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Sifner to return to open session.

Voice Vote:

Aye: Marks, Moore, Simmons, Crater, Sifner, Dreyfuss

Nay: None

Absent: Odom

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 7:55 p.m.

### **Teacher Contract Approval**

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Sifner to approve the four-year teacher contract.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Marks, Simmons, Crater, Moore, Sifner, Dreyfuss

Nay: None

Absent: Odom

Motion Carried.

Mrs. Marks thanked the negotiation team.

A press release will be put together regarding the approval of the contract.

### **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Sifner to go back into executive session to discuss matters relating to personnel 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(1).

Voice Vote:

Aye: Simmons, Sifner, Marks, Moore, Crater, Dreyfuss

Nay: None

Absent: Odom

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education went into executive session at 8:05 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Sifner to adjourn the Board of Education meeting.

Voice Vote:

Aye: Crater, Simmons, Marks, Sifner, Moore, Dreyfuss

Nay: None

Absent: Odom

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

---

Dr. David Dreyfuss, President

---

Ronald E. Moore, Secretary