

**Minutes of the Board of Education
Flossmoor School District 161, Cook County, Illinois
Board of Education Meeting
January 11, 2010**

President Dreyfuss called the meeting to order at 7:31 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 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, Jennifer Camilleri, Bob Pinciak, Venus Smith, Lynn Westerlund, John Ryan, of the Southtown Star, Crystal Conley, FEA President, and community members.

Audience to Visitors

Board President Dreyfuss asked if there was anyone wishing to address the Board on non-agenda items.

Dr. Kalisha Hill, a Western Avenue parent, thanked Dr. Joy for taking the time to speak with her recently regarding the availability of on line textbooks for the student of District 161. She shared her concern regarding the fact that science textbooks are not among that list. The science textbooks are not up for review for a few more years. The Board requested that when District textbooks are replaced that online versions be available.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Joy commended the custodians and maintenance staff for getting 2010 off to a good start. 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 a new cell phone law, which took affect on January 1, 2010. This law prohibits use of cell phones while driving in school zones or construction zones. Principals will send this information to their faculty. This information will be placed on the District website, and a flyer will be sent home to parents.

Dr. Joy shared the District will host a second parent workshop on January 12 on mathematics presented by Sharon Rak. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. at Normandy Villa. Space is filling up fast so RSVP to the District office today. All are invited.

Dr. Joy reported the District spelling bee is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on January 28 at Parker Junior High. The winner of that event will go on to the Regional spelling bee, which will be held on February 3 at James Hart School.

Parent Visiting Day is Friday, February 5. Elementary parents are invited to visit their children's school in the morning, and Junior High parents are scheduled for the afternoon.

Dr. Joy shared the District's PTO meeting is 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 14 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.

Finally, Dr. Joy commended Judy Kubas on receiving a grant in the amount of \$350 from the National Council of Jewish Women. This grant was awarded in recognition of Western Avenue's Cultural fair.

The following items were presented for approval:

Board Minutes

- Hearing for the 2009 Levy/Regular Board of Education Meeting – December 14, 2009
- Executive Session – December 14, 2009

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Sifner to approve the consent Agenda regarding minutes as amended. The following information was added to the December 14, 2009 Board of Education meeting minutes. "Mr. Crater requested that in the future more in-depth justification for levy increases be presented to the Board members."

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Personnel

- Personnel Report

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Business

- Approval of gift from John Alfirevich of Apple Chevy – T-Shirts

This matter was tabled.

Business

- Ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding for Participation in Race to the Top Grant

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

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Approval of Bills/Payroll

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the bills for the month ending January 2010, in the amount of \$.733,269.85.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Sifner to approve the payroll for the month ending December 2009 in the amount of \$1,348,691.66.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Moore, Marks, Odom, Crater, Sifner, Simmons, 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 first as participants in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The transition to the NSLP provided very few problems during the implementation phase and is running smoothly. Ceres continues to make changes to the menu offerings such as adding more fresh fruits, vegetables, low- and reduced-fat dairy items, and whole grain products while reducing or eliminating saturated fats and trans fats.

Mr. Martin reviewed a spreadsheet, which was distributed to Board members. A total of 145,570 meals have been served, an increase of 4,175 meals over 2008. The District's percentage of free and reduced meals served is 31%.

The Board thanked Mr. Martin for his report.

Library Per Capita Grant from the Secretary of State – Information

Dr. Elish reported each year the Office of the Secretary of State invites school districts to apply for the School Library Per Capita Grant. The grant program authorizes a maximum of \$0.75 per student, and funding is based upon enrollment as of September 30, 2009. District 161 is eligible to receive a maximum of \$1,844.00 in the FY2010 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. This area is still a goal to be realized.

The Board thanked Dr. Elish for her report.

Discussion of Strategic Planning Process and Timeline

Dr. Joy outlined the strategic planning process and timeline for the Board of Education member. Dr. Joy stated that the Board met with an outside

facilitator and developed the District's five big topic areas for the strategic plan. Those areas are: Planning/facilities, communication, school structure, student learning/achievement, and human capital development. Dr. Joy believes this is a doable, but ambitious timeline, which will begin in February when focus group meetings will be scheduled. Dr. Joy shared an example of possible focus groups such as parents of gifted students, special education or senior citizens.

Surveys will be developed and placed on the District's website. Deborah Pitts, Director of Instructional Technology will work with the surveys and data collection of information and Joseph Martin, Director of Operations, will facilitate logistics and facilities for meetings.

It was suggested that a large group committee be formed of twenty-five people who will take the work of the focus groups and synthesize all the information. This group would decide the goals and develop a draft the plan to be presented to the Board at the May Committee of the Whole meeting with final approval tentatively scheduled for the July 2010 Board meeting.

Mr. Sifner thanked Dr. Joy for putting this presentation together and stated he looks at this plan as being long-term. Given the importance of the strategic plan, the key decisions should be made by the full Board of Education rather than the sub committee of the Board of Education. Dr. Joy stated this strategic plan should be a five-year plan that is revisited by the Board members twice a year.

Dr. Dreyfuss invited board members to attend the elementary and junior high focus groups as observers. He asked if Board members could attend a school other than their home school.

The Board discussed and agreed to frequent updates to assist in moving this process along.

Mrs. Odom questioned the rationale for approving this plan in July when families and community members are away on vacations. Dr. Dreyfuss stated this is the first strategic plan developed by the District and the District discussed and decided on using a six-month process. He further stated the majority of the community and parent participation would take place from February through May. The plan approval would be a formality.

Dr. Dreyfuss stated the timeline is aggressive and optimistic, however, this is a goal of Dr. Joy's prior to her retiring from the District at the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

New Business

Dr. Dreyfuss also discussed the need for the Board of Education members to begin seeking out a consultant group to help the District in the search for a

new superintendent. He stated the District would like a two to three month overlap, between hiring the new superintendent and Dr. Joy's retirement, for integration purposes. It was discussed that the Board would develop guidelines and qualifications that would fit the District's need in hiring a search firm. The Board discussed and agreed to solicit proposals from independent search firms and potentially request a presentation at a future Board meeting. He referenced the District used Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) for its last Superintendent's search. Dr. Dreyfuss believes having an outside agency is quite helpful. Dr. Joy has agreed to assist the Board with this process.

The executive session was just a placeholder; therefore, there will be no executive session.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons seconded by Mrs. Marks to adjourn the Board of Education meeting.

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Dr. David Dreyfuss, President

Ronald E. Moore, Vice President