

**Minutes of the Board of Education
Flossmoor School District 161, Cook County, Illinois
Board of Education Meeting
November 8, 2010**

President Dreyfuss called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 Moore, arrived at 7:36 p.m.
Mr. John Simmons, via telephone conference
Mr. Thomas Sifner
Dr. David Dreyfuss

Absent

Mrs. Timijanel Odom

Staff members present:

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

Others present:

Dr. Vanessa Atkins, Karen Brown, Jennifer Camilleri, Bruce Niemenski, Venus Smith, Lynn Westerlund, Crystal Conley, Pam Cernetic, FEA Co-Presidents, and John Fester, of the law firm of Scariano, Himes and Petrarca (see attached sign in sheet).

Audience to Visitors

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

Ms. Leah Bailey Langston, Heather Hill parent, asked questions about the Board elections and the search for the new superintendent.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Joy shared the District will again host the Regional South Cook Spelling Bee at Parker Junior High. The Bee is scheduled for Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Please remark your calendars and more information will follow.

Dr. Joy updated the Board members regarding the success of this year's Outdoor Education program. Although the weather posed some difficulty, the experience was wonderful. The fifth grade students enjoyed this experience.

Dr. Joy reported the District held a Teacher Institute Day on November 2. One of the sessions was on the use of Smart Tables for teacher of the pre-kindergarten, early childhood, and special education primary classes. Smart Tables are designed to help students aged 3-7 years old to do similar interactions as older students do on Smart Boards. It also facilitates collaboration between early childhood aged children. Both the Smart Board and the Smart Table engaged children in learning.

In addition, John Fester provided training on professional ethics. The training complies with the new public law 96-0431, that requires all certified staff to receive ethics training on a bi-annual basis. The presentation was videotaped, in order for the District to provide this training to all new employees.

Dr. Joy shared that parents of elementary students now have access to the new Student Management System, Skyward. Parent access training sessions for Skyward are scheduled beginning November 30 at individual schools.

Dr. Joy noted that District teachers are preparing for parent/teacher conferences, which are scheduled for November 22 and 23.

Dr. Joy announced the Joint Annual IASB/IASA/IASBO Conference is scheduled for November 18-19. Illinois Associate of School Boards offers a selection of workshops relevant to the needs of school board members and administrators. These workshops deal with school district governance, and key issues affecting board work and decision-making.

Finally, Dr. Joy recognized the Board members for their work on behalf of the children and families of Flossmoor School District 161. School Board Members Day is Monday, November 15, 2010. Dr. Joy shared what a crucial role an elected Board of Education assumes in a representative democracy.

The following items were presented for approval:

Board Minutes

- Regular Board of Education Meeting – October 12, 2010
- Executive Session – October 12, 2010
- Committee of the Whole Meeting – October 25, 2010
- Executive Session – October 25, 2019

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the consent Agenda regarding minutes as amended. All AYES. Motion Carried.

Personnel

- Personnel Report

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Odom

Motion Carried.

Business

- Approval of Gift from Mr. and Mrs. Shonkwiler – Visiting Author Presentation
- Approval of Gift from Mr. Borys – Apple Orchard Field Trip
- Approval of Gift from Ms. Kessler – Mini Trampoline

A motion was made by Mrs. Marks seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the consent Agenda regarding business. The Board members thanked Mr. and Mrs. Shonkwiler, Mr. Borys, and Ms. Kessler for their generous gifts to the District. Mr. Sifner suggested that administration be mindful of the distribution of gifts across the District. He would like to see some type of balance. All AYES. Motion Carried.

Approval of Settlement – Governor’s Station Property Tax Appeal

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Odom

Motion Carried.

Approval of District Improvement Plan

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Sifner to approve the consent Agenda regarding business. Mr. Moore would like to see some sort of plan regarding parental involvement. All AYES. Motion Carried.

Mr. Crater shared his concern with the meets and exceeds standards and the fact that they are still so low. The NCLB requires the District to file a District

Improvement Plan, but the Board can look at the Strategic Plan and have a goal whereby the District should exceed state standards.

John Simmons, who was teleconferenced into meeting, arrived in person to meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Approval of Bills/Payroll

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the bills for the month ending November 2010, in the amount of \$912,204.73. Mr. Sifner discussed his concerns with Dr. Pingitore prior to the Board of Education meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Odom

Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Marks seconded by Mr. Sifner to approve the payroll for the month ending October 2010, in the amount of \$1,898,898.85.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Odom

Motion Carried.

Approval of Public Hearing for the Tentative Levy FY 2010

A motion was made by Mrs. Marks seconded by Mr. Sifner to accept the tentative levy and establish a public hearing on the proposed tax levy for 7:35 p.m. on Monday, December 13, 2010 at Normandy Villa. The District's proposed levy was reviewed by the Committee of the Whole at the October 25, 2010 meeting. All AYES. Motion Carried.

Safety Review – Information Item

Joseph Martin, Director of Operations, reported to the Board the annual safety audit for the District. Mr. Martin reviewed each school's safety program as well as changes to the facility that enhances safety.

Serena Hills received a new bus entry that has eliminated the congested and unsafe condition that existing before and after school. Additional exterior cameras were installed at Serena Hills to monitor the parking lot. Building safety meetings were held at the all of the school sites as well as the District office.

Heather Hill School received a new locking system on the gym door adjacent to the front entry. This assures that a guest cannot enter the gym before reporting to the office. Western Avenue School's main office was reconfigured to prevent visitors from entering the school before they check into the office. Regularly scheduled fire, tornado, and code yellow drills occur at the schools. All District schools have AEDs in place. District nurse Kathy Knawa is continuing training in the use of AED and CPR classes with all interested personnel.

Mr. Sifner suggested training in the use of AED and CPR classes should be mandatory in the District.

Mr. Crater asked how frequently the video surveillance used by the District are upgraded. Mr. Martin indicated the cameras are monitored on a regular basis and upgraded as replacement cameras are needed.

Ms. Langston asked why Flossmoor Hills' visitors have photo visitor passes. Mr. Martin stated this program was a pilot at Parker Junior High, which will be rolled out at each school. The first elementary school to receive this system was Flossmoor Hills. She also shared her concern for the drop off procedure at Heather Hill. Mr. Martin responded the District has reviewed the situation and is working with the Village on this matter.

The Board thanked Mr. Martin for his presentation.

Approval of Update to Strategic Plan

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mrs. Marks to approve the update to the District's Strategic Plan. All AYES. Motion Carried.

Board members Christine Marks, and Thomas Sifner revised the language contained in the plan as well as updated the plan with more of a five-year focus. The Plan's focus should be on student learning and achievement which is the center goal. The four areas goals are based around the center goal. A demographic profile was added on page 2 of the plan. The board believes this plan should be promoted and shared with the community.

John Simmons questioned the next steps in this process. Mr. Sifner stated the next step is to turn the Plan over to the administration that will add action plan with objectives.

The Board stated it would like to see some action plans in the January/February time period.

Mr. Sifner stated the Board's intent was to take what the Committee developed and create a plan. Mr. Crater added the strategic plan is not complete until the action plans have been added.

The Board thanked the Committee for all their hard work and would like to see where the Strategic Plan.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mrs. Marks to go into executive session to discuss matters relating to student residency 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(10). All AYES. Motion Carried.

The Board of Education went into executive session at 8:35 p.m.

Return to Open Session

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

The Board of Education returned to open session at 8:50 p.m.

Action on Student Residency Matter

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mrs. Marks to approve the hearing officer's report. All AYES. Motion carried.

Adjournment

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

The Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Dr. David Dreyfuss, President

Ronald E. Moore, Secretary