

**Minutes of the Board of Education  
Flossmoor School District 161, Cook County, Illinois  
Board of Education Meeting  
January 10, 2011**

President Dreyfuss called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Normandy Villa School conference room, 41 E. Elmwood Drive, Chicago Heights, Illinois.

Roll call verified that there was a quorum of the Board present with the following members present as listed below:

**Present**

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

**Staff members present:**

Dr. Donna C. Joy, Superintendent  
Dr. Susan Pingitore, Associate Superintendent for Administrative Services  
Dr. Rebecca Elish, Director of Learning and Instruction  
Ms. Deborah Pitts, Director of Instructional Technology and Information  
Mr. Joseph Martin, Director of Operations  
Ms. Nancy Wilson, Director of Special Education  
Ms. Cathy Perino, Secretary to the Superintendent and Board of Education

**Others present:**

Dr. Vanessa Atkins, Karen Brown, Bruce Brozynski, Jennifer Camilleri, Bruce Nieminski, Venus Smith, Lynn Westerlund, Pam Cernetic, FEA Co-President, Crystal Conley, FEA Co-President, and community members.

**Audience to Visitors**

Crystal Conley asked about the status of the Superintendent's search. Dr. Dreyfuss responded the Board of Education has received a number of candidates from the Illinois Association of School Boards. The first round of interviews were held this weekend. Dr. Dreyfuss thanked the Board of Education for their time this past Thursday, January 6 and Saturday, January 8. The Board will continue to discuss this matter and make a determination or, if needed, interview additional candidates.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Joy commended the custodians and maintenance staff for their great work over the winter break. The custodians did an excellent job in cleaning the schools and getting them ready for the return of our children and staff.

Dr. Joy announced that since 1990, the State Legislature has hosted a technology fair called TECH 2011: Students for the Information Age. The fair showcases the use of technology by students and teachers, as well as emphasizing the importance of funding to meet the technology needs of schools across the state.

Jenifer Reichardt will submit an application for the 2011 technology fair this year. The proposed project uses technology to solidify math concepts and the high level thinking skills. Dr. Joy thanked Jenifer for developing the project and Deb Pitts for facilitating the District's involvement in the event. TECH 2011 will be held in Springfield on May 5.

Dr. Joy noted that a committee of teachers and administrators began working on a new teacher evaluation process last year. After much discussion, the committee has agreed to use "Framework for Teaching", developed by Charlotte Danielson. This framework is based on four domains: planning & preparation, classroom environment, instruction, and professional responsibilities. The committee's goal is to complete this document before the end of the year; however, there is legislation in Springfield, which may necessitate modifications.

Dr. Joy explained the State of Illinois has implemented a new County Substitute Authorization procedure as of January 1, 2011. The authorization procedure requires all applicants who register to substitute in any public school district obtain a Substitute Authorization from the County Regional Office of Education.

Mr. Crater inquired about the Regional Office of Education. Dr. Joy indicated that when the Regional Office of Education was eliminated, the three Cook County Intermediate Service Centers were given authority to handle the ROE's responsibilities. The South Cook Intermediate Service Center will handle this process for our district.

Dr. Joy reported the District would again host the South Cook Regional Spelling bee at Parker Junior High School on Wednesday, February 2, at 9:00 a.m.

Parent Visiting Day is Friday, February 4. Elementary parents are invited to visit their children's school in the morning and Junior High parents are scheduled for the afternoon.

Dr. Joy mentioned that on Saturday, February 5, seven students from District 161 will participate in the basketball skills portion of Special Olympics.

Finally, Dr. Joy shared the District's PTO meeting is 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 13 at Parker Junior High School. Dr. Ryan Pitcock, Principal of Homewood-Flossmoor High School, will share a short presentation followed by a question and answer session regarding HF High School. This presentation was very well received last year. All are invited to attend.

The following items were presented for approval:

#### Board Minutes

- Hearing for the 2010 Levy/Regular Board of Education Meeting – December 13, 2010
- Executive Session – December 13, 2010

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mrs. Marks to approve the consent Agenda regarding minutes. All AYES. Mrs. Odom Abstained. Motion Carried.

#### Personnel

- Personnel Report

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mrs. Marks to approve the consent Agenda regarding personnel.

#### Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

#### **Approval of Bills/Payroll**

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the bills for the month ending January 2011, in the amount of \$925,601.37.

#### Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Odom seconded by Mr. Sifner to approve the payroll for the month ending December 2010 in the amount of \$1,248,785.76.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

### **Food Service Update - Information**

Mr. Martin reported to the Board that the Food Service Program continues to be a district-wide success. Ceres Food Group, Inc. is the food service provider for the District. This school year marks the District's second as participants in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Ceres continues to make changes to the menu offerings to enhance the quality of school meals such as adding locally grown produce such as Michigan apples and Wisconsin diced carrots; and whole grain products.

Mr. Martin reviewed a spreadsheet, which was distributed to Board members. A total of 137,013 meals have been served, an decrease of 6% meals over 2009. The District's percentage of free and reduced meals served is 29%.

The Board thanked Mr. Martin for his report.

### **School District Library Grant Program FY2011 – Information**

Dr. Elish reported each year the Office of the Secretary of State invites school districts to apply for the School Library Grant Program previously referred to as the School Library Per Capita Grant. The grant program authorizes a maximum of \$0.75 per student, and funding is based upon enrollment. District 161 is eligible to receive a maximum of \$1,722.25 in the FY2011 grant. These funds will be used to develop and improve the District's library services and resources.

School districts are required to review the progress made by its libraries towards meeting the Illinois standards for school library media centers. Sarah Rudenga, Parker Junior High School Librarian and District Media Coordinator, conducted the evaluation using the Linking for Learning the Illinois School Library Media Program Guidelines, as required by statute.

This evaluation targets the area of Learning and Teaching, and uses the rankings of Basic, Proficient, and Exemplary. The District received exemplary marks in four areas; however, was rated proficient in one area.

Mrs. Odom asked Dr. Elish what the District plan is to raise this area to exemplary. Dr. Elish shared she is meeting with Dr. Atkins and Mr. Brozynski to discuss ways to realize this goal.

The Board thanked Dr. Elish for her report.

**New Business**

Dr. Dreyfuss mentioned in the January edition of the American School Board Journal there is a great article regarding the new requirements for the federal universal service fund for technology aimed to increase broadband connectivity in schools and libraries.

**Executive Session**

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mrs. Marks to go into executive session to discuss matters relating to personnel 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(1). All AYES. Motion Carried.

The Board of Education went into executive session at 7:51 p.m.

**Return to Open Session**

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mrs. Marks to return to open session. All AYES. Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 8:10 p.m.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mrs. Marks to adjourn the Board of Education meeting. All AYES. Motion Carried.

The Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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Dr. David Dreyfuss, President

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Ronald E. Moore, Vice President